

CAMBRIDGE
INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER 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 poem can bear a range of interpretations, and so it is particularly important for examiners not to be dogmatic in their expectations. It is also a long poem which will present quite a reading challenge to candidates, so a degree of selectiveness is to be expected even in the best answers. The question asks first for interpretation and then for personal response, but the two aspects need not be treated separately.

The basic question is whether the poet is denouncing or lauding war. If he is denouncing it, then expressions like 'esa raza que tiene los cabellos de Sol' and 'La guerra es como un brazo del Progreso' must be read as totally ironic. If he is lauding it, then we must take phrases like 'los hombres nuevos despreciamos lo antiguo' as consciously and triumphantly philistine. (In terms of the Futurist movement with which Hidalgo is commonly connected, such philistinism would have been seen as a positive virtue: they did indeed sing 'los misterios de la Electricidad' and suchlike, and despise anything that seemed to them old and effete.) The majority of candidates are likely to come down heavily on one side or the other, and to skip anything which fits uneasily with their choice. If this is done with some close reference to the poem's language, it will certainly merit a mark of 12-14, and if exceptionally detailed, even up to a mark of 18. Any candidate who perceives that the poem is – either unconsciously or, much more likely, intentionally – *ambiguous* is probably heading for a mark of 18 and above anyway.

As regards the candidate's personal response, the danger will of course come from the anti-war propaganda on which civilised young people are now (thankfully?) fed: they may well find it impossible to conceive that anyone could really *like* war, or even pretend to do so for satirical purposes. The weakest candidates will almost certainly launch into a furious denunciation of war *per se*, with little or no reference to the poem itself; at this level give (modest) credit for any sign of understanding of the text. Candidates who can convey their own convictions via their reactions to the poem's language will, I hope, produce some really interesting and stimulating answers worthy of the highest reward.