

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Spanish (5SP03/3F)
Paper 3F: Reading and Understanding in
Spanish

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GCSE Spanish
Unit 3F: Reading and Understanding in Spanish
Examiner Report

Candidates' performance

Most candidates demonstrated a clear understanding of the rubrics and the general format of the examination. It was evident that they had been well prepared and had practiced in preparation for the examination.

Both papers, Foundation and Higher, proved to be accessible to all candidates. Entry selections made by centres were appropriate. Very few candidates left significant gaps in their answers or failed to complete the paper at either level. Very good candidates scored highly throughout each paper set. They demonstrated a clear and precise understanding of the subtleties expected at the higher level questions, in terms of content vocabulary, grammar and level of inference.

Crossover questions generally discriminated well and were completed more accurately by candidates who entered at the Higher level.

Spelling

The spelling of some English words proved problematic for some candidates. However, examiners were sympathetic in their responses and where spelling was phonically recognisable, versions of required words were credited positively.

Question 1

This question, targeted at Grade G, required candidates to match single lexical items with pictures of different sports. It was well done by most candidates.

Question 2

Q2 Most candidates in the Grade F/G range scored 3 of the 4 marks available in this question.

Question 3

The majority of candidates scored 3 or 4 of the 4 marks available.

The most likely errors were in 3(i) 'Offers for retired people'.

Question 4

This question proved to be challenging and a good discriminator. Only the very best candidates scored the 4 marks available for this question. The most common error was found in 4(i), recognising the word 'revista'.

Question 5

The majority of candidates scored 3 or 4 marks of the 4 available.

Question 6

Around 50% of the candidates scored 2 marks for this question. The main cause for the loss of marks was in part (iv) 'it's opposite the traffic lights'.

Question 7

This question proved to be a good discriminator. The majority of candidates scored 2 of the 4 marks available. The most likely errors were in 7(ii) 'I help my parents at home' and 7(iv) 'I get on well with my family'.

Question 8

The majority of candidates scored 3 of the 4 marks available. The most likely error was in 8(ii) 'I got an unexpected bill'.

Question 9

This question, targeted at Grade G, required candidates to recognise single lexical items. Many candidates scored 2 or 3 of the 4 marks available for this question. Some candidates failed to recognise:

9 (i) 'Mis vaqueros son muy cómodos

9 (iii) Me gusta llevar gorras.

Question 10

Candidates found this question challenging. The majority of candidates scored 2 of the 4 marks available. There was some evidence of guesswork where candidates failed to interpret the correct answer:

10(c) Who does she look like? 'her mum and dad' or simply offering answers such as 'has black hair, she has green eyes'.

The most frequently wrong response was:

10(d) 'What does she like to do in her spare time?' 'jugar ajedrez'. Only 10% answered this question correctly. Many candidates wrote: play games, go out with their friends, and go shopping.

Conclusion

The outcome of this unit was pleasing. The majority of centres had prepared their candidates thoroughly so they had a good understanding of the requirements of this unit and responded well to its demands.

Advice and guidance

- Candidates need to read all questions carefully.
- Candidates should ensure they read the texts carefully and base their answers on the actual content of the text rather than impose their own speculations.
- Their responses should be written clearly.

- A good knowledge of vocabulary items is required.
- Candidates aiming for a higher grade require a good knowledge of more complicated lexis and structures.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>