Examiner's Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

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GCSE Spanish
Unit 1F: Listening
Examiners Report

General Comments

Taken into account that it was the first exam of the new specification series, candidates' overall performance was good. Candidates were able to deal with all the task types but weaker candidates found the open ended questions in English challenging and some did not attempt to answers them. Questions in Spanish proved difficult for Foundation candidates in general and candidates did not perform very well in either of those.

Question 1

This question which was targeted at grade 1 required the recognition of single lexical unit items with regards to places in town. 93% of the candidates score the 3 marks for the question and recognised the words "catedral", "cine" y "parque".

Question 2

Question 2 was also targeting grade 1 and it was a multiple choice type question. Candidates were required to recognise lexical units within the context of a restaurant. Although the majority of candidates recognised the cognates "sopa" (b) and "limonada" (c), almost half of them failed to identify the word "fuera" (a).

Question 3

This question targeted grade 2 and candidates had to listen to three people talking about their reading preferences and choose the right answer from a number of options. Out of the 3 right answers ("obras de teatro","libros de amor"and "novelas históricas"), 55.4% of the candidates managed to recognise the 3 of them.

Question 4

This question also targeted grade 2 and candidates had to listen to three people talking about their friend's best quality. 54.5% of the candidates managed to recognise the three correct answers ("sabe escuchar", "simpático" and "buen sentido del humor".

Question 5

Question 5 was combined grades 1 and grade 2. It was an open response question for 4 marks on the topic of summer work. Candidates had to identify and answer in English (a) where Ana worked, (b) two things she liked about the job and (c) what she said about her pay. Part (c) was mostly answered correctly by the majority of the candidates who understood that "she had a good salary" and/or "she was happy with it". In part (a), many candidates answered "shoe shop" correctly, although some wrote "shop" or "clothes shop" which failed to score a mark. In part (b) some candidates managed to recognise the two asked answers but there were some other varied responses such as "working with friends" or "you get a discount in clothing" which were incorrect answers.

Question 6

This question was a gap fill type of question and it targeted grade 3. Candidates had to listen to an announcement at a museum and fill in the gaps with a word from the box. In part (a) candidates had to link "cuadros" to the word "art" from the box. Half of the candidates managed to make this connection. In part b(i) many recognised the word "segunda planta" but in part (b) less than half were able to link "ver y disfrutar de la ciudad desde el balcón" to "view".

Question 7

Question 7 was a multiple-choice type question which targeted grade 3. Candidates were required to listen to an eco-hotel advert. The majority of candidates score 1 or 2 marks for this task and the 11.4% of the candidates managed to recognise the 3 right statements.

Question 8

Question 8 targeted grade 3 and candidates had to listen to a message from school in regards to a trip to Málaga. It was an open response question for 4 marks. Candidates had to answer in English (a) when the trip was taking place, (b) what was needed from candidates to be able to swim and (c) what was requested to do if they had any medical conditions. On the whole, overall results suggest that this question was quite challenging for the weaker candidates. Some candidates lost a mark in part (a) by writing "June" or "next month". In part (b) some candidates, although they recognised the word "carta", didn´t include "parents" in the response. Part (c) was the most successful of the three as most candidates understood that communication needed to be made with the school.

Question 9

In this question, which was targeted at level 4, candidates had to listen to a news report about the famous race San Silvestre. Candidates had to choose the correct answers from a number of options. The question was intended to discriminate and did so as Higher Level candidates performed better than

weaker candidates who found it more challenging. At Foundation level, 9(d) was the most successful answer followed by 9(b), 9(c) and 9(a).

Question 10

Question 10 targeted also grade 4 and candidates had to listen to an advertisement campaign for young volunteers. It was an open response question for 4 marks. Candidates had to answer in English (a) who organises the programme, (b) how long it normally lasts (c) what you gain from taking part and (d) what you need to do to get more information. This proved to be a very challenging question for candidates. Surprisingly, for part (a) very few gave the correct answer of "The European Union", and the most common answer given was "candidates" as they had interpreted "jóvenes estudiantes" as being the organisers. The majority of candidates did answer part (b) correctly and they recognise the time frame "3 weeks" and part (c) was a bit of a mix but it was the second most correctly answered and many candidates identified the answer being either "work experience" or "working in a team". Part (d) proved difficult as a lot of candidates misunderstood "correo electrónico" for a knowledge in electronics and missed the mark for that part.

Question 11

This question was targeted at level 5 and it was a multiple-choice type question. Candidates had to listen to a young singer talking about his daily routine and choose the 3 right statements out of 7. Most candidates both in the Foundation and Higher score 2 marks although the percentage of candidates scoring 3 marks was higher in the Higher tier. Students had to interpret different verbs and opinions to identify the right answers.

Question 12

This question was the last of the 4 open response questions in the Foundation Paper. Candidates had to listen to Susana talking about her personal experience of learning Spanish. They had to identify (a) where the lessons take place, (b) the cost of the lessons and (c) how speaking Spanish has improved her life. The majority of candidates scored 1 or 2 marks out of 4 for this question. Most of the candidates understood the word "library" in part (a). In part (b), there was a mix of answers; some candidates recognised the word "free" and some misunderstood it with "good price" or "expensive". In part (c) many candidates were successful at understanding that either her life was easier or it had helped her find a job, however they misunderstood "making new friends" as opposed to "talking to her friends".

Question 13

This was the first question of section B which was in Spanish. Question 13 was a fill in the gap type of question and it targeted grade 4. Candidates had to listen to Jaime talking about his British school in Madrid and fill in the gaps with a word from the box. By looking at the results, this proved to be a challenging question and a low percentage of candidates managed to identify the right answers for each of the parts. Although they performed better, higher candidates were challenged with this question too.

Question 14

Question 14 was the second question in Spanish and targeted grade 5. Candidates had to listen to an advert from a travel agency add about Spanish city breaks and select which of 4 cities was best fitted for each opinion. The question was difficult for Foundation candidates as shown by the low percentage score in each of the sections. The most successful part was (e) with a 47% of candidates recognising Palencia as the ideal destination for travelling with children.