Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Spanish (5SP03)
Paper 3H: Reading and Understanding
in Spanish.

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GCSE Spanish
Unit 3H: Reading
Examiners Report

Candidate's performance

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.

HIGHER TIER

Question 1

Most candidates scored 4 of the 4 marks available for this question.

Question 2

Most candidates scored the 4 marks available for this question.

Question 3

Most candidates scored 2/3 out of the 4 possible marks.

The main causes for the loss of marks in this question were:

Q3(iii) missing the link between 'empleos fuera de España' with 'I want to work overseas'

Q3(iv) missing the link between 'responder a sus preguntas desde tu móvil' and 'I want to speak with the employer'

Question 4

Q4 Typical Grade A candidates generally scored well on this question, however only the very high end of the entry scored the full marks available. This passage contains some complicated lexis and structures, as is appropriate for a question at this level.

This question was targeted at Grade A and it proved very challenging. Only the very high end of the entry scored the full marks available for this question.

4(a) Most candidates managed to score the one mark available for this question.

4(b) Most candidates managed to score the 1 one mark available for this question.

4(c) This question proved challenging and a good discriminator. Only the very best of the candidates scored the one mark available for this question. Many candidates interpreted the word 'carrera' as 'career' rather than 'race'. Incorrectly they gave the answer 'He had to abandon his career.

4(d) This question proved challenging and a good discriminator. Only a small number of candidates scored the one mark available for this question. Many candidates failed to interpret the correct answer for: 'Despite disappointment, mention one of his achievements' because they did not focus on the question and incorrectly gave answer such as: 'he was the favourite to win but he came second' or 'he won the tour of France'.

4(e) Around 50 % of the candidates scored the one mark available for this question.

4(f)(i) Around 40% of the candidates managed to score the one mark available for this question.

4 (f)(ii) This question proved challenging and a good discriminator. Only a small number of candidates scored the two marks available for this question.

Many candidates scored one mark because they answered correctly that the equipment is very expensive. Some candidates interpreted incorrectly the word 'equipo' as 'team' rather than 'equipment'.

Question 5

Most candidates scored 4 out of the 4 marks available.

Question 6
Whilst overall candidate performance was better on this paper than on Paper 3F, candidates still found question 6 challenging. Most candidates scored 2/3 out of the 4 marks available.

This question proved to be challenging and a good discriminator.

7(iii) Only 32% answered this question correctly. Many candidates missed the link between 'estoy en contacto diariamente con ella con una llamada' and 'speak with her every day'

7(iv) Only 29 % answered this question correctly. Many candidates missed the link between 'desde que Marta tenía cinco años' and 'when she was a child'

Question7

This question proved to be a good discriminator. Only the very high end of the entry scored the 4 marks available for this question. Most candidates scored 2 marks. Wrong choices were made at random.

Question 8

The final question in this paper is targeted to Grade A*. This passage contains some complicated lexis and structures, as is appropriate for a question at this level. The most able candidates scored an average of six marks whereas weaker ones scored two or three marks.

The following key points are worthy of note.

Q 8 (i) around 20% of the candidates provided the right

answer to this question.

Q 8 (ii) around 30% of the candidates answered this question correctly.

Q 8(iii) Over 50% of the candidates answered this question correctly.

Q 8(iv) this question was more frequently correct than incorrect.

Q 8(v) this question was problematic to all but a very few.

Q 8(vi) around 40% of the candidates answered this question correctly.

Q 8(vii) this question was problematic to all but a very few.

Q 8(viii) was largely successful.

Advice and Guidance

- Candidates need to read the questions properly.

- Candidates should ensure that they read the texts carefully and base their answers on the actual content of the text rather than impose their own speculations.

- Their responses should be written clearly.

- A good knowledge of vocabulary items is required.

- Candidates aiming at a higher grade require a good knowledge of more complicated lexis and structures.