

Examiners' Report/  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

GCSE Spanish (5SP03)  
Paper 3H Reading and Understanding in  
Spanish

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**GCSE Spanish  
Paper 3 Higher Tier  
Reading and Understanding in Spanish  
Examiner Report**

**General Comments**

Most students demonstrated a clear understanding of the rubrics and the general format of the examination. It was evident that they had been well prepared and had practiced in preparation for the examination.

Both Foundation and Higher papers proved to be accessible to all students. Entry selections made by centres were appropriate. Very few students left significant gaps in their answers or failed to complete the paper at either level. Very good students scored highly throughout each paper set. They demonstrated a clear and precise understanding of the subtleties expected at the higher level questions, in terms of content vocabulary, grammar and level of inference. Crossover questions generally discriminated well and were completed more accurately by students who entered at the higher level.

**Spelling**

The spelling of some English words proved problematic for some students. However, examiners were sympathetic in their responses and where spelling was phonically recognisable versions of required words were credited positively.

**Grammar**

In Q7(Foundation Tier) / Q6(Higher Tier) students were required to read an email and to respond indicating the appropriate time zone of each event. Some students struggled with recognising verbs in different tenses.

**Conclusion**

The outcome of this unit was pleasing. The majority of centres had prepared their students thoroughly so they had a good understanding of the requirements of this unit and responded well to its demands.

**HIGHER TIER**

**Q1**

Most students scored 3 of the 4 marks available for this question. The most frequent incorrect response was:

Q1(iv) B 'see Manolito on screen'

**Q2**

Most students scored 3 or 4 marks for this question.

### **Q3**

Most students scored 2 or 3 out all of the 4 marks available for this question.

### **Q4**

Typical Grade A students generally scored well on this question, however only the very high end of the entry scored the full marks available.

Q4(a) most students scored one of the two marks available.

Q4(b) this question proved challenging and a good discriminator. Only a small number of students gave the correct answers. There was some evidence of guesswork, in particular where students imposed their own speculations about who the information was aimed at, simply offering answers such as 'for groups/families/ people moving to live in Barcelona' rather than referring to the text.

Q4(c) most students managed to score the one mark available for this question.

Q4(d) this section of the question discriminated well between students. Whilst the most able were successful in identifying the correct responses, there was some evidence of significant guesswork.

Q4(e) this question was problematic to all but the very few. Only a very small number of students recognised the words 'rellenar nuestra encuesta' and answered correctly.

### **Q5**

Most students scored 3 out of the 4 marks available. Wrong choices were made at random. As in the Foundation paper, some students lost a mark because they ticked 5 boxes instead of 4.

### **Q6**

Whilst overall student performance was better on this paper than on Paper 3F, students still found this question challenging. References in the passage to tenses other than the present confused some students causing a fluctuation in outcomes. There was some evidence of random guesswork.

### **Q7**

Overall students attempted this question well with many scoring 3 of 4 marks available for this question.

### **Q8**

The final question in this examination targets Grade A\*. The following key points are worthy of note.

Q8(i) many students incorrectly ticked 'A - los jóvenes'

Q8(ii) this question was more frequently correct than incorrect.

Q8(iii) this question was more frequently correct than incorrect.

Q8(iv) only 55% of all students were able to answer correctly.

Q8(v) students failed to recognise 'mejorarse' as the correct answer.

Q8(vi) was largely successful.

Q8(vii) less than half of all students were able to answer correctly.

Q8(viii) many students failed to recognize 'no está asociada con' as the correct answer.

## **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>

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