

Examiners' Report /  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Spanish (5SP01) Paper 1F

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# Examiner Report

## General Comments

The Unit 1 Listening and Understanding paper again this year produced candidate performances across the full mark range. Generally all candidates were able to access the questions. Nevertheless, in the Higher tier paper, the questions which targeted Grades B-A\*, where responses given required candidates to provide more specific detail about what they had heard, proved to be sufficiently challenging and as a consequence, success was limited for some.

## Question 1

Question 1 required candidates to identify specific references to information about Laura and her daily routine by choosing one of three options relating to specific questions asked. This was very well done by the majority of candidates. The only lexical item that proved difficult for some was in 1(iii) *bolígrafo*.

## Question 2

Question 2 was a matching task and targeted Grade F. The majority of candidates were able to correctly identify all items although *uvas* (i) and *zanahorias* (iii) were problematic for some.

## Question 3/ Higher Question 5 (crossover question)

Question 3 required candidates to listen to two short dialogues in which some friends were talking about their summer jobs and to select items referred to in the conversations from a number of listed possibilities. At Higher Tier over 93% of candidates scored the 4 marks available for this question. Difficulties mainly encountered for Foundation candidates were the misunderstanding of *suelo organizar excursiones* and *tengo que archivar papeles*.

## Question 4/ Higher Question 6 (crossover question)

This question targeting Grade C required candidates to fill in a form in English. This question was done well by most candidates although some had problems identifying the correct day. Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday commonly appeared in (a). It would seem that a high proportion of candidates were not able to target the correct time in (b) as answers given included: 7.30, 10.30, 12, 8, half past, morning and noon amongst others. The main difficulty lay in (c) as very few candidates correctly understood *ayuntamiento*. Incorrect answers included: in front of the library, outside the hotel, opposite the shop, in the town centre, down the road, next to the tourist office and in front of the train. There were not many difficulties with (d) apart from some interpretations such as shopping centre, landmarks, the church, monuments and swimming pool.

## Question 5

Question 5 was a task about Andrea's party where candidates were required to listen to what had to be done before the party and select the appropriate activities. Whilst candidates were generally able to respond correctly, the following items caused problems for some: 5(A) Phone the boyfriend and 5(B) Go to the hairdresser.

## Question 6

Question 6 was a multiple choice task which targeted Grade F. Whilst many candidates scored well in 6(iii) a considerable number failed to understand *traje de baño* (i), *un bolso* (ii) and *una maleta* (iv).

## Question 7/ Higher Question 1 (crossover question)

This question required candidates to be able to recognise details from a longer extract of dialogue which contained familiar language in a less familiar context. It was based on a dialogue in which Alberto was talking to a waiter in a restaurant. At Foundation Level about half of the candidates scored two marks as opposed to Higher Level candidates who scored three of the four available marks. Answers (c) and (d) were more correctly identified than items (a) and (f).

## Question 8/ Higher Question 2 (crossover question)

This question was similar in type to question 6. Candidates had to listen to some young people discussing the benefits of their town and match them against a given number of headings. The question was very well done by the majority of candidates at both Foundation and Higher tiers. The main problems proved to lie in Alfredo (i) *gasto mi dinero en CDs* which some candidates did not equate with going to the shopping centre and in María (iii) *me gusta ir de excursión en barco* which candidates failed to interpret as going to the river.

## Question 9

This question was a multiple choice task relating to keeping fit. Overall the question was done very well although some candidates struggled with *la equitación* in (iv) and to a lesser extent with *la natación* in (i).

## Question 10

Question 10 required the candidates to listen to two short dialogues about future plans. They were required to indicate their comprehension by writing single word answers in English in a text box. The majority of candidates answered in English although some answered in Spanish and thus failed to score the allocated marks. In Question 10a part (i) failure to understand *voy a aprender a conducir* led to frequent incorrect and random answers such as travel, go to University, go skiing, visit my family and go shopping/swimming. In part (ii) *necesario* was commonly interpreted as amazing, relaxing, exciting, easy, magnificent and fun. In Question 10b part (i) *yo quiero trabajar en una tienda* was most commonly understood as to go on holiday, to go to the beach, do sports activities, to go shopping and in part (ii) candidates gave reasons such as difficult, boring, dirty, to earn money and fun.

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