

GCE Spanish – 6SP04

Research-based Essay Guide

Exemplar 1 – Región geográfica

Summer 2014

PREFACE

Use of Exemplar Material

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Notes on the Exemplar Material

Please note that:

- Some items may have been removed, such as references to individuals and places. Please refer to the commentaries by the Principal Examiner for specific references.
- In order to maintain the authenticity of the writing, some errors and mistakes have been reproduced from the original candidate's response.

Question 3(a) - Región geográfica

Describe una de las principales tradiciones de la región o ciudad que has estudiado. Evalúa las razones de la importancia de esta tradición.

Andalucía siempre ha sido famosa por su riqueza cultural y sus tradiciones fuertes. Cada de las ocho provincias de la región festeja sus propios festivales pero se destaca la Semana Santa – aquello más conocido de toda España.

La Semana Santa dura dos semanas – del Domingo de Ramos hasta el Domingo de Resurrección y se la celebra con lo más fervor en las ciudades de Málaga y Sevilla. Hay procesiones grandes donde 59 cofradías salen por las calles con pasos venerando el Jesucristo. Los nazarenos llevan trajes con una capucha para representar el luto y el vergüenza que sienten pro sus pecados. También cantan saetas y los andaluces aprovechan la gastronomía típica como los buñuelos con salsa de albaricoque. Aunque este festival tiene sus raíces en la pasión del Jesucristo, no sería el mismo sin la presencia de los turistas.

El encanto de este festival hace que durante la Pascua, el 90% de los hoteles esté al completo. De hecho, el 17% de los turistas visita la región por razones culturales. En 2011, la región atrayó a 742,000 visitantes que gastaron €358 millones. Si Andalucía no tuviera tales tradiciones, el turismo no contribuiría tanto al PIB regional. Otra razón por la gran trascendencia de la Semana Santa es que el 86% de los andaluces se define como católico. Aunque los jóvenes son cada vez más ateos y menos practicantes, la Semana Santa sigue llamando su atención debido a su importancia para la familia.

Para conducir, los andaluces viven la Semana Santa con auténtica pasión. En el futuro, será imprescindible que la mantengan viva no sólo para la economía sino para asegurar la sobrevivencia del patrimonio y la religión.

(244 words)

Commentary on Exemplar - Región geográfica

The candidate has chosen to write about Andalusia and the celebration of *Semana Santa* (Holy Week) as one of the most representative traditions of the region. This was a very popular tradition chosen by many candidates. Unfortunately, some candidates failed to fully understand the question that asked for the description of ONE of the most important traditions by mentioning Holy Week among other traditions, without giving enough detail on any of them. Other candidates wrote in a very superficial way, without showing evidence of research, which meant that such description could have been applied to the celebration of Holy Week anywhere in the Hispanic world.

This essay offers a detailed description of the way Holy Week is celebrated, starting with *Domingo de Ramos* and finishing on *Domingo de Resurrección* and lasting two weeks. Since the celebration lasts only one week, there is an issue with the information given by the candidate, but the rest of the account shows plenty of evidence of research.

The first paragraph finishes by saying that even though this festival has its roots in the passion of Jesus, it would not be the same without the tourists. This leads swiftly to the following paragraph and a detailed account of the importance of the festival for the region from the point of view of tourism, the economy and family values.

Finally, the candidate closes the essay stating that it is very important for the people of Andalusia to keep the tradition alive, not only because of the economic benefits, but also to secure the survival of the traditional heritage and religion.

Regarding the Reading, Research and Understanding criteria, this candidate shows very good understanding of the question as both the main aspects of it are addressed: describing one tradition and evaluating its importance. However, the candidate has not made it clear where his/her personal views are presented and this lessens the impact of the essay on the reader. The candidate was awarded marks at the top of the 19-24 mark band for this section.

With regard to the Organisation and Development criteria, the essay is well planned and carefully presented. There is only one lapse with the details given about the duration of the celebration. The details given as part of the description involve: the cities where it is more passionately celebrated, Malaga and Seville; the processions and *cofradías* parading along the streets; the *nazarenos* and their outfits explaining its significance; the singing of *saetas* and the opportunity to taste the local specialities, such as *buñuelos con salsa de albaricoque*.

When it comes to the importance for the region, the candidate presents details of hotel occupancy during Easter and the percentage of tourists who travel to the region for largely cultural reasons. There is information of how many visitors came to the region in 2011 and how much money they spent there. There is also an account of how many people from Andalusia consider themselves Catholic and how, even though this number is decreasing, Easter is still is a very important family celebration.

The structure of the essay is clear and a good amount of relevant evidence is given; the candidate was awarded a mark in the 7-8 mark band for Organisation and Development.

The candidate uses varied and appropriate language such as *riqueza cultural, festeja, Domingo de Ramos, Domingo de Resurrección, más fervor, venerando, los nazarenos, capucha, el luto, vergüenza, saetas, buñuelos, albaricoque*. There are also examples of language structures used to evaluate and analyse, for instance: *se destaca, este festival no sería lo mismo sin los turistas, la gran trascendencia de la Semana Santa es, será imprescindible que la mantengan viva*. There is also a complex structure using the imperfect subjunctive: *Si Andalucía no tuviera tales tradiciones el turismo no contribuiría tanto al PIB regional*. The essay is awarded 5 marks for Quality of Language.