

# GCE

## Research-based Essay Guide

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Part Two (Spanish)

### Edexcel Advanced GCE in Spanish (9SP01)

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### Question 3 (c): Rasgos de la sociedad hispano-hablante moderno.

#### *Example 1*

Escribe sobre un rasgo de la sociedad hispano-hablante que te interesa. Explica por qué eso te resulta de importancia.

Write about an aspect of the Spanish-speaking society that interests you. Explain why you think it is important.

Las corridas de toros son un parte grande de la sociedad hispano porque afectan todo el mundo. Las corridas están transmitidas por la mayoría de estaciones regionales, permitando hasta los niños a ver las Inchas. En la sociedad hispano, este no es algo extraño o impropio, pero pienso que no es apropiado que los niños pueden ver estas imágenes de violencia.

Las corridas de toros afectan la sociedad por el dinero que cuestan cada año, de los impuestos. Así cuesta la gente mucho, incluyendo los que no apoyan las corridas. Recientemente algunas ciudades y pueblos más pequeños han decididos que este año no van a tener las corridas porque no tienen bastante dinero, ni hay cifras suficientes de personas que quieren verlas.

Los criadores de los toros forman un parte de la sociedad que no puede sobrevivir si las corridas paran. No solo ganan dinero de las corridas pero de la carne, también, y años de criando con cuidado para obtener el toro perfecto pudieran ser gastadas. Los matadores, además, perderán sus carreras si no hay las corridas, y las escuelas de aprender el arte de torear no podrían continuar. Así, las corridas efectan muchas personas en la sociedad hispano.

Otra manera que las corridas afectan la sociedad es el arte. Las corridas han inspirados muchos pinturas de artistas diferentes, por ejemplo, Francisco de Goya, y son el origen del baile 'El Paso Doble'. Sin las corridas de toros gran parte de la cultura de la sociedad hispano no existiría. Por eso, opino que las corridas de toros son un rasgo de la sociedad hispano muy importante.

Word Count: 267 words

## Commentary on *Example 1*

### Reading, Research and Understanding

The candidate has chosen to discuss the role of the bullfight in Spanish society and there is some evidence that the candidate has read something around the subject. The candidate focuses on the impact of bullfights on the general public and mentions regional stations broadcasting the fights so that even children can watch them and also local taxes levied on the general public to fund them. In the third paragraph the candidate considers the effect of a bullfight ban on those whose careers depend upon it, in particular the breeders of bulls, the matadors and the bullfighting schools. Finally there is a discussion about the influence of the bullfight on Spanish art - with reference to Goya - and how the *pasadoble* dance style originated from it. The candidate concludes that the bullfight is of great importance to Spanish culture, much of which would be lost without it. However, there is little factual knowledge to substantiate the arguments outlined in the essay; for example we have to accept at face value that smaller towns in Spain have had to cancel local bullfights because of insufficient funding through lack of interest and there is no hard evidence to support this assertion. Similarly it would be hard to think of the impact of the bullfight on Spanish painting without reference to Picasso as well as Goya.

Mark Range: 7-12 (top end of the Mark Range)

### Organisation and Development

The candidate has organized the essay into sequential paragraphs, devoting one paragraph to each point made and the length of the essay matches the specification criteria. However, there is little attempt to develop the points made in detail and nowhere in the essay are we told which Spanish-speaking society the candidate is talking about. There is a logical structure to the essay but limited analytical skill and the candidate concludes with reference to the requirement of the essay title.

Mark Range: 3-4

### Quality of Language

There are errors in the use of language - *permitando*, *han inspirados*, *pero instead of sino* - but there is also successful use of the imperfect subjunctive and conditional tenses. Communication is generally unaffected. Similarly there is some evidence of attempts to use appropriate lexis - *criadores* for example - and the vocabulary generally is appropriate.

Mark Range: just about a 5

## Overall

The candidate has chosen an interesting slant on the contemporary perception of bullfighting in Spain. The information provided however comes across as anecdotal and the candidate would have done better to have disclosed the sources of the information provided; frequently generalized assumptions are made with little evidence to support them. Although the use of language is by no means perfect communication is unaffected and it is easy to follow the sequence and development of the ideas.

