

CAMBRIDGE
INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

JUNE 2002

INTERNATIONAL GCSE

MARK SCHEME

MAXIMUM MARK: 20

SYLLABUS/COMPONENT: 0488/3

**Literature (Spanish)
(Unseen)**



Answers will be marked according to the following general criteria:

- 18-20** Detailed, well-written, well-organised answer, paying close attention to author's use of language. Shows appreciation of structure and near-total comprehension of passage, has no significant omissions and conveys a sensitive personal response.
- 15-17** Detailed answer, paying close attention to author's use of language. Understands all essentials of passage; few omissions. Conveys clear personal response but may be a bit cut-and-dried.
- 12-14** Competent answer with some attention to language. May be some misunderstandings and significant omissions, but conveys some personal appreciation.
- 9-11** Attempts to respond and does pay attention to some details of language, but there are significant misunderstandings and substantial omissions. May distort passage by trying to apply some rigid preconception, or note use of literary devices without explaining their effect. Answer probably rather short.
- 6-8** Tries, but has not really grasped what the passage is about. Offers a few ideas, some of them irrelevant or plainly wrong. A few glimmers are perceptible. Short, scrappy.
- 4-5** Short, scrappy, confused; little response to passage, but candidate has at least read it and tried to respond it.
- 2-3** Scrawls a few lines; has attempted to read passage, but clearly doesn't understand it.
- 0-1** Nothing to reward.

This question is central to the passage, and the author lays on his effects very explicitly, so all candidates should be able to make something of this task. Basically, the victims are presented as sympathetic human beings and the terrorists as repellent, merciless robots; once this point has been established, the quality of the answer will depend on how effectively it is substantiated. Since almost any sentence in the passage would provide an effective illustration, the choice and control of material is likely to be one criterion for discriminating among candidates. We shall not expect a 'complete' exposition of the passage before awarding high marks, but there must be close reference to the text and well-chosen citation from it.

Attention will obviously focus on the Señora d'Harcourt, since we are given her entire life history and it is all intended to make her sympathetic. Though not Peruvian by birth, she is a patriot in the best possible way, loving the country and its people and devoted to improving and enhancing both in an enlightened ecologically responsible fashion. At the same time she is open to the outside world through her many academic contacts. She is quintessentially sane, peaceable and harmless, a threat to no one. On top of that, she is courteous – even to the terrorist monsters – selfless, and brave. All of this can be plentifully documented from the passage. Cañas plays a far less prominent part, but his courage and devotion are touching, and even more so, his final plea for her to sustain him at the moment of death.

In stark contrast, the terrorist spokesman is devoid of human feeling and even basic intelligence. Mechanically, he mouths his degraded and savage view of Marxism/Maoism, reducing what, in its origins, was a genuine call to arms against an unjust world order to a meaningless litany of hatred and destructiveness. If he were passionately devoted to his cause it might not be so bad; the cold deliberation of his manner is the worst thing about him. Torture and murder (are the victims to be burned alive?) seem even more horrible when inflicted in this detached way. The author's denunciation of terrorist fanaticism is not subtle, but it is chillingly powerful. Almost anything the spokesman says would provide an effective illustration of these points.