

Moderators' Report/
Principal Moderator Feedback

January 2012

GCSE Spanish (5SP02) Paper 2A

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The most popular task type submitted for moderation was the Presentation followed by a Discussion with the most common topics for Presentation being holidays or work experience. The tasks were well prepared and the Teacher Examiners conducted the oral tests sympathetically and efficiently, keeping a close eye on the timings and interrupting the Presentations appropriately to allow sufficient time for interaction. At times the Presentations were clearly pre-learnt monologues which were then extended into question and answer sessions rather than discussions that would have demonstrated spontaneity. A few Presentations exceeded the 3-minute time limit and allowed very little time for interaction; as a consequence the candidates were penalized when they had little opportunity to demonstrate spontaneity in interaction.

Open Interactions were also conducted efficiently and Teacher Examiners were clearly aware of the requirement for the candidates to ask a question or questions, occasionally prompting the student accordingly. Several of these Open Interaction tests were clearly over-prepared and rehearsed and therefore lacking in spontaneity.

For Picture-based discussions the most popular topic was once more holidays and these gave rise to more relaxed and natural discussions as Teacher Examiners encouraged the candidates to talk about themselves and their friends and families freely without resorting to prepared responses. When submitting samples for moderation, centres should remember to include a variety of task types; there were a few cases where this did not happen and only one task type was sent.

Administration

Administration by centres was much more efficiently managed than was evident in the summer examination series. Most centres followed instructions conscientiously to ensure that all the correct paper work accompanied the samples for moderation. All centres, with very few exceptions, included the highest and lowest scoring candidates in addition to the sample requested.

Centres must ensure that the marks for 2A and 2B are recorded on separate OPTEMS: the 2A marks recorded on the 2A OPTEMS and the 2B on the 2B OPTEMS.

Mathematical errors should also be avoided and it is essential that great care should be taken before submitting the marks.

Nevertheless, most centres should be congratulated on the conduct and administration of the tests and candidates are to be praised for their careful preparation.

GCSE Modern Foreign Languages – Main Taught

Unit 2: Speaking Marking principles

Tests which are **too short**: < less than 3'30" - so 3'29" is too short

- Automatic deduction of 2 marks on the Content and Response grid.
- There is no penalty applied to either Range or Accuracy.

Test which are **too long**: > more than 6 minutes

- Stop listening and assessing at the end of the first sentence after 6 minutes have elapsed

Test which are **a monologue** and have no interaction

- No more than 7 for Content and Response
- There is no penalty applied for either Range or Accuracy

Open interaction tasks only

- Candidate asks only one question – deduct 1 mark from the Content and Response (where two or more questions are clearly required)
- Candidate asks no questions – deduct 2 marks from the Content and Response.

There are no penalties on the other two assessment grids.

There is an expectation in this task type that the candidate will ask the TE questions since it is a transactional task type. Although interaction is important in all three task types, there is no requirement for candidates to ask questions in the Presentation and discussion or in the Picture-based discussion task options.

Presentation and Discussion

- The presentation must last between 1 – 3 mins (max). If the presentation is shorter than 1 min deduct 2 marks for Content and Response.

Marks for content and language are awarded discretely – i.e. if a candidate scores 8-11 for content, there is no imposed ceiling on either of the other assessment boxes for range or accuracy.

These are the only penalties to be applied. Pro-rata calculations from other specifications or languages should not be used.

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