Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2021

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Spanish (1SP0)

Paper 1H: Listening

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Spanish Listening Test summer 2019 Higher level.

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 my area. At Higher level this question was much more accessible to candidates than in the Foundation Paper. Most candidates scored 5 marks in this question.

Question 2

It is the second question set in Spanish. Candidates had to listen to a speaker talking about her opinion and experience with videogames. Candidates had to select which adjective among boring, expensive, educational, and free was best fitted for each gap in the sentences written in Spanish. At Higher level, students found the question less challenging than Foundation candidates and the majority scored from 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 a school trip.

The most frequent correct answers were (iv) food (A) followed by (ii) plane (B)

Overall, Higher candidates performed well in all parts of this question.

Question 4

Candidates were asked to identify the 3 right statements from a given list of seven about the well-known theme park PortAventura.

Many candidates scored 3 marks in this question.The rest scored 2 marks.

Question 5

Candidates were asked to complete 3 sentences with an answer from a given list of four about a study programme at the zoo.

Candidates, overall, performed well in this question. The most correct answer was (ii) as a large number of candidates recognised Julia had to draw a picture of the animals as well as feeding them (i). Candidates performed equally well in (i) and (iii).

Question 6

Candidates were asked to respond to four questions in English about the cooking habits of two different speakers.

A very high percentage of the candidates managed to score 5 or 4 marks in this question.

Only a tiny percentage of the candidates did not score any marks in this question as some did not answer the questions in English.

Question 7

Candidates were asked to respond to four questions in English about the famous basketball player Pau Gasol.

Most candidates score full marks in this question as students were able to recognise key vocabulary and cognates being tested. There was only one candidate who scored 0 marks, and that was because the candidate did not write the questions in English.

Question 8

Candidates were asked to complete 6 sentences divided in two parts with an answer from a given list of four about a festival in Spanish the speaker attended.

In part a, the most correct answer was (i) as all candidates but one recognised the festival lasted seven days (a week). They also performed well in (ii) and (iii) as they identified the lack of sleep and the chess competition.

In part b, the most correct answer was (iii) as the majority recognise the verb "volver" (go back). Students did also well in (i) and (ii) although not all candidates achieved the mark.

Question 9

Candidates were asked to respond to seven questions in English divided in two parts about cycling in cities.

The performance in both parts were very similar and most students managed to scored 4 or 5 marks in this question.

Question 10

Candidates were asked to identify the 2 right statements from a given list of 5 in two parts on the topic of jobs of the future.

Candidates performed slightly better in part (b) than in (a). The majority of students scored 2 marks in both parts.

Summary and advice to centres

Marks lost in this examination are most typified by answers provided in the following questions:

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 a 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, for the adjective "caro", they are likely to hear the verb "costar" 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., 'Cooking' provides an important clue. 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 an 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)*

Tips for open response questions in English

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

Advise candidates to use the reading time available to think carefully about the questions asked. For example, in Q7 (a) How long has Pau Gasol been playing in the NBA? A time expression is required for this question. Advise candidates to also check the number of marks available for each question.

Only short answers are required. Too much information given can sometimes negate the given response.