## Example 2

Escribe sobre un rasgo de la sociedad hispano-hablante que te interesa. Explica por qué eso te resulta de importancia.

Write about an aspect of the Spanish-speaking society that interests you. Explain why you think it is important.

Para una sociedad a funcionar, necesitas algo fundamento que todos usan : la lengua. La idioma de español es lo mismo a otras idiomas como el inglés y francés, no para sus palabras pero sus usos. Todo para entender el mundo, y para mantener estabilidad con civilación. Idiomas se han convertido por mucho tiempo, y es aceptado que español dirigió de el latino, o más explicamente, del latino de la calle. Puedes ver muchas similaridades, específicamente con la gramática.

En España, la lengua no es todo lo mismo con el estilo de hablar. Tienes la catalán y, si quieres, la spanglish (un mezclo de español y inglés). Algunos son mas difíciles a entender y otras son mas aceptados cuando hablan con personas afuera de España, como turistas.

Cambios en la lengua todavía estan pasando, de parte de muchas razones. Una razon son nosotros nuevos generaciones de jóvenes. Con ellos tenemos nuevas palabras, nuevas reglas y nuevo argot. El argot tiene mucha controversia. Hay ellos que dicen que el argot daña a la lengua, y hay ellos que aceptalo como un parte de la idioma. Con el argot viene palabras que personas encuentran malas. Pero, estos palabras vengan mucho de los jóvenes, y el argot te puedes encontrar en muchas lugares : trabajo, la política, la policía con otras.

En conclusión, creo que la lengua español es muy importante en cualquier tipo para la sociedad hispano-hablante. Sin la idioma, seria imposible a comprender topics como la economía, la política ó nada mas, y sin ellos sociedad no puede funcionar para nada. Sin una idioma, no podemos hacer nada para avanzar tecnología, medicina o educación.

Word Count: 273 words

## Commentary on *Example 2*

### Reading, Research and Understanding

The candidate has chosen to focus upon the Spanish language and its uses and the essay makes several general comments without any specific or detailed reference. In the first paragraph for instance it is hard to follow the train of thought; Spanish is like English and French not through its vocabulary but through its use of language to give understanding of the world and to maintain stability with civilization. The argument is unconvincing and unclear without example or specific reference. Comparison with Latin from which Spanish developed is more successful although again hard evidence to show the connection and an explanation as to how street Latin differed from written Latin would have made the point clearer. In the second paragraph the argument becomes disjointed as we move from catalan, which we are asked to accept as a 'style of talking' to spanglish and the point is not made clear. The third paragraph is more successful as the candidate discusses how slang, particularly practised and invented by the young, leads to an accepted development of language in various areas of public life. However some examples would have substantiated the points being made. Finally the candidate returns to the essay title to explain why language and its usage is of fundamental importance to society although the argument would seem to be somewhat self-evident. The essay is full of general assertions with little evidence of any in-depth factual knowledge.

Mark Range: 7 - 12 (lower end of the marks)

### Organisation and Development

The candidate has divided the essay into paragraphs, each of which deals with a separate idea, and there is evidence of planning and organisation. The length of the essay is acceptable. However there is little development of the arguments raised and hardly any evidence to support them. The essay rests mainly upon superficial generalizations rather than hard fact and this limits the development of ideas within the paragraphs.

Mark Range: 3 - 4

### Quality of Language

The essay is full of errors, some of them basic such as spellings and genders, and occasionally the language affects immediate comprehension of the points being made. Sentences become garbled - *necesitas algo fundamento*, *español dirigió de el latino*, *hay ellos que aceptalo* - and although it is possible to work out what the candidate is trying to say, the inaccuracies do lead to ambiguity and confusion. Verb forms also suffer - *no podemos*, *avancar* - and the sentence structure breaks down at times. The vocabulary is generally unambitious.

