

Comparison of key skills specifications 2000/2002 with 2004 standardsX015461July 2004Issue 1

Speaking Unit Commentaries

Summer 2023

International A Level

In Spanish (WSP01) Unit 1

**2306 International A level Spanish Unit 1 WSP01 Commentary**

C grade summer 2023

Total mark: 28/40 C grade boundary 2306 = 22/40

GTA: Lifestyle, health and fitness

Stimulus: 2A

**Conduct of the test**

This test is conducted correctly, and the teacher-examiner demonstrates examples of good practice. This teacher-examiner does not dominate the exchanges and during the exam he develops a good rapport with the candidate. He is encouraging and friendly.

**Section A**

In Section A, the teacher-examiner must ask the four questions on the teacher-examiner version of the card as they are written.

The total time for the WSP01 test is 8-10 minutes. Timing begins when the teacher-examiner asks the first question in Section A. In theory the timing is split equally between Sections A and B. However, this is not always the case, and this is not an issue, but the teacher-examiners must ensure that the total test time is 8-10 minutes. Supplementary questions should not be asked in Section A.

This test lasts 8 minutes and 48 seconds, Section A lasts 4 minutes 25 seconds and Section B lasts 4 minutes and 21 seconds. This candidate speaks slowly and works hard to develop all his answers.

**Section B**

In Section B the teacher-examiner asks questions which move away from the topic of the stimulus card but relate to the sub-topics of the GTA being tested. In this case the GTA is Lifestyle, health and fitness, for which the sub-topics are Food and diet, Sport and exercise, Health issues and Urban and rural life. All the questions asked by this teacher-examiner relate to the correct sub-topics.

Section B should be a natural-sounding conversation where each participant listens to the points made by the other and responds appropriately.

This test is clearly spontaneous and the conversation in this section develops naturally. An example of good practice is the way the teacher introduces his questions. For example: He picks up on what the candidate says about sports, agrees with the candidate’s ideas, and uses this, to link it to his next question: *Una de las cosas relacionadas con el deporte, la gente joven y la alimentación es el estrés. Hoy en día la gente joven está sometida a mucho estrés. ¿Tú cómo gestionas el estrés?*

When talking about smoking, the candidate mentions that he read about this topic, it might have been better if the teacher-examiner asked for clarification to explore this issue in more depth rather than move to another sub-topic.

**Assessment commentary**

**Quality of language (Accuracy)**

**Mark awarded – 4/5**

This mark is awarded for the candidate’s performance across both sections of the test, A and B.

This candidate is generally accurate, and his pronunciation and intonation are good. There is a repeated error with *ayude. He uses the perfect tense correctly but sometimes he makes* errors such as *se ha morido. He also has some problems with ser* and *estar.*

*He has some examples of more complex language such as the good use of pronouns.*

Communication is rarely impeded.

This performance fits the descriptors of a mark of 4 for *Quality of language (Accuracy).*

**Mark awarded – 4/5**

This mark is awarded for the candidate’s performance across both sections of the test, A and B.

This candidate has a good range of vocabulary specific to this GTA (e.g. *destruye tu salud, cansado, te da satisfacción, el ambiente*).

There are some examples of complex structures such as the correct use of pronouns, si clauses and some idiomatic phrases (e.g. *¡claro! es muy diferente. ¿sabes?* This candidate has enough range of vocabulary and structures to communicate his ideas clearly.

This performance fits the descriptors of a mark of 4 for Quality of language (Range)

**Spontaneity and development**

**Mark awarded – 11/16**

This mark is awarded for the candidate’s performance across both sections of the test, A and B.

There are many examples of spontaneity, and the candidate responds without undue hesitation. He answers all questions without any difficulty and deals adequately in most situations. He talks about his own experiences and his observations of young people. Some of his responses are quite general and at time there are not fully developed, for this reason his performance was awarded 11 for Spontaneity and development. We have also taken into account his performance on the stimulus card when awarding this mark.

**Understanding (Stimulus specific)**

**Mark awarded – 3/4**

This mark is awarded purely for the candidate’s response to the four questions set by Pearson Edexcel in Section A of the test.

Question 1 relates only to the content of the first paragraph of the text on the stimulus card. There will be at least three items of information in the first paragraph which can be used to answer this question, Candidates are expected to mention three points in their response.

Question 1: Only 2 points are fully addressed but he does give a detailed answer.

Question 2: Addressed with good extension.

Question 3: The candidate gives a satisfactory answer, but his answer is not very developed.

Question 4: This is a more detailed answer, with several developed points.

Overall, this performance matches the marking criteria for a mark of 3. He gives detailed answers, demonstrating good understanding of the text and its wider implications.

**Knowledge and Understanding (General topic area)**

**Mark awarded – 6/10**

This mark is awarded purely for the knowledge and understanding of the GTA demonstrated by the candidate in Section B of the test.

This candidate is able to answer all the questions asked with extended answers, all these answers are mainly based in his own experiences and observations. He does give some statistics about the number of young people who smoke but fails to explain and fully develop what he has read. Candidates must use their research to fully illustrate and explain their points. Simply adding a sentence about what he has read is not sufficient use of research to warrant a mark of 7 or above.

Overall, the candidate gives some relevant ideas and opinions, demonstrating satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the general topic area. A mark of 6 was awarded for Knowledge and Understanding.

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