

SPANISH

Paper 3035/01

Translation and Composition

General comments

The majority of candidates chose to answer two essay questions (**Question 1**, picture essay and one of the three options in **Question 2**) which was a good decision, reflecting the way they had been prepared for the examination. Many Centres are focusing directly on the skills and techniques required, with clear emphasis on showing understanding of a range of verb tenses and appropriate use of idiom and grammatical structures.

All questions were accessible to the full range of candidates and gave them the opportunity to respond at their own level. The Prose Translation question presents a considerable challenge to those candidates who have not had specific training in this particular task. Candidates are required to give an exact translation and so those who attempt to paraphrase or give a condensed version cannot score very highly.

The overall standard was comparable to previous sessions, although there is an improvement in the use of tenses and, in particular, greater awareness of the usage of the perfect tense.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1: Picture essay

Candidates are becoming more adept at interpreting the pictures in such a way as to convey the key elements in the story, but at the same time altering the emphasis to allow them to include phrases and vocabulary they are confident in using. The vocabulary was very straightforward and the story line presented no problems. There were some very good answers where candidates included dialogue to enable them to include a wider variety of tenses. Areas which raised frequent errors include *llevar a mi abuelo al hospital*; *ser/estar*; the pluperfect – *vimos que se había caído*. Candidates should be reminded that including a list of nouns with no adjectives, for example in a shopping list, will not help them add to their score for the question.

Question 2

(a) Letter

This was a popular choice and most candidates found plenty to say and covered the areas specified in the question with confidence. There were many good answers.

(b) Conversation

This is always less popular as candidates need to have had specific training to be able to include a sufficient range of tenses and to avoid repetition and over-generalised remarks. The best answers included personal experiences of girls not being given the same freedom as sometimes younger brothers and discussion of parents' attitudes.

(c) Essay

This question gave free rein to candidates' imagination and produced some interesting responses. It was pleasing to see such a range of topic material and candidates' willingness to express themselves. Tenses need to be carefully learned and verb endings checked,

Question 3: Translation into Spanish

There were some very competent translations where candidates had been given practice in tackling this task and were confident in manipulating tenses and mood. A number of other candidates did not perform as well because their level of grammatical accuracy was less secure, and they had a tendency to leave out phrases or words from their translation and to interpret rather than translate. Common errors included: confusion between 'get up' and 'wake up'; *eran las cinco* (not *es las cinco*); *tenía frío y estaba cansado*; 'ran towards' – *corrió hacia (la casa)*. There were generally fewer difficulties with verb tenses than previously. The vocabulary demands were not excessive, but exact translation is essential.

SPANISH

Paper 3035/02
Reading Comprehension

General comments

This year's paper was well tackled by the large majority of candidates. As is usually the case, **Section 1** was completed confidently and well by most, particularly **Exercises 2** and **3**. **Section 2** was also tackled very competently, with many candidates managing full marks in the first exercise. In **Section 3**, Cloze test, the performance was much more varied.

The large majority of the Centres are to be congratulated on doing an excellent job in preparing the candidates so thoroughly for this paper. Nearly all of them tackled the exercises purposefully, really entering into the spirit of the questions and producing some first-rate answers even to the more demanding questions, and an encouraging proportion did themselves justice with a fine total mark.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Exercise 1

This was done well by most candidates, with a good proportion obtaining full marks on the exercise. There were several mistakes in **Question 6**, where candidates often opted for D, perhaps because they did not know the meaning of *basura*, and the prohibition of photographs seemed a plausible possibility. The correct answers were as follows: **Question 1**: B; **Question 2**: D; **Question 3**: A; **Question 4**: B; **Question 5**: C; **Question 6**: A.

Exercise 2

This was very well done, with a good proportion of candidates scoring full marks. The most common error was to opt for A instead of J, no doubt because the candidates had not come across the word *cambio*. The correct options were as follows: B, C, E, F, G, I, J.

Exercise 3

This exercise was particularly well done. The most common error was to write F for **Question 12**. The correct answers were as follows: **Question 8**: F; **Question 9**: V; **Question 10**: F; **Question 11**: V; **Question 12**: V; **Question 13**: F; **Question 14**: V.

Section 2

Exercise 1

This exercise proved an interesting challenge for many candidates. Although a high proportion scored full or nearly full marks, weaker candidates began to find some of the questions demanding. The correct answers were along the following lines:

Question 15 V

Question 16 F. *No, Gemma sigue con el club de siempre.*

Question 17 F. *No, hace falta entrenar entre 5 y 8 horas diarias.*

Question 18 V

Question 19 F. *No, se puede empezar a cualquier edad / la gente mayor puede hacer cosas sencillas / existen grupos para gente mayor.*

Question 20 F. *No, el deporte le deja tiempo para estudiar / sigue con ellos a pesar de que el deporte le deja poco tiempo para otras actividades.*

Exercise 2

This comprehension exercise proved rather demanding for average or weak candidates, although numerous candidates were able to score full marks or just short. Correct answers were along the following lines:

Question 21: *Ha sido declarado 'Fiesta de Interés Internacional'.*

Question 22: *A los adolescentes / a los jóvenes.*

Question 23: *En dos zonas de acampamento.*

Question 24: *El festival de música / el aspecto musical.*

Question 25: *Asistir a conciertos y actuaciones / vieron a grupos como La Mala Rodríguez.*

Question 26: *El nivel del río estaba bajo / no había mucha agua en el río.*

Question 27: *Julio Martínez y Emilio Merchán.*

Question 28: *Han decidido volver para la próxima fiesta.*

Question 29: **(i)** *En tren* **(ii)** *Por carretera* (both necessary for the mark to be awarded).

Question 30: *La cantidad de basura en el río / que el río estaba sucio.*

Section 3

Exercise 1

The Cloze test proved a demanding exercise for many candidates. The following options were deemed to be correct and were awarded the mark:

Question 31: *de*

Question 32: *hacía / tenía / con*

Question 33: *encuentra / halla / ubica / sitúa / encontraba / hallaba / ubicaba / situaba*

Question 34: *a*

Question 35: *fuimos / corrimos*

Question 36: *nos*

Question 37: *estábamos*

Question 38: *no*

Question 39: *dimos*

Question 40: *Qué / Estaba / Está*

Question 41: *de*

Question 42: *ir*

Question 43: *para*

Question 44: *ha / había*

Question 45: *en*

Question 46: *le*

Question 47: *por / a / durante*

Question 48: *e / o / cuando*

Question 49: *eso / partir*

Question 50: *al*