Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Spanish (5SP03/3F)
Paper 3F:Reading and Understanding
in Spanish

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GCSE Spanish
Unit 3: Reading and Understanding in Spanish
Examiner Report

General comments

Most candidates demonstrated a clear understanding of the rubrics and the general format of the examination. It was evident that they had been well prepared and had practiced in preparation for the examination.
Both papers Foundation and Higher, proved to be accessible to all candidates. Entry selections made by centres were appropriate. Very few candidates left significant gaps in their answers or failed to complete the paper at either level. Very good candidates scored highly throughout each paper set. They demonstrated a clear and precise understanding of the subtleties expected at the higher level questions, in terms of content vocabulary, grammar and level of inference.
Crossover questions generally discriminated well and were completed more accurately by candidates who entered at the higher level.

Spelling

The spelling of some English words proved problematic for some candidates. However, examiners were sympathetic in their responses and where spelling was phonically recognisable versions of required words were credited positively.

Conclusion

The outcome of this unit was pleasing. The majority of centres had prepared their candidates thoroughly so they had a good understanding of the requirements of this unit and responded well to its demands.

Question1

This question is targeted at Grade G and requires the candidates to match single lexical items with pictures of different modes of transport. It was generally well done by most candidates.

Question 2
Candidates were familiar with the topic of birthdays and the majority of the candidates scored the 4 marks available for this question.

Question 3
The majority of candidates scored 3/4 of the 4 marks available.

The most likely errors were:

3(iv) 'Pablo needs furniture'

Question 4

This question proved to be challenging and a good discriminator. Only the very best scored the 4 marks available for this question. The most common errors were:

4(i) and 4(iv)

Question 5

The majority of candidates scored 3/4 marks of the 4 available.

Question 6

Candidates did not do so well on the topic of Weather. Only around 50% of the candidates scored 2 out of the 4 marks for this question. The main causes for the loss of marks were:

6(i) wind
6(iii) rain

Question 7

This question proved to be a good discriminator. The majority of candidates scored 2 of the 4 marks available.

The most likely errors were:

7(i) 'free time'
7(iv) 'household chores'

Question 8

The majority of candidates scored 3/4 of the 4 marks available.
The most likely errors were in

8(i) Candidates failing to make the link between: 'price' and 'es muy barato'

Question 9

This question targeted at Grade G requires the candidates to recognise single lexical items. It was generally well done by most candidates and gave the true F and G candidates an opportunity to score good marks. Most candidates scored 4 of the 4 points available for this question.

Question 10

Candidates found this question challenging. The majority of candidates scored 2 of the 4 marks available.

10(a) - proved to be a good discriminator, only 20% of the candidates scored the one mark available for this question. The most frequently wrong response was:

- Not mentioning that Carolina is a singer and simply offering answers such as 'she plays in a rock band /she is in a rock band'/she is a musician.

10(b) - there was some evidence of guesswork, in particular where candidates imposed their own speculations about 'Why does she need to have the weekends free?' simply offering answers such as 'to go to bars with her friends/ to go to parties/to do her school work'

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