Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Introduction

This unit was worth 50 marks and was divided into two sections, A and B. The first 2 questions, section A were set in Spanish. The other 8 questions in Section B were set in English.

Candidates had 40 minutes in which to complete their answers; and five minutes of general reading time at the start of the test.

Section A

Question 1

It is the first question set in Spanish. Candidates were asked to fill in the gaps with a word from the box in the context of school. At Higher level this question was much more accessible to candidates. A majority of candidates scored 4 or 5 marks in this question.

Question 2

It is the second question set in Spanish. Candidates had to listen to four people looking for friendships. Candidates had to select which of the four people was best fitted for each comment. At Higher level, candidates found the question less challenging than Foundation candidates and the majority scored from 3 to 5 marks in this question.

Section B

Question 3

Candidates were asked to complete 4 sentences with an answer from a given list of four about volunteering preparing meals for a charity.

The most frequent correct answers were (i) 200 (A) followed by (iii) serving the food (C) and (iv) continue volunteering (B). Higher candidates performed well in this question.

Question 4

Candidates were asked to identify the 3 right statements from a given list of seven about Victor's new job.

The majority of the candidates scored 3 marks in this question.

Question 5

Candidates were asked to complete 3 sentences with an answer from a given list of four about the speaker's favourite museum.

Candidates, overall, performed well in this question.

Question 6

Candidates were asked to respond to four questions in English about the holiday preferences of three different speakers.

Candidates performed best in (a) (b) and (c). In (a) most candidates the superlative *biggest disco.* In 6b, a majority of understood that the holiday was made extra special by the fact that *she saw / met many famous people / celebrities.* 6(c) was also answered successfully by the majority of candidates, with acceptable answers including *enjoying outdoor activities / sleeping in the open air.* A few candidates did give *sleeping under the stars* as their answer, which was accepted as they had clearly conveyed the message of sleeping in the outdoors.

Responses in (d) were more variable, although a majority of candidates were able to achieve 1 mark out of the two marks available. A majority of candidates recognised that the accommodation was in the centre of Rome.

Question 7
Candidates were asked to respond to four questions in English about Nacho's planned study trip to London.

The most correct answer was (d) as most candidates stated *his school* as the answer. Most candidates also scored well on part (a) correctly identifying that his grandparents were born in London, with some writing that the grandparents were from London, which was also accepted. Growing up there was also quite a common answer but was incorrect as pupils needed to show evidence of understanding nacieron en esa ciudad. For part b) the majority of pupils answered this correctly, associating *me aburrí mucho* with *aburrido*, being bored. In 7(d) candidates had to identify what Nacho would be studying in London. Most were able to identify in some form that he was going to *study guitar* or *take guitar lessons*. However, identifying *Empresariales* as Business Studies proved more difficult with a majority candidate writing marketing which was rejected.

Question 8
Candidates were asked to complete 6 sentences divided in two part with an answer from a given list of four about a cookery contest.

Performance in this question was varied. A majority candidates were able to achieve 1 or 2 marks in each part.

Question 9
Candidates were asked to respond to seven questions in English divided in two parts about Electric cars.

In part (a), the most correct answers were probably (i) and (iii). In a (i), most candidates were successfully able to answer that Isabel wanted to buy an electric car due to that fact that *she has asthma* or that *it doesn't produce toxic gases*. Part a (iv) was mostly answered successfully too, with the correct answer being last year. Several candidates wrote the date *2019* which was an acceptable answer.

Part a (ii) was more problematic. Candidates had to identify 2 things that surprised Isabel regarding electric cars. Acceptable answers for the first mark included any of the following: it is *cheaper to run / saves money on electricity / saves money / it costs 70 euros a month*. A majority of candidates stated it saves money on fuel which was incorrect as they did not understand that she was spending money on electricity now rather than fuel. For the second mark, pupils needed to identify *menos averías mecánicas* as being *fewer breakdowns*. In some instances, it was clear that candidates had understood the answer, but rather struggled to convey this meaning in English. For example, some answers given included *less mechanical work needed / less mechanical jams / less fixings*, all of which were accepted.

In part b(i) most candidates were able to achieve at least 1 mark if not the 2 possible marks for this part of the questions. Candidates recognised the word *la mitad* to work out that parking was half price. El peaje en autopistas es gratuito which was of high-level demand was understood by a majority of candidates too. Some candidates did not use the word tolls but wrote that they didn't have to pay on motorways which was an acceptable answer. However, for the third accepted answer *más silenciosos,* some candidates did miss out the comparative. Part b (ii) proved challenging to some candidates. Some understood *charlas* but they did not convey the meaning of giving talks/conferences about the electric cars. Instead, they wrote *she talks to people* which was rejected. Part b (iii) proved also challenging to candidates but a majority of candidates

were able to achieve 1 mark by recognising that *long trips needed planning* which was the most successful answer.

Question 10
Candidates were asked to identify the 2 right statements from a given list of 5 in two parts on the topic of the use of tablets in the classroom.
The majority of candidates scored 1 out of the 2 marks available in both parts.

Summary and advice to centres

Section A

Qs 1 and 2. The rubric and the sentences/statements in these two questions are all in Spanish.

Tips
Advice candidates to try to work out the meaning of the sentences by looking at familiar words and cognates they can recognise to deduce the meaning. Although Q1 is not grammar question, candidates can look at the words before the gaps to try to work out what type of word they are likely to hear before they listen to the recording.
In Q2, candidates need to make links between what they hear and the sentences they have to read in Spanish. Advise candidates to use the reading time available to think about other words to express the same ideas. For example, gente de otros países= they are likely to hear the adjective extranjero in the audio.

Section B

Qs, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 These questions tested candidates understanding of key vocabulary items listed in the specification for Higher level. Candidates should be aware these are the items that will be tested.

Tips
The question title, e.g. 'A favourite museum' provides an important clue and sets the context. Advise candidates to use the reading time available to think about the question title and the key words they are likely to hear. The statements will give candidates and idea of what they are going to be listening to.
Candidates sometimes ticked too many boxes in the grids. Advise candidates to check the number of marks available for each question. These are noted at the bottom of each question set. For example: *(Total for Question 4 = 3 marks)*

Qs 6, 7, 9. These questions asked candidates to briefly respond to questions asked in English.

Tips
Advise candidates to use the reading time available to think carefully about the questions asked. For example, in Q9a (iii) When did Isabel buy her electric car? A time phase is required for this question. Advise candidates to also check the number of marks available for each question.
Short answers only are required. Too much information given can sometimes negate the given response.