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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

SPANISH

GCE Ordinary Level

<p>Paper 3035/01</p>

<p>Translation and Composition</p>

General comments

The overall performance of candidates was good, in line with previous sessions of the examination. They were aware of the type of questions set and used the time effectively to complete all tasks. A very few individuals answered too many questions – close attention should be paid to the rubric. Examiners noted a marked improvement in candidates' awareness of the advantage of including a good variety of tenses and structures in the essay questions in order to gain access to the maximum marks available.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The scenario appealed to candidates who responded well and communicated the story effectively. The picture story lent itself naturally to the inclusion of dialogue – whether as a discussion within the family depicted at the beginning and the end of the story or the group of friends deciding how to raise funds for the hurricane victims. Candidates are advised to take advantage of such opportunities in order to demonstrate their ability to use present and future tenses. There were no specific language difficulties in approaching this task. Most candidates were able to use the preterite tense although irregular verbs were frequently inaccurate.

Question 2

- (a) The letter has always proved a popular option and the subject matter was accessible to candidates. Examiners would like to warn candidates against an increasing trend to include general material on the lines of news of family and friends, health and the weather. Where such material is not requested by the question it cannot score and its inclusion obviously reduces the number of words available to complete the task set. This is not to be recommended. Candidates should also be aware that repeated phrases such as *mis amigos y yo* do not score each time they appear.
- (b) Fewer candidates chose this option, but there were some good answers where much negotiation took place between the customer and the shop-keeper. There was good variety of phrases and vocabulary. Care was needed in moving from the past to the present tense in discussing the purchase and current problems and there was some tendency to repeat expressions. Similarly, candidates should be instructed that they do not gain any marks for introductory material in prose form before the dialogue – or indeed a concluding paragraph. Such material is not marked, thus reducing considerably the quantity of work available for assessment.
- (c) The essay option dealt with a topic which seemed to reflect candidates' experience and led to some interesting pieces of work. The fact that this question requires a more sustained use of the past tense in recounting the events of the birthday party means that candidates should plan carefully in order to avoid over-use of common verb forms such as *fui* and *fuimos* as they cannot gain marks repeatedly for the same material.

With reference to all options in **Question 1** and **Question 2**, it was pleasing to note that candidates are striving to demonstrate the range of their knowledge and are more aware of the advantage of learning and using idiomatic expressions and structures such as those involving the infinitive as well as trying to make their work as interesting as possible by adding adjectives and adverbs where appropriate.

Question 3

This option was well done by candidates who had been thoroughly prepared in the particular skills required for translation. It is important to emphasise that they may not paraphrase the passage, but must translate exactly what is set, with all details included. There was an improvement in the correct usage of *gustar* and preterite/imperfect tenses. A number of candidates found the subjunctive clauses challenging. Vocabulary should not have caused difficulty, but some fairly common words which were not secure included *peligroso*, *fuego*, *pelear* (or synonyms).

Paper 3035/02
Reading Comprehension

General comments

A broad range of ability was in evidence, though this year it was very pleasing to see a substantial number of sound performances from candidates who had clearly been well prepared to cope with the demands of this examination. As usual there was an incline of difficulty on the question paper, with **Section 1** being the easiest and **Section 3** the most demanding.

Comments on specific questions

Here follow some details about how the candidates performed, together with the correct answers to the various questions.

Section 1**Exercise 1 Questions 1 - 6**

Done well by most of the candidates, who scored 5 or 6 out of 6. The most common errors were in **Question 2**, where a considerable number of candidates opted for D, probably because they were unfamiliar with *cinturón*. The correct answers were as follows:

Question 1: D; Question 2: A; Question 3: B; Question 4: C; Question 5: C; Question 6: A

*Ejercicio 2***Question 7**

Done extremely well. Nearly all of the candidates scored full marks. The correct answers were as follows:

(a), (b), (d), (f), (h), (i), (j).

Exercise 3 Questions 8 - 14

Done well by many candidates, but a significant minority got confused in **Question 9** and opted for the wrong answer, perhaps because the return of Michael Jordan would seem to imply that he had not yet finished as a basketball player, but it is clear that he had already stopped playing professionally (otherwise he could not have made a return). The correct answers were as follows:

Question 8: V; Question 9: V; Question 10: V; Question 11: F; Question 12: F; Question 13: F; Question 14: V

Section 2**Exercise 1 Questions 15 - 22**

Some very good performances on this exercise with a majority of candidates scoring at least 6 of the 9 marks available. The most common mistakes were opting for the wrong option in **Questions 15** and **21**, perhaps because candidates misunderstood the text, and choosing one of the three wrong options in **Question 22**. The correct answers were as follows:

Question 15: Lower option; **Question 16:** Lower option; **Question 17:** Upper option; **Question 18:** Lower option; **Question 19:** Lower option; **Question 20:** Lower option; **Question 21:** Upper option; **Question 22:** C

Exercise 2

This proved quite a straightforward exercise for middling and better candidates. Correct answers were as follows:

- Question 23** *Tenía que ayudar a la familia/Su padre le dijo que tenía que trabajar/Tenía que ganar dinero.*
- Question 24** *Cuando vendía pocos bolígrafos y lápices/Cuando ganaba poco dinero.*
- Question 25 (a)** *Tienen contacto con su familia/Tienen una casa donde dormir.*
(b) *No tienen ni casa ni familia.*
- Question 26** *Any 2 of: Es la capital/Hay muchos niños en la calle/Los niños viven en condiciones difíciles.*
- Question 27** *Any 2 of: Es un lugar tranquilo/Está fuera de la ciudad/Pueden hacer nuevos amigos.*
 Not acceptable were items from Zuima's comments; the question specified the contribution of Luis.
- Question 28** *Ir a clase/Ir a la escuela/Estudiar/La educación.*
- Question 29** *Any 2 of: Desayuno/Ducha/Facilidades para lavar ropa.*

Section 3**Exercise 1 Questions 30 - 49**

There were some extremely impressive performances on the Cloze Test and many candidates had clearly been well prepared for this demanding test. The correct answers were as follows:

- Question 30** *porque/pues*
- Question 31** *estaba*
- Question 32** *no*
- Question 33** *me*
- Question 34** *de/como*
- Question 35** *para/a*
- Question 36** *mi/la*
- Question 37** *al*
- Question 38** *hacía*
- Question 39** *por/a/hasta/durante*
- Question 40** *lo*
- Question 41** *las*
- Question 42** *desde*
- Question 43** *le*

- Question 44** *a*
Question 45 *que*
Question 46 *en/para*
Question 47 *vez/lugar*
Question 48 *era/es*
Question 49 *con*