

IGCSE Literature in Spanish (0488) Frequently Asked Questions

Can students take dictionaries into the examination?

Because 0488 Literature in Spanish is not an IGCSE Language examination, candidates are allowed a simple translation dictionary.

What resources are available to support this syllabus?

The following resources are available:

- Standards Booklet (provides guidance on the standard of work expected in Papers 1 and 3 – includes marked examples of candidates' work).
- Past Papers.
- Mark Schemes (from the November 2000 examination onwards).
- Principal Examiner Reports.

I've got a great idea for a set text I'd like to see on the syllabus, and I think it would be very popular with other teachers too. What should I do?

Please write to the Product Manager for IGCSE Spanish. We welcome suggestions from our Centres for set texts in future sessions.

Can students take their set texts into the examination for Paper 1?

Yes.

What are the rules about candidates annotating their set texts? (Paper 0488/01)

Texts taken into the examination room may contain underlining or highlighting only. They must not contain notes made by the candidate.

Is it a requirement to use particular editions of the set texts? Is it a problem if my candidates are studying from different editions?

If a particular edition is not specified in the syllabus booklet, students can use any edition (so long as it is the full text). Passage-based questions in Paper 1 (Open Books) are set on the paper in such a way that it will be easy for candidates to locate the passage in whatever edition they are using. It is suggested that Heads of Department should be on hand at the start of the examination if any difficulties should arise in this connection, eg to provide correct page references for their candidates if they have been using a different edition of a set text from that specified in the syllabus.

Are candidates who prepare more than the minimum required set texts at an advantage in the exam room?

Only in the sense that they potentially will have more choice of questions. In reality, demands on classroom time mean that it is unlikely that many candidates will have prepared more than 3 texts.

A new candidate is joining my class who has arrived with a partially complete coursework folder for 0488/2. However, we don't do the coursework option at my Centre. Can the candidate still enter for coursework? What should I do?

You need to bear in mind that if the candidate is entered at your Centre (and entered for the coursework option) you (or a colleague in your department) will be responsible for authenticating and moderating the work. If you have not received accreditation to assess coursework this could be a problem, and you will need to write to CIE to apply for accreditation. Much will probably depend on which stage of the course the student has reached (is the coursework portfolio complete or would you need to supervise the production of further work?) and its standard. You should consider if the candidate is actually better served by shifting to the Unseen Paper and if there is time to prepare the candidate for it.

I have decided to enter my students for the coursework component (0488/2). Should I set the titles for assignments myself or should I allow my students to come up with them?

There is no requirement either way, but it is essential that candidates are writing to clear, directed titles, that will encourage them to achieve the highest mark of which they are capable. Our experience is that titles are often best 'negotiated' between students and their teachers. If a class/set are all doing exactly the same title, teachers must avoid over-'teaching' the assignment.

In last session's Unseen (Paper 3) exam, a piece of poetry was set. Does this mean my students are safe to assume that next time there will be a piece of prose or drama instead, and that we should concentrate on these in the classroom?

No!