

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2009

IGCSE

IGCSE Spanish (4440) Paper 03 - Speaking (optional endorsement)

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General Comments

The speaking tests were conducted efficiently and in most cases strictly in accordance with the requirements of the Specification, although in a few cases it would be advisable to become fully conversant with the Specification before conducting the exams. It is important that candidates should select a picture or a photograph that means something to them and in which they have an interest. They will talk more passionately and fluently about something that holds a personal meaning for them. Equally, Teacher Examiners should wherever possible allow the candidates to take the initiative and talk freely about their chosen subject. Ideally about 80% of the oral exam should be dominated by the candidate and the Teacher Examiner's role should be restricted to asking the open questions that prompt the student to provide the information. Every opportunity should be given to the candidates to demonstrate their ability over a wide range of structures, vocabulary and tenses in all three sections of the exam and care should be taken to time the conversations as equally as possible since all three of the conversations are marked separately.

Candidates were put at their ease, had prepared well the pictures and photographs that were used for Section A and responded readily to the unprepared topics in Sections B and C. The recordings were generally clear and the microphones had been positioned to the advantage of the candidates. Most of the candidates responded spontaneously, fluently and in detail, frequently giving their opinions and justifying them. It was pleasing to find that many candidates took the initiative and volunteered information without waiting to be asked.

The level of accuracy in language was impressive and the teachers conducting the exams gave the students every opportunity to demonstrate their abilities over a wide range of vocabulary, tenses and structures. The timings of the tests were accurate and the teacher examiners are generally to be congratulated on their thorough, efficient administration.

Statistics

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

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