

Commentary Sample 2

Question 6

For this question students will select one writing task from a choice of three. They will be expected to write a continuous response, of about 150 words, in Spanish. Marks will be awarded for Communication and Content (10 marks), Knowledge and Application of Language (5 marks) and Accuracy (5 marks).

Students aiming at grade C and above will be expected to express opinion and to use a variety of structures, including a range of tenses.

Write about 150 words in Spanish.

Escribe unas 150 palabras en español.

Las vacaciones

Escribe una carta a tu amigo/a

Menciona:

.adonde fuiste y por qué

.lo que hiciste

.lo que te gustó y no te gustó

.lo que vas a hacer el próximo año

Querido XXXX

Que tal? Estoy en mis vacaciones. Semana pasado fui a Italia. Lo pasé fenomenal! Hizo calor y sol cada días. Me aloje en un hotel cerca de la playa. El hotel fue cómodo y grande. Mi dormitorio tiene un balcón y un cama doble.

Fui a la playa para nadar y conozo muchos jovenes porque estoy solo. El martes hice surf con mis nuevos amigos, fue entretenido! En mi opinión estuve el mejor a surf. Por la cena fui a un restaurante con mis amigos que son muy bien. Comemos las patatas con alguno chorizo y pollo, me lo gusta. Hacía una piscina en el hotel pero fue frío, el mar fue mas calor. Por un día en la tarde fui en la bicicleta en los montañas, fue bonito. El domingo fui en el barco ver los pescados tropicales.

El año proximo voy a ir a España con mi familia. Comemos la comida diferentes. Puedes venir con mi, será amusante.

Abrazos

Communication and Content 6/10

Communication

In this piece, the candidate gives an account of his holiday in Italy and addresses some of the bullet points set in the task.

The piece is well structured and develops in an ordered way. Although there are many mistakes, the content is mostly clear and relevant.

The candidate attempts to develop his ideas using different tenses. There are occasional opinions and justifications but the majority of the piece focuses on facts and events.

Overall the candidate succeeds in conveying a clear message but there is some ambiguity for example: *estuve el mejor a surf, Hacía una piscina, será amusante.*

Taking into account the overall content of this piece this candidate is awarded a 6 for Communication.

Content

The candidate has given a relevant response to the stimulus and has addressed some aspects of the task. There are some irrelevancies and some responses could have been further developed.

The candidate:

- mentions where he went on holiday, although he does not mention why he went to this place.
- gives a detailed response explaining which activities he did during the holiday.
- explains briefly that he liked the food but there is no mention of what he did not like.
- mentions what he would like to do next year.

Taking into account the overall content of this piece this candidate is awarded 6 for Content.

Considering the marks above the overall mark for this candidate for Communication and Content is 6. The response that the candidate gives to the stimulus is closer to the criteria in the 7-8 box (the response addresses most aspects of the task) rather than the criteria in the 3 - 4 box (the response is partially relevant).

Knowledge and Application of language 3/5

The candidate uses simple vocabulary : sol, playa, balcon, cama, grande bonito bien. However he has some success at enhancing facts by using adjectives like entretenido, cómodo, fenomenal.

The structures are simple and the candidate rarely strays from familiar language. However the candidate attempts, sometimes successfully, the use of more sophisticated language in the following;

El sabado hice surf con mis nuevos amigos, fue entrenido! Lo pasé fenomenal!, Puedes venir con mi.

There is some control of verbs and the candidate attempts the use of tenses to vary sentences. He uses the present and the preterite but the verb *ir* is used too often.

Estoy en mis vacaciones, mis amigos que son muy bien, fui a Italia, Hizo calor, hice surf.

The candidate demonstrates that he can manipulate the future tense successfully. *Voy a ir a España será amusante.*

He also uses the reflexive pronoun correctly *Me aloje.*

The candidate attempts to use the imperfect *Hacia una piscina* and to manipulate the language used but is not successful '*Fui a la playa para nadar y conozco muchos jovenes porque estoy solo*'. '*En mi opinión estuve el mejor a surf*'

The box 1-2 was considered, but this candidate did just enough to pull his mark to the box above and was awarded a 3 for Knowledge and Application of language.

Accuracy 2/5

There are frequent examples of inaccurate language:

A noun used as an adjective *el mar fue mas calor*.

Omission of a definite article, *Semana pasado*

Several missed subject/gender and number agreements, *cada dias, un cama doble*

There are basic errors with 'gustar'; *me lo gusta*

Although there is some correct verb formation there are errors. *fui a un restaurante con mis amigos que son muy bien. 'Comemos' instead of 'comimos' las patatas,*

Voy a ir a España con mi familia. 'Comemos' instead of 'comeremos' la comida diferente.

Although the spelling is mainly accurate many accents were put incorrectly or missed altogether.

Taking into account all the above, the overall mark for this candidate for accuracy is 2. If there had been a little more accuracy and control of verb forms and sentence structure a 3 might have been considered.

Total 11/20

To improve his marks this candidate needs to:

-read carefully and address all aspects of the task to gain better marks in content. This candidate unnecessarily lost marks because he ignored some parts of the bullet points in the stimulus.

-respond fully, expand and give more detail when he mentions that he liked the food. Make sure that he does the same when he mentions what he doesn't like.

-not simply list the activities he did during the holiday but try to describe what happened, express opinions and provide appropriate justifications.

-use a better range of vocabulary and structures to produce longer, fluent sentences.

-take more care with subject/verb, gender and number agreements.