Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2021

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Spanish (1SP0)

Paper 3H: Reading and understanding in Spanish

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Spanish 1SP0 3H

1SP0 3H is assessed by means of a one-hour examination. During this time, candidates are assessed on their understanding of written Spanish across a range of different types of texts.
The assessment consists of 10 questions and is out of 50 marks.
Section A has six questions set in English.
Section B contains three questions set in Spanish.
Section C contains one translation passage from Spanish to English.
Texts for individual questions within the assessment use high frequency language and vary in length. Some texts can include authentic sources that introduce more complex language and unfamiliar materials. Literary texts consist of short extracts from texts that may have been adapted and abridged from authentic sources to be appropriate to this level.

Question 1

Candidates were asked to read about a music festival and answer short questions about it.

Q1a)

Successful candidates answered that 12/a dozen groups took part in the festival.

Less successful answers involved references to incorrect numbers.

Q1b)

Successful candidates identified that the festival took place on the last Sunday (in July).

Q1c)

Successful answers identified that this year the festival would be different as both new bands and famous groups would be playing together. Wording was varied but any ideas suggesting this were accepted.

Less successful answers did not include the idea that these new bands and famous groups would be playing together.

Question 2

Candidates read a literary text extract *Goles de Color Azabache* by Ignacio Ferrer Ruiz.

Q2a)

Overall, this question was handled well with successful candidates identifying that Fabrice was given the opportunity to go to Spain because he got good grades at school and because he took part in an exchange visit to a Spanish school.

Less successful answers revealed confusion as candidates focussed on Madrid Football Club. Some candidates were unable to identify the two required details, leaving the answer blank.

Q2b)

Successful candidates recognised that the advantage Fabrice gained was permission for him to live in Spain. Some candidates also added the detail that this was allowed for five years.

Q2c)

Candidates had to identify one of three potential pieces of advice the writer gives to Fabrice for the future. Successful answers involved the idea that he either needed to work hard or to improve his skills or to be brave. Overall, candidates answered this question very well, with many of them identifying all three elements within their answers.

Less successful candidates tended to have left the answer blank.

Question 3

This question required candidates to read information about waste and the environment and identify key facts about the issues surrounding the problems of having too much rubbish.

3ai) & 3aii)

Here, the candidates needed to identify the effects of too much waste on people. Successful candidates identified that too much waste means that people cannot live a healthy life or that it adversely affects people's health and that experts suggest the situation can be improved by using less packaging/plastics or fewer boxes.

Less successful answers to part 3ai) involved confusion over the idea that rubbish was contaminating lakes. This resulted in answers which did not refer to how people were being affected by excess waste, instead focussing on the effect on the environment.

3b)

Here, the candidates needed to identify the effects of rubbish on the environment. The most successful candidates identified that rubbish created contamination in the lakes or killed the fish or caused plant species to disappear. Wording varied, but overall, this question was well handled by candidates.

Less successful answers involved confusion over *los lagos*, with candidates suggesting that the rivers were contaminated.

3ci)

Here, candidates needed to identify why some green projects had failed and overall, they handled this question well.

Successful answers involved the idea that the required technology was too expensive or that recycling is too costly.

Question 4

This required the candidates to read a literary text extract from *Paraiso Inhabitado* by Ana Maria Matute and respond to five multiple choice questions.

Question 5

Q5a-d) The candidates were asked to read a magazine article containing the restaurant reviews of four individuals, Rosa, Carlos, Jaime and Emilia and then choose the correct names to fill in the blanks.

Q5e)

This question required candidates to identify what Jaime revealed about the menu.

Successful answers identified that the menu changed every month and overall, candidates did not experience difficulty in identifying this. A few isolated candidates did not recognise *cada mes*.

Q5f)

This question required candidates to identify what Carlos said about the vegetables. Wording varied but the most successful answers identified that they were bought daily/every day from the market.

Less successful answers revealed confusion as some candidates thought the vegetables were bought from the supermarket or did not identify that they were bought daily.

Question 6

Q6i)

This question required candidates to read a weather forecast and identify the three correct statements about the weather.

If candidates had selected more than the required three boxes, then the first three crosses were taken as their answers and any later selections were disallowed.

Q6ii)

This question asked the candidates to read the weather forecast and identify what we were told about the weather in Castilla.

Most successful candidates identified that temperatures might be lower than normal. Other candidates focussed on the phrase *no hay prognóstico conclusivo* and stated that the forecast for Castilla was inconclusive or unsure.

Less successful answers suggested only that the weather was normal.

Q6iii)

Here, candidates had to identify what had happened in Valencia the previous autumn.

Candidates giving successful answers identified that there had been floods. Others were able to identify that rivers had overflowed.

Less successful answers suggested that there had a big storm or a lot of rain. Others stated that there had been large quantities of water in the rivers.

SECTION B

This section asked the candidates to respond to 3 questions in the target language.

Question 7

This question required candidates to read Luis's blog about school and answer five multiple choice questions.

Question 8

Question 8 required candidates to read the comments made by four employees about the rules of the companies they work for and then choose the correct names to match up with the statements in 8a) to 8e).

Question 9

This required that candidates read a text about electronic sports, otherwise known as Esports. They needed to identify how commercial brands chose to advertise their products, identify the similarities between an Esports club and a football club, establish who earned more/less and what the Esports clubs hoped to achieve in the future.

9a)

Here, candidates needed to identify how the brands chose to advertise their products.