Mark Range: 2

## Overall

The candidate has chosen a somewhat abstruse topic and one that would be difficult to research in depth. Accordingly the assertions made in the essay are general and assumptive and little or no evidence is provided to support the ideas and arguments which come across as rather shallow and ill-founded. The use of language is weak and obfuscates the clarity even further. The candidate was ill-advised to pursue this area of research and would have done better to have chosen a more accessible topic that was more in keeping with his or her linguistic ability.



### Example 3

Escribe sobre un rasgo de la sociedad hispano-hablante que te interesa. Explica por qué eso te resulta de importancia.

Write about an aspect of the Spanish-speaking society that interests you. Explain why you think it is important.

El mundo de la moda es un mundo muy popular. Muy recientemente la semana de la moda en Madrid (Los Cibeles) ha causado muy interés público y muchos debates no solo en los periódicos y en la televisión ma en todo el mundo porqué por la primera vez en la historia del mundo de la moda los modelos extremadamente delgados estados prohibidos da aparir en las pasarelas de 'Los Cibeles'.

Pero esto a causado la gente de pensar que el mundo de la moda no está siempre apoyando la extrema delgadez. Muchos modelos trabajan por agencias que no controlan el peso y la sueva de ellas pero esta nueva ley ha causado que la mayoría de los modelos que participan en esto cuento son controlados y con esto se puede detectar sintomas de anorexia y bulimia. Pero algunos modelos son naturalmente delgados y han decidido que estos leyes son discriminatoria.

Gisele Bundschen es una de los modelos brasileños muy importantes del mundo; recientemente causo nueva debate cuando decí en una entrevista por un periodico español que los padres son lo que se debian tener en culpa para las chicas anorexicas y bulimicas y no los modelos. Tambien decí que la delgadez es una cosa genetica.

España no fue el unico país a prohibir los modelos delgados de la pasarelas ma fue seguido de la semana de la moda de Nueva York que tambien prohibí los modelos extremadamente delgados y con una masa corporea baja. Algunos medicos han rivelado que el numero de modelos que ahora consultan un nutricionista es muy alto pero lo que no es evidente es si esto es por la atención de las agencias y organizadores de moda o por la salud de ellas.

Word Count: 287 words

## Commentary on *Example 3*

### Reading, Research and Development

The candidate has chosen to consider the world of fashion as an aspect of Spanish-speaking society that is of interest and there is evidence to show that some detailed factual knowledge has been acquired through reading and research. For example the candidate refers to the recent Fashion Week in Madrid (Los Cibeles) and how it set a landmark in banning excessively thin models from the catwalk. Similarly, passing reference is made to an interview given by a Brazilian model, Gisele Bundchen (misspelt in the essay), and to her views on parental responsibility for the anorexic and bulimic conditions that affect their children. The candidate also refers to the Fashion Week in New York where the Spanish example was followed. The reference to doctors claiming that an increasing number of models are consulting nutritionists would have been more convincing if evidence had been provided to support the assertion. However, there is clear evidence of a fair amount of reading and research leading to factual knowledge that informs the essay.

Mark Range: 19 - 24

### Organisation and Development

The essay is only slightly too long but is divided into 4 discrete paragraphs and the ideas are developed with logical sequence to create a coherent whole. The essay is relevant throughout and opposing arguments are clearly expressed and balanced.

Mark Range: 7 - 8

### Quality of Language

There are many errors in the use of language, some of them basic. At times the mistakes do affect immediate communication when the breakdown of sentence structure and mis-use of verbs cause confusion and ambiguity. Repeated errors such as *decí* instead of *dijo* and garbled sentences such as the one that begins paragraph two and serious mis-spellings - *rivelado instead of revelado for example* - and words that make no sense - *ma which is used where sino should be* - create an overall impression of unfamiliarity with straightforward language use. There is evidence of appropriate vocabulary however - *pasarela, anorexicas, bulimicas* - and terminology such as *masa corporea baja*.

Mark Range: 3 - 4 (lower mark)

## Overall

This candidate has clearly researched the topic effectively and has demonstrated a good knowledge of up-to-date information concerning the world of the fashion model. The essay has been carefully structured with a clear logical development of ideas and is interesting to read. However the weakness of the language prevents the candidate from accessing the highest marks.

