

Commentary Sample 3

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).

Candidates aiming at grade A will be expected to write for different purposes and contexts about real and imaginary subjects. They express and explain ideas and points of view. They use a variety of vocabulary, structures and verb tenses. Their spelling and grammar are generally accurate. The message is clear but there may be some errors, especially when they write more complex sentences

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

Querida XXXX

Hola, como estás? Que tal tus vacaciones? El fin de semana pasado fui a Madrid con mi familia porque estaba el cumpleaños de mi madre. Me gusta viajar a Madrid porque el tiempo es siempre estupendo y cuando fuimos no llovía. Quedamos por dos días y fue muy divertido!

Me gustó visitar los parques porque nunca había estado allí. También fui de compras y compré un vestido. Compraría unas gafas de sol pero estaba demasiado caras. No me gustó visitar los museos porque fue muy aburrido y andábamos dos horas. En Madrid la comida era muy buena, fuimos a muchos restaurantes típicos y me encantaron las gambas.

Voy a ir a Barcelona. Todos los días tomaré el sol y después nadaré en el mar. Vamos a quedarnos para una semana, pero si tuviera más tiempo quedare para quince días.

Un abrazo

Communication and Content 8/10

Communication

In this piece, the candidate gives an account of her holiday in Madrid and addresses almost all aspects of the task. She makes a number of good points and there is little repetition.

The piece is pleasant to read, it is well structured and the relevant information is communicated clearly. Occasionally there is some ambiguity because of an incorrect use of tense or item of vocabulary: *Quedamos por dos dias. compraría unas gafas de sol pero estaba demasiado caras. si tuviera mas tiempo quedare para quince dias.*

Taking into account the overall content of this piece this candidate is awarded 8 for Communication.

Content

The candidate has given a relevant response to the stimulus and has addresses almost all aspects of the task.

The candidate:

- mentions where she went on holiday and gives a clear explanation as to why she went there.
- gives a detailed description of the activities she did during the holiday.
- explains fully what she liked and disliked. Her opinions are backed-up with justifications.
- in the last paragraph she mentions activities that she will do and we have to assume that the candidate is addressing the last bullet point in the stimulus: - what she would like to do next year.

Taking into account the overall content of this piece this candidate is awarded 9 for Content.

Considering the two marks above this candidate is on the borderline between 8 and 9 and although this piece is very good, it is not quite good enough to fit in the top box. So 8 is awarded for Communication and Content.

Knowledge and Application of language 4/5

The candidate uses an adequate range of straightforward vocabulary :*el cumpleaños, el tiempo, la comida, quince días* Some adjectives,: *divertido, estupendo, entusiasmada*. Adverbs: *demasiado caras*.

In this piece we find a balance of simple structures: *Me gusta viajar a Madrid, fui de compras y compré un vestido*, and more adventurous complex structures: *nunca habia estado alli, vamos a quedarnos, si tuviera mas tiempo quedare para quince dias*.

The candidate uses connectives 'y', 'pero', 'también'. She also extends a sentence using 'cuando', *el tiempo es siempre estupendo y cuando fuimos no llovía*.

There is evidence that the candidate can use relevant tenses successfully, using not only the first person singular but also the third person plural. She uses the present, the preterite, the imperfect and the pluperfect.

The candidate demonstrates that she can manipulate the future tense successfully. *Voy a ir a Barcelona . Tomaré el sol y nadaré en el mar*

The candidate attempts to incorporate two sentences with the imperfect subjunctive and she is partly successful. *si tuviera mas tiempo quedare para quince dias. Compraría unas gafas de sol pero estaba demasiado caras.*

Taking into account the above this candidate is awarded 4 for Knowledge and Application of language.

Accuracy 4/5

Overall this piece has been completed accurately with few errors.

The verb forms are generally correct. However the candidate makes mistakes with the use of ser and estar. *estaba el cumpleaños, estaban demasiado caras.*

The candidate uses 'gustar' and 'encantar' effectively. Not only 'me gusta + infinitive' but also 'me encantaron + los/las'.

The use of the reflexive verb 'quedarse' is inconsistent. The candidate misses out the reflexive pronoun 'nos' twice in *quedamos dos dias* and *quedare para quince dias*. However she also successfully attaches this pronoun to an infinitive *Vamos a quedarnos*.

There is correct subject/gender and number agreement.

The spelling is mainly accurate but there are some accents missing.

Taking into account all the above the overall mark for this candidate for is accuracy 4.

Total 16/20

To improve his marks this candidate needs to

-read carefully and address all aspects of the task to gain full marks in content. To link the whole piece effectively the last paragraph needs an introduction. The candidate needs to mention that 'next year' or 'next holiday' she would like to go to Barcelona.

-use the verbs 'ser' and 'estar' correctly.

-be consistent with the use of the reflexive pronouns.

-use a wider range of vocabulary and more complex structures: object pronouns, comparatives, si+ present +future sentences, gerunds.