Successful candidates answered in the target language and focused their answers on targeted lifts from the text. Successful answers identified that *utilizan* was the key word and that commercial brands used the best players to advertise their products. Other candidates had harmless additions which referred to the fact that the brands used the best players for their advertising because they recognised that these sports had a good future ahead of them.

Less successful candidates became confused, resulting in untargeted lifts where candidates lifted too little, focussing solely on the idea that the sports had a future thereby providing an incorrect answer. A small number of candidates left their answer blank.

Q9b)

In this question, the candidates needed to identify two ideas about the similarities between an electronic sports club and a football club. Wording varied with successful candidates identifying two of the following: that they both

functioned like a business and/or that they wanted to have the best players and/or that they wanted to be the best club.

Less successful answers contained untargeted lifts such as *negocio* alone or *el negocio y los mejores jugadores*. Other candidates incorrectly identified that they wanted to be the best team as opposed to the best club. Any answers that contained ambiguities were not awarded a mark.

Q9c)

Candidates were asked to compare the earnings of cultural activities and Esports clubs.

Successful answers identified that the clubs earned more than cultural activities such as concerts, the cinema and the theatre. Other candidates correctly stated that cultural activities earned less than the Esport clubs.

A few candidates became confused, resulting in them stating that cultural activities earned more or that the clubs earned less. Untargeted lifts were frequent here with less successful answers focusing solely on *ganan menos* on its own. Similarly, *ganan más/menos* alone was considered as ambiguous and were not awarded a mark. Answers involving *ganan más campeonatos* were also unsuccessful here.

Q9d)

In this question, candidates were required to identify what the Esports clubs wanted to achieve in the future.

This question needed to demonstrate the understanding that clubs wanted to attract more female players. Correct answers were worded in a host of different ways with successful candidates referring to the idea that clubs wanted to *aumentar/ subir/ incrementar /incluir/tener más mujeres.* Some candidates included the harmless addition that by doing so there would be more interest.

However, the idea that they wanted to create more interest in their club, without the notion of female interest, resulted in unsuccessful answers because *habrá mas interés* alone was ambiguous. Other unsuccessful responses contained references to *igualdad.*

SECTION C

Question 10

This question asked the candidates to translate a Spanish text consisting of five sentences into English.

Me encanta mi familia.

This sentence was well translated by the majority of candidates, with most translating *me encanta* as I love. There were only a very few isolated occasions where candidates translated this as I like.

Me llevo muy bien con mis abuelos y mis primos, especialmente con el mayor, Mario.

Successful candidates recognised *me llevo bien* as I get on/along well with. Other candidates rendered this correctly as I have a good relationship with. They also recognised abuelos as grandparents and translated *primos* as cousins. A large number of candidates recognised *el mayor* as the oldest/eldest but references to the older one were also accepted as a correct rendering.

In less successful renderings, *me llevo* was not recognised, resulting in translations such as I am very well and I have a very good treat with. Some referred to grandad or grandads, plural. Less successful candidates misunderstood the word *mayor*, confusing it with *mejor* and resulting in translations such as my best/ the big Mario.

Me gusta su personalidad porque es divertido y nunca nos aburrimos.

Successful answers conveyed the idea that he likes his cousin's personality because he is fun. Some candidates translated *es divertido* as it is fun but this did not detract from the overall success of the translation. A large number of candidates correctly translated *nunca nos aburrimos* with successful candidates identifying that they never get bored.

Less successful candidates confused *nos aburrimos* thinking that the cousins never argue and a few candidates left it blank.

Comenzamos clases de guitarra juntos hace dos años y ahora tocamos mucho mejor.

This sentence proved to be challenging for some candidates. Successful translations recognised the past tense and the fact that the cousins started guitar classes together two years ago. Successful candidates were able to identify the idea that now both cousins play the guitar much better.

Less successful candidates did not try to translate *juntos* or *ahora* and were confused by *hace dos años*, either thinking that *comenzamos …hace dos años* meant we have been taking guitar lessons for two years or that they had been learning since they were two years old. *Tocamos mucho mejor* also caused some confusion, with some candidates rendering it as we know a lot, we are good or I am the best.

Pronto tendremos nuestro primer concierto y esperamos tener éxito.

This sentence also provided some challenges. Successful candidates recognised the future tense and the fact that the cousins would soon have their first concert and hoped it would be a success. Wording varied but all candidates who translated the notion that they hoped the concert would be a success or that the two cousins hoped it went well or even that people liked it were successful.

Less successful translations included the idea of having luck/good luck or that they hoped to become famous. Others made reference to having an exit. Some candidates did not recognise primer, leading to the mistranslation 'premier'. Several less successful candidates left large blanks in this sentence, which at times severely affected their communication. *Nuestro* also caused difficulty for a few candidates, resulting in translations such as new.

Summary and advice to centres

-Candidates should read all questions carefully, paying particular attention to the interrogative words.
-When lifting material from the texts, candidates should be aware of the need to target their lift or to manipulate language in order to answer the specific question asked.
-Candidates must remember that in the multiple- choice questions, most alternative incorrect options will contain an element of distraction, such as a word or phrase from what candidates have read and learning to look for these can be a helpful skill.

Translation
-Candidates must ensure that their translation reads naturally in English. It is often not possible to translate word for word from the original Spanish text.
-There will probably be unknown words, or even whole sentences, in the translation. Candidates should translate the words they do know and then make a sensible guess at the unknowns from the context.
-Candidates need to proof-read what they write and run a 'sense-check'.