Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2022

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Spanish (1SP0)

Paper 3F: Reading and understanding in Spanish

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1SP0 3F is assessed by means of a 45-minute 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. 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 are provided with five statements about school subjects, and they have to match the correct person to the statement about their job.

Most candidates were successful answering this question.

Question 2

This required that candidates to read a text about my family. Candidates are provided with twelve words in a box which they must match to what the text says to complete five sentences.

Most candidates were successful answering this question

Question 3

Candidates were asked to read about saving water and answer short questions.

Q3a (i)

Successful candidates wrote '200'. Surprisingly, many candidates did not recognise 'doscientos' and wrote a variety of numbers.

Q3a (ii)

Successful candidates identified two correct answers out of the three alternatives offered: washing dishes, washing the car, and having a bath.

Less successful candidates did not recognise the activities mentioned above and guessed an answer which seemed logical to them such as watering the plants, having water fights or swimming pools.

Q3b (i) Most candidates successfully wrote, it will save you money.

Q3b (ii) Successful candidates wrote: the problem is that the bottles are made of plastic. If just the word 'plastic' was mentioned, this was also accepted as a correct answer.

Less successful answers involved references to the environment.

Question 4

Multiple choice questions with four options about a literary text extract from ¡Calla Cándida Calla! by Maite Carranza.

The most frequently correct responses were (i) and (ii)

The most frequently wrong response was (iv) where the candidates did not link 'vehículo and carretera' with travel by car.

Question 5

Candidates were asked to read about Paco's holidays and answer short questions about it.

Q a) Candidates were asked who Paco goes on holiday with.

Successful candidates answered that Paco goes on holiday with his family.

A few candidates misread the question 'who...?' and instead answered 'where...?', resulting in the idea that Paco went to the beach or the coast or the seaside.

Q b) Candidates were asked how Paco gets to the beach.

Successful candidates identified that Paco got to the beach on foot or that he walked there (from the hotel).

Less successful answers involved the mention of other modes of transport such as cars, buses, and taxis. Other unsuccessful answers involved the idea that the hotel was at the beach or that he got there through the hotel.

Q c) Candidates were asked to identify what the weather was like.

Successful answers identified that the weather was hot. Wording was varied but any ideas suggesting this, such as the weather was warm, were accepted.

Less successful candidates focussed on the idea that Paco's sister 'le gusta tomar el sol' rather than 'hace calor' and so the suggestion that the weather was sunny constituted an incorrect answer. Order of elements applied, consequently hot & sunny was correct but sunny & hot constituted an incorrect response.

Question 6

Candidates read a literary text extract from Maestra de Pueblo by Cristina Picazo.

Q a) Candidates were asked why María was happy.

Overall, this question was handled well with successful candidates identifying that María had passed her exams. Any answers that suggested an understanding that María had been successful in her examinations constituted a correct answer so the idea that she did well or that her exams had gone great/fantastic were all awarded a mark.

Less successful answers revealed confusion over the perfect tense 'ha aprobado' with a number of candidates thinking that this meant that María had done/finished/taken her exams or approved her exams, without any indication that she had done well in them.

Q b) Candidates were asked to explain what María dislikes about university life.

Successful candidates recognised either that María disliked studying (every night) or that she disliked driving (to university).

Less successful candidates incorrectly referred to the idea that the teachers were not nice or that her classes were noisy, which were the potential answers for Q2c.

Q c Candidates had to identify what makes Maria's job difficult.

There were two potentially correct answers here, either that the class/pupils were noisy or that the teachers were not very nice or were unpleasant.

Less successful candidates suggested that the pupils were either naughty or uncontrollable. Many misinterpreted 'ruidosa' as rude.

Q d) Candidates were asked to identify why Maria was organising the Christmas party.

This question was well-handled overall but there was some confusion for a number of candidates. Successful answers referred to the fact that the headmistress told María to organise the Christmas party or decided that she should do it this year. If candidates referred to the headmaster, the head, the boss of the school, her boss, the principal or the head, these also were all awarded the mark.

Less successful answers referred to the director or manager or referred to the idea that María is the director this year or that she was chosen without mentioning who had made the decision.

SECTION B

This section asked the candidates to respond to 3 questions in Spanish.

Question 7

This text refers to my job. Most candidates found this question very challenging because they are provided with thirteen words in a box which they have to match to what the text said to complete six sentences.

The most frequently correct response was (a) vende

Question 8

Multiple choice questions with four options about a village party.

The most frequently correct response was (iii) 'Las mujeres llevan ropa especial'.

The most frequently wrong responses were

(i) where the candidates did not link 'mucha gente sale a pasear en sus barcos' with 'lago'

(v) where the candidates did not realised that the activities mentioned were happening on Saturday, and therefore did not link 'la fiesta termina al día siguiente' with 'domingo'

Question 9

This text refers to mobile phones. Candidates are provided with five statements. They must match the correct name of the shop to the statement.

The most frequently correct response was (e) 'Mi móvil debe tener una buena cámara'

The most frequently wrong response was (a) 'hay ventajas y desventajas'

Section C: Question 10 – Translation to English

Candidates were asked to translate into English five sentences written Spanish.

Overall, there were very few candidates who left large gaps in their work or who were unable to attempt this question and many translations were of a pleasingly good standard.

Me llamo Alba y tengo trece años

This sentence was well translated by most candidates, although there were several candidates that translated 'trece' as thirty or three.

Soy voluntaria en un hospital que está cerca de mi casa

'Soy voluntaria en el hospital' was successfully rendered by the majority of candidates. Some candidates mistranslated 'que está cerca de mi casa' as I live in my house, I help from my house or similar.

Las enfermeras son simpáticas

Many candidates successfully rendered this sentence as the nurses are nice/kind. Less successful candidates translated 'enfermeras' as doctors, patients, the staff and 'simpáticas' was sympathetic.

Cada semana hago cosas nuevas

This sentence was very challenging for most of the candidates. Some of them handled 'cada semana' but many mistranslated it as next/last week or the weekend. Several candidates thought that 'nuevos' referred to the number nine and translated this sentence as I start work at nine.

Comencé a ayudar en la recepción en enero.

Whilst there were many good translations, this sentence proved to be challenging for many candidates. Successful translations recognised the past tense and were able to identify comencé, ayudar and enero.

Less successful candidates recognised the word 'recepción' and translated this sentence as I am the receptionist in the summer/evening or at the weekend.

Summary and advice to centres

A number of marks were lost due to candidates being unfamiliar with Key Stage 3 vocabulary such as numbers, months of the year and days of the week.

There also seemed to be confusion over high frequency verbs such as ser, tener, hacer, comenzar, ayudar.

In question 10, it would be useful to give a reminder to the candidates that they need to check back through their work in order to ensure that the translation they have produced makes sense.

Conclusion

Most centres had prepared their candidates well, so they had a good understanding of the requirements of this unit. The examiners marking this unit appreciated the efforts that the teachers had made to allow their candidates to reach their full potential.