

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2014

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
in Spanish (5SP03/3H)
Paper 3H: Reading and Understanding
in Spanish

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GCSE Spanish
Unit 3 Reading and Understanding in Spanish
Examiner Report

General comments

Most candidates 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 papers, Foundation and Higher, proved to be accessible to all candidates. Entry selections made by centres were appropriate. Very few candidates left significant gaps in their answers or failed to complete the paper at either level.

Very good candidates 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 candidates who entered at the higher level.

Spelling

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

Conclusion

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

Question 1

Most candidates scored 3 of the 4 marks available for this question. The most frequently wrong response was:

4(iv) linking 'para nuestras próximas vacaciones ya hemos encontrado y reservado otro lugar perfecto' with 'will not go back to the same place'

Question 2

Most candidates scored the 4 marks available for this question.

Question 3

Most candidates scored 2/3 of the 4 marks available for this question. The most common errors were:

Q3(ii) flexible

Q3(iii) advantages

Question 4

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

4(a) Around 60% of the candidates scored the one available mark for this question.

4(b) This question proved challenging and a good discriminator. Only a small number of candidates scored the two marks available for this question.

Many candidates failed to interpret the correct answer for 'What information should you gather before applying to university?' and gave answers such as 'find out where are you going to live/ what activities they have there/ if could you become a volunteer'

4(c) Most candidates managed to score the one mark available for this question.

4(d) Around 50% of the candidates scored the one mark available for this question.

There was some evidence of guesswork where candidates failing to interpret the correct answer for 'why do universities interview future students?' gave answers such as 'they want to get to know them/to see if they fit into university life'

4(e) Most candidates managed to score the two marks available for this question.

4(f) This question proved challenging and a good discriminator. Only 3% of the entry answered correctly.

There was some evidence of guesswork, in particular where candidates imposed their own speculations about 'in what way do all students have equal opportunities' simply offering answers such as 'everyone will get good grades if they study hard/ they all have an interview/ it doesn't matter where you come from' rather than referring to the text.

Question 5

Most candidates scored 3/4 marks. Wrong choices were made at random.

Question 6

Most candidates scored 3/4 marks. Wrong choices were made at random.

Question 7

Q7 Overall candidates attempted this question well with around 45% scoring the 3 of 4 marks available for this question.

Question 8

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

Q 8 (i) only around 26% of the candidates provided the right answer to this question.

Q8(ii) around 50% of the candidates answered this question correctly.

Q8(iii) most candidates answered this question correctly

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

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

Q8(vi) candidates often failed to recognize 'seguras' as the correct answer.

Q8(vii) only around 30% of the candidates answered this question correctly, candidates often failed to recognize 'usar monedas' as the correct answer.

Q8(viii) most candidates answered this question correctly.

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>

