

Examiners' Report/  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2014

Pearson Edexcel GCSE  
in Spanish (5SP01/1H)  
Paper 1H: Listening and Understanding  
in Spanish

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**GCSE Spanish**  
**Unit 1 Listening and understanding in Spanish**  
**Examiner Report**

**General Comments**

On the Unit 1 Listening and Understanding paper for the 2014 series again candidate performance across the full mark range was achieved. In general terms all candidates were able to access the questions. However, on the Higher tier paper, those questions which targeted Grades B-A\*, where responses given required candidates to provide more specific detail and deduce information from what they had heard, yet again proved to be sufficiently challenging and as a result success was limited for some unfortunately.

Higher Tier candidates again scored well overall on the questions common to both tiers although some questions were less accessible than expected. The crossover questions targeting Grades C and D are indicated in the section below.

**Question 1 (crossover question)**

This multiple choice question required candidates to be able to listen to short statements about adventure holidays. Over 80% of Higher Level candidates scored 3 or the maximum 4 marks. Lexical items causing difficulties were: *trabajé de canguro*, *soy miembro de una orquesta*, *el domingo al mediodía fui a la boda de mi prima* and *asistí a un curso de cocina*.

**Question 2 (crossover question)**

This question required candidates to listen to short statements where Nieves talked about her friend Alba and select the answers from a list of options. At Higher Level over 80% scored the 4 marks available for this question although *terca* caused problems for some.

**Question 3**

Question 3 which targeted Grade B required candidates to listen to a group of friends talking about arguments with their parents. In general (i) and (iv) did not pose any problems whereas in (ii) *Mamá me grita porque no paso la aspiradora y dejo todo desordenado* proved difficult for some. In (iii) misunderstanding of *Según mis padres pierdo mucho tiempo enviando mensajes a mis amigas* was relatively common. However, most candidates scored the maximum four marks available.

**Question 4**

This question targeted Grade A and again this year it would seem that there were some candidates who had been entered for the Higher Tier when the Foundation Tier would have been more suitable. The question required candidates to listen to Maribel talking about her gap year in Ecuador. For those aiming at the top grades there have to be some challenging elements and the question was appropriately pitched. Unfortunately still too many candidates fail to read the rubric and answer in Spanish automatically depriving themselves of 8 marks. Too often presentation is messy,

handwriting is difficult to read, candidates do not write on the lines provided and they write too many answers when only the first answer is marked.

4(a) Almost 75% of candidates scored the one available mark. Candidates who misunderstood *Me marché poco después de haber cumplido los diecinueve años y me quedé un mes* produced answers such as: before University, 19 years ago, 9 years ago, 29 years ago, last month, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March.

4(b) 80% of candidates answered the question correctly although candidates who answered incorrectly tended to misunderstand *una tía de mi madre*. Examples of incorrect answers included: with an old friend of her Mum, in a camp with her Mum, in the mountains, with her Mum, with her aunty, with her Mum's cousin.

4(c) Candidates coped well in general with this question although few knew the meaning of *belleza* and *siglos pasados*. Other candidates mentioned a traditional country rather than referring to traditions. A number also thought that Maribel was from Ecuador and that she was going to visit her family and many said that she was interested in dance as opposed to regional dancing. Other examples of incorrect answers were: to see the antiques, to relax, to find herself, to meet people of other nationalities, to improve her Spanish, for the history, to visit her Mum and for the hot weather.

4(d) This question provided many good responses. Some candidates however confused *campesinos* with camping or casinos. *Para mucha gente* was heard by many to indicate *hay mucha gente* hence producing answers such as there are lots of people. Most candidates picked out difficult but thought that it was difficult to get around or difficult to get a house. Water was recognized but unfortunately many decided to add hot water or clean water which lost them the mark. Other incorrect answers included: no houses, nice food, dirty houses, camping is hard, you can't drink the water, nice food, a hard language.

4(e) This was the most challenging question as in order to score a mark candidates needed to include unfortunate or needy in their answers, so many answers which simply said make a positive contribution or help others failed to obtain a mark. *Desafortunados* was not known by many, nor was *ratos inolvidables*. Looking for adventure was indeed a popular answer. Examples of wrong answers included: young/old/retired/positive people, people on a gap year, people who like nature, people with unfortunate lives, those who like exotic holidays, anyone who likes the country, people who want to contribute to something positive.

#### **Question 5 (crossover question)**

This question required candidates to listen to Lola describing what she was going to do in town. A high percentage of Higher Level candidates scored the maximum 4 marks for Question 5.

#### **Question 4/Higher Question 6 (crossover question)**

This multiple choice question targeting Grade C required candidates to listen to a short dialogue taking place at a train station. At Higher Level practically all candidates scored the maximum 4 marks for this question with a small number obtaining 3 marks.

#### **Question 7**

Question 7 required candidates to listen to Tomás talking about his job as a tour guide and select the correct answer from those shown in the list. 7(ii) was answered very well by most candidates whereas in 7(i) many candidates misunderstood *esta ha sido la mejor decisión que he tomado en mi vida* therefore failing to score a mark. In 7(iii) quite a number of candidates failed to understand *lo más interesante de mi trabajo son las visitas guiadas para los hombres de negocios* and link it with businessmen.

#### **Question 8**

This question targeted A\* and candidates had to listen to two longer extracts detailing an account of a robbery. The question was challenging as candidates had to listen to extended spoken Spanish and be able to deduce the correct answers as well as understand what was being said. In the first part candidates failed to correctly understand *serían pasadas las doce, se fue corriendo hacia su cómplice, calvo con una nariz grande y un grano en la mejilla derecha* and *vi que llevaba ropa de verano, azul o quizás verde, con manga corta*. In the second part candidates had difficulty comprehending *un vecino mío.....me aconsejó que pusiera una denuncia, al policía le parecía seguro que recuperaría lo que me habían robado, el policía sabía de quién se trataba, tuve que rellenar la ficha*. Nevertheless many candidates did score at least 5 of the available 8 marks.

## **Grade Boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

