

# Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2009

IGCSE

IGCSE Spanish (4440) Paper 02 - Reading and  
Writing

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information please call our Customer Services on + 44 1204 770 696, or visit our website at [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com).

If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Examiners' Report that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our **Ask The Expert** email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>

Alternately, you can speak directly to a subject specialist at Edexcel on our dedicated Languages telephone line: 0844 576 0035.

(If you are calling from outside the UK please dial + 44 1204 770 696 and state that you would like to speak to the Languages subject specialist).

November 2009

Publications Code UG022418

All the material in this publication is copyright  
© Edexcel Ltd 2009

## **General Comments**

The level of difficulty of the paper is comparable to previous series and candidates were generally well prepared for the examination. The vast majority of candidates at this November entry were native speakers. Some non-native speakers entered the examination and generally scored at the lower end of the mark range.

Candidates scored full marks on the lower end of the incline of difficulty, especially in the reading parts of the paper.

Rubrics and attention to conventions were followed appropriately. Candidates were able to complete the paper in the time allocated and did not omit sections or leave questions unfinished.

### **Section A Part One**

#### **Question 1**

Candidates generally scored full marks on this section. There was no evident pattern of error in the very few mistakes which did arise.

#### **Question 2**

The majority of candidates performed well on this question once again, with no pattern arising from the errors which did occur.

#### **Question 3**

Native speaker candidates scored very well on this question, as did some second language entries. 'Peligro' was not recognised on some occasions.

### **Section A Part Two**

#### **Question 4**

Native speaker and higher ability candidates tended to write more words than the amount suggested, but as the quality of language was so high this did not adversely affect their marks. Candidates who were not native speakers answered adequately at this level with shorter passages and more mistakes in basic constructions. Some much less able candidates were already beginning to struggle at this level.

### **Section B Part One**

#### **Question 5**

Candidates demonstrated a full range of comprehension of this question. Many scored full marks and were able to demonstrate the higher skills of deduction required in this type and level of question. Others encountered difficulty with an overall understanding of the general idea of each speaker's message.

## Section B Part Two

### Question 6

Many candidates performed well on this question, demonstrating a good command of language and idiomatic expression. As in previous years, some candidates failed to score highly on the use of language mark allocation as they made little or no attempt to express their answers in their own words and lifted blocks of the original text which include the correct answer but gave no indication of in-depth understanding. This was less evident than in some sessions however and suggest that centres are guiding their candidates to demonstrate how they can manipulate language as well as identify content.

## Section C

### Question 7

Candidates scored across the full range of marks in the essay writing part of the paper and some produced fluent, imaginative and interesting work which met the criteria and made good use of appropriate idioms. Some candidates wrote more than was suggested for the total number of words but this was not generally detrimental to their marks due to their overall competency as native speakers or competent linguists at this level. Less able candidates made frequent and basic errors and the least able mixed English with their very limited Spanish which rendered the overall version incomprehensible in places. However, candidates had generally been well prepared for this section of the paper.

All three options attracted writers and there were few occasions when candidates did not comply with the content of the question.

## Statistics

### IGCSE Spanish

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Lowest mark for award of subject grade (Paper 01 and 02 only)	85	76	67	59	49	39	30	21
Lowest mark for award of grade for Paper 03, Speaking (optional)	51	45	39	33	28	19	13	7

Further copies of this publication are available from  
International Regional Offices at [www.edexcel.com/international](http://www.edexcel.com/international)

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com)  
Alternatively, you can contact Customer Services at [www.edexcel.com/ask](http://www.edexcel.com/ask) or on + 44 1204 770 696

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750  
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH