

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Spanish (5SP01/1H)
Paper 1H: Listening and
Understanding in Spanish

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GCSE Spanish

Unit 1: Listening and Understanding in Spanish Examiner Report

General Comments

Candidates performed well across the paper as a whole and indeed there were many excellent performances showing good listening and exam skills. There were relatively few blank answers although some candidates lost marks due to putting crosses in too many boxes. Attention to the rubric is required in order to access the marks whilst candidates should listen carefully to the whole extract rather than simply listening to isolated lexical items. Weaker candidates did find the questions targeting Grade B and above challenging. Comments about the crossover questions targeting Grades C and B are shown in the Foundation report.

Question 3

Question 3 which targeted Grade B required students to listen to some tourists complaining to a hotel manager. On the whole candidates performed well although in (i) *gamberros* and *pegar ojo* proved problematic for some. In (ii) *el personal era grosero* was misunderstood and in (iv) failure to understand *compré entradas para el espectáculo de flamenco en el hotel pero lo cancelaron a última hora* was challenging for many. Nevertheless, most candidates achieved maximum marks.

Question 4

This question relating to Pablo's visit to a Spanish festival targeted Grade A and it would appear that again it would have been more appropriate for weaker candidates to have been entered for the Foundation paper as there is no doubt that Question 4 was difficult for them as only the more able candidates were able to supply the detail and accuracy required. The quality of some of the written answers was poor in many cases with a few examples of illegible handwriting. There was also a lot of crossing out and writing the answers in the incorrect place. Spellings such as still/stole for steal, robed for robbed were seen on several occasions as well as the grammatically incorrect thieving and robbing. When asked to give two details, some candidates presented comprehensive answers, with the correct information given as the third or fourth point, so subsequently the marks could not be awarded. Some candidates had even circled the "two" details, inferring that they had understood the requirements, before listing many options. Unfortunately there are still a few candidates answering in Spanish and thus depriving themselves automatically of a possible 8 marks.

4(a) (i) Almost 75% answered correctly but there are still many candidates who obviously had difficulty understanding *anteayer* despite the word being included in the Edexcel vocabulary list. Incorrect answers included: late yesterday, late in the afternoon, yesterday afternoon/ evening, midnight.

4(a) (ii) Many understood "music" and were awarded the first mark. Many answered "dancing and music" and were fortunate to be awarded the mark.

Fewer candidates accessed the second mark as they did not understand the reason. Many opted for the activities first and incorrect answers included: parades, parties, running with friends, meeting new people, games, going to the castle amongst others.

4(a) (iii) Very surprisingly only just half of the candidates answered correctly this very straightforward question. Incorrect answers included: 7/3/12/days, the weekend, a few days, several days, 1 day.

4(b) (i) Most answers referred to being robbed/having objects stolen, with a few references to pickpockets. Fewer accessed "risk of falling over". Several candidates simply wrote "lots of people", which was not in itself to gain a mark. "Lots of people so risk of being robbed" was successful. As this was a **one** mark question, a candidate who responded with "some festivals can be dangerous because there are lots of people, you can hurt yourself or get robbed" was not awarded a mark, as the correct answer was offered in third place. Guesses included: it's rough, fights, drugs, your tent can be robbed, people carry knives, people get drunk, drug cartels.

4(b) (ii) Many candidates successfully grasped the idea of being accompanied but some thought that visitors should "stay with friends" which was not clear enough and could refer to accommodation. Another popular answer was that they should "stay in a hotel", not understanding that the advice given was to have the hotel details with them. Despite the "no" and "nunca" some still thought they should keep valuables with them and some translated "lleves" as "wear" rather than "take". Examples of wrong answers included: Don't get into a fight, stay out of the crowds, be careful, don't talk to strangers.

4(b) (iii) Almost 75% answered this question correctly. Some weaker candidates however who misunderstood the answer wrote answers such as: move house, live in Seville, go to more festivals, go to Valencia, study in Valencia, live in another country.

Question 7

This question which targeted Grade B required candidates to listen to what some friends intended to do in their summer holidays. In (i) about a quarter of the candidates failed to score the mark as they heard *madrina* and equated this with answer D: help relatives. In (iii) many failed to understand *Sin duda tendré que repasar muchas horas a diario porque no he aprobado el alemán* and thus lost the mark however (iv) was answered correctly by 92% of the candidates.

Question 8

Question 8 targeted Grade A* and candidates had to listen to two extracts about aspects of school life. The question was challenging as candidates had to listen to fairly long extracts of Spanish which included some difficult vocabulary and be able to identify the correct answers. In general candidate performance in Part B was much better than in Part A. In Part A frequently too many boxes were crossed which led to loss of marks. Items of difficulty proved to be: *Lo que más rabia me da, la enseñanza adaptada a las aptitudes del alumno ha mejorado así que las notas no reflejan el rendimiento de cada alumno and me fastidia que*

tengamos una sobrecarga de deberes. In Part B weaker candidates had difficulty understanding *nos sirven lo mismo cada día y no me queda más remedio que traer mis propios bocadillos* in 8(a). 8(b) was answered correctly by most candidates. Some candidates misunderstood *es injusto que debido a las reglas del instituto castiguen a los estudiantes por llegar con retraso* in 8(c) and in 8(d) *tenemos una visita semanal de un consejero de orientación que nos sugiere cómo prepararnos para el mundo laboral* was problematic. Many candidates however scored at least 4 marks and the most able 6-7 marks.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

