

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

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

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GCSE Spanish
Unit 1H: Listening and Understanding in Spanish
Examiner Report

General Comments

In general terms there was a marked improvement in candidate performance this year which was seen particularly in questions 4 and 8. Indeed there was much commendable achievement showing very good listening and exam skills. Attention to the rubric is vital in order to access the marks whilst candidates should listen carefully to the whole extract rather than simply listening to isolated items of vocabulary. It should be pointed out that candidates must only write their answers on the lines provided in Question 4 as it makes marking extremely difficult at times.

Question 1

This question targeted Grade C and required candidates to listen to three friends talking about a healthy lifestyle. At Higher Level candidates in general achieved the maximum 4 marks whereas at Foundation Level a high proportion of candidates scored 2 marks. Problems arose due to the misunderstanding of *suelo comer sanamente, haría ejercicio, evito la comida que contiene demasiada sal*.

Question 2

This question targeted Grade D and candidates had to listen to short statements about leisure and choose the correct answers from a list of options. The question was intended to discriminate and did so as Higher Level candidates performed better than weaker candidates who found it more challenging. At Foundation Level the problems arose in (i) *toco la flauta en la orquesta* and in (iv) *de vez en cuando voy al extranjero con mis primos*.

Question 3

Question 3, which targeted Grade B, required students to listen to some friends talking about their problems at the airport. Largely candidates performed well although in (i) *mi avión salió con retraso debido a las tormentas de verano* proved difficult for some. In (ii) *mi maleta tardó en llegar* was misunderstood by about a third of candidates. In (iii) failure to understand *casi perdí el vuelo porque no se oían bien los anuncios por los altavoces del aeropuerto* was problematic for many. Equally, in (iv) misunderstanding of *no había suficientes asientos, así que tuve quedarme de pie hasta subir al avión* prevented 40% of candidates from accessing the mark. Nevertheless, many candidates achieved maximum marks.

Question 4

This question about Guillermo studying engineering targeted Grade A and as previously mentioned there was a considerable improvement in performance this year. In too many cases handwriting was poor and some almost illegible. There

was also a lot of crossing out and writing the answers in the incorrect place. 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. Fortunately there were very few examples of candidates answering in Spanish therefore depriving themselves automatically of the possible 8 marks.

4(a)(i) Most candidates answered correctly but many translated "padres" as dad rather than "parents" and therefore failed to score. Several candidates also stated that he did engineering because his parents wanted him to do it which again failed to score. The majority of candidates understood "good at Maths". Other incorrect answers included: "so he could work with his father", he didn't like Maths and "his parents suggested it would be good".

4(a)(ii) Most candidates achieved the mark and the most common answers were correctly, serious or hardworking. A few however repeated that Guillermo was good at Maths. Other incorrect answers included: busy, quiet, smart, relaxed, boring.

4(a)(iii) A large number of candidates failed to score 2 marks on this question. Many stated that he missed his dad rather than his parents and also that he made a routine when emphasis needed to be on the fact that he adapted or got used to a different routine. In addition quite a considerable number of candidates failed to understand that the course was more difficult than he expected and simply referred to things in general being more difficult. Incorrect answers included: he made friends, he joined clubs, he saved money, he socialised and he relaxed.

4(b)(i) Many candidates were not familiar with the word "equipo" and gave the answer that they needed to know how to use the equipment. There was a significant number who thought one had to be independent rather than make independent decisions. Other incorrect responses included: be organised, learn Technology, experience, good hard work.

4(b)(ii) A large number of candidates gave the answer "opportunities" or "open up opportunities" but failed to specify "work opportunities". The majority however answered the second part of the question correctly, either stating that the job paid well or that there would be job security. Incorrect answers included: experience, opportunities in the market, work experience, travel and work in a garage.

4(b)(iii) "To become a doctor" was a common answer as many candidates failed to understand *aparatos medicos*. Quite a large number stated that Guillermo wanted to "fix medical equipment" and some thought that he would be building hospitals.

Question 5

Question 8 was aimed at Grade D. Candidates were required to listen to Ramiro talking about the hotel he stayed in and choose the correct answer from the

options available. The question was accessible to all candidates in general but whereas most Higher Level *candidates* scored the maximum 4 marks roughly half of Foundation Level candidates achieved 2 marks for the question. Problems arose due to failure to understand *estaba al lado del mar, me ayudaban a elegir los platos más ricos and podía controlar el calor sin problema.*

Question 6

This question targeted Grade C and the task type required candidates to listen to Pastora talking about her holiday. The question was a good discriminator as the performance of Higher Level candidates far surpassed that of the weaker candidates. Almost all Higher Level candidates scored 3 to 4 marks whereas at Foundation Level candidates tended to score 2 marks. Miscomprehension of *creo que los edificios antiguos son una maravilla, no necesitamos llevar sudadera, mi cuarto daba a la carretera and siempre había demasiada gente* meant that many Foundation candidates were not able to score the marks.

Question 7

This question which targeted Grade B required candidates to listen to what some friends felt about online shopping. In (i) virtually all candidates scored the mark. In (ii) many failed to understand *Puedo hacer todas mis compras desde casa sin tener que salir* and thus lost the mark. In (iii) about a third of the candidates misunderstood *Es lamentable ver que todas las tiendas del barrio se están cerrando* and again in (iv) *Lo que de verdad me parece fantástico es el dinero que se puede ahorrar comprando en Internet* proved difficult for 41% of the candidates.

Question 8

Question 8 targeted Grade A* and candidates had to listen to two extracts about Arturo and Verónica talking about work. The question was fairly challenging as candidates had to listen to extended extracts of Spanish which included some difficult structures and be able to identify the correct answers. In general candidate performance in Part A was much better than in Part B. In Part A at times too many boxes were crossed which led to loss of marks. Items of difficulty proved to be: *me llevo genial con mis colegas, y eso hace que disfrute ejerciendo mi profesión, mi jornada laboral es larga, espero que en el futuro el sueldo sea más alto.* 8 (b)(i) was answered correctly by two thirds of the candidates although some candidates misunderstood the idea behind *Este empleo no es lo que yo esperaba.* In 8 (b)(ii) some candidates did not link *Desde que comencé no he hecho nada difícil* with the correct answer B and in 8(b)(iii) *me gustaría trabajar en algo creativo, en una empresa donde aprecien tu trabajo* was difficult for some. In 8(b)(iv) misunderstanding of *He decidido mandar mi carta de renuncia esta semana* prevented 41% of the candidates from scoring the mark. Many candidates however scored at least 4-5 marks and the most able 7-8 marks.

Grade Boundaries

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