## Appendix 1: Suitable Resources for Research

### General

<a href="http://www.edexcel.org.uk/gce2008">www.edexcel.org.uk/gce2008</a>	The Edexcel website for more information about your course
<a href="http://www.ozu.es">www.ozu.es</a>	Popular culture website
<a href="http://www.red2000.com/spain/1index.html">www.red2000.com/spain/1index.html</a>	Todo sobre España
<a href="http://www.SiSpain.org/spanish/index.html">www.SiSpain.org/spanish/index.html</a>	Extensive database
<a href="http://www.yahoo.es">www.yahoo.es</a>	Yahoo search Engine for Spain
<a href="http://www.johnwitney.net">www.johnwitney.net</a>	Useful for language work but also literature essays
<a href="http://www.teclspanish">www.teclspanish</a>	A useful online magazine from the Consejería de Educación
<a href="http://www.cervantes.es">www.cervantes.es</a>	Instituto de Cervantes website
<a href="http://www.sgci.mec.es/uk">www.sgci.mec.es/uk</a>	Online resources from the University of Birmingham
<a href="http://www.spanishrevision.co.uk">www.spanishrevision.co.uk</a>	Contains a folder dedicated to A Level studies
<a href="http://www.mflresources.org">www.mflresources.org</a>	Click on Spanish to access useful material

### Support organizations

<a href="http://www.cvc.cervantes.es/portada.htm">www.cvc.cervantes.es/portada.htm</a>	Good for cultural information
<a href="http://www.mec.es/sgci/uk">www.mec.es/sgci/uk</a>	Consejería de Educación, London

### Spanish ministries

<a href="http://www.mec.es">www.mec.es</a>	Education
<a href="http://www.mform.es">www.mform.es</a>	Transport
<a href="http://www.mir.es">www.mir.es</a>	Foreign affairs
<a href="http://www.mma.es">www.mma.es</a>	Environment

### Online newspapers

<a href="http://www.abc.es">www.abc.es</a>	ABC daily newspaper
<a href="http://www.elmundo.es">www.elmundo.es</a>	El Mundo daily newspaper
<a href="http://www.elpais.com">www.elpais.com</a>	El País, the biggest national daily newspaper
<a href="http://www.lavanguardia.es">www.lavanguardia.es</a>	La Vanguardia daily newspaper

## Media

<a href="http://www.news.bbc.co.uk/spanish/news">www.news.bbc.co.uk/spanish/news</a>	BBC world news in Spanish
<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish">www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish</a>	Link to BBC's online television and other support
<a href="http://www.cadenaser.com">www.cadenaser.com</a>	Radio
<a href="http://www.ondacero.es">www.ondacero.es</a>	Radio
<a href="http://www.rne.es">www.rne.es</a>	Radio nacional de España
<a href="http://www.rtve.es">www.rtve.es</a>	Radio televisión española

## Europe

These organisations provide a wealth of information about trends in Spanish life and public opinion.

<a href="http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/index_es.htm">www.europa.eu.int/comm/index_es.htm</a>	Every kind of information about the EU
<a href="http://www.europarl.es">www.europarl.es</a>	Information about the European parliament.

## Latin America

Material relating to Latin American countries can be accessed via general websites/search engines such as [www.terra.es](http://www.terra.es) where the 'buscador' will take you to websites covering the whole country, for example <http://chile.com>

<a href="http://www.lanic.utexas.edu">www.lanic.utexas.edu</a>	Provides access to information on Latin American news
<a href="http://www.mundolatino.com">www.mundolatino.com</a>	Access to Latin American news

## Autonomías

<a href="http://www.andalucia.org">www.andalucia.org</a>	Andalusia
<a href="http://www.gencat.es">www.gencat.es</a>	Cataluña
<a href="http://www.madrid.org">www.madrid.org</a>	Comunidad de Madrid
<a href="http://www.oei.es/">www.oei.es/</a>	Provides access to information on other comunidades autonomías

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