

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

Speaking Unit Commentaries

Summer 2023

International A Level

In Spanish (WSP03) Unit 3

**2306 International A level Spanish Unit 3 WSP03 Commentary**

A grade summer 2023

Total mark: 32/ 40

A grade boundary 2306 = 30/40

**Conduct of the test**

This test is conducted correctly, and this teacher-examiner demonstrates many examples of good practice. She does not dominate the exchanges and is encouraging and friendly.

**Part 1 (Debate: A favor de las corridas de toros)**

Part 1 is a debate that requires candidates to present and to take a clear stance on any issue of their choice.

An example of good practice in this exam is that the teacher-examiner adopts the opposite view to the candidate and provides strong and meaningful challenges to allow him to defend his views and to use the language of debate and argument.

The total time for the WSP03 test is 11-13 minutes. Timing begins when the teacher-examiner asks the first question in Section A.

This exam lasts just over 12 minutes. At the end of the first part, this examiner indicates that the examination is moving to the second part of the test and moves away smoothly to part two.

The candidate’s introduction is a bit too long and he loses some spontaneity by trying to include part of his research and information.

The initial outline of the stance can be short, one or two sentences is enough. When outlining their stance, it is not good practice for candidates to deliver material and provide information at length which could have been used in the actual debate.

**Part 2**

In this part of the examination candidates need to demonstrate their ability to engage in a natural, unpredictable (but not unfamiliar) and meaningful discussion of two or three follow-up issues.

In this test, an example of good conduct of the exam is that the teacher - examiner asks questions in two follow-up areas. The topics discussed are set within the context of the Spanish world and the questions asked are at an appropriate intellectual level for A Level.

If many unconnected topics are covered in this section, the discussions result in a Question-and-Answer session. Consequently, candidates are unable to explore the topics in sufficient scope and depth.

**Assessment commentary**

**Spontaneity and development**

**Mark awarded – 16/20**

*This mark is awarded for the candidate’s performance across both parts of the test.*

In the WSP03 Mark Scheme we can see that 20 out of the 40 marks available are awarded for Spontaneity and development. Therefore, it is very important that teacher-examiners give candidates the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to be spontaneous and the chance to develop their answers showing the knowledge and understanding of the topics debated and discussed.

The discussions should be about ideas not purely factual, narrative, or descriptive.

To reach the top box there should be a high incidence of spontaneous and fluent discourse.

In this exam there is a high incidence of spontaneous and fluent discourse. Often, the teacher addresses the points made by the candidate responding appropriately to his input. For example: when the candidate is talking about Immigration the examiner links her question to the candidate’s response by saying: *Dices que en España …*

The candidate responds readily and fluently to all the questions asked with extended responses.

This performance fits the descriptors of the top box for Spontaneity and Development and the candidate is awarded 16/20

**Quality of language (Accuracy)**

**Mark awarded – 5/5**

*This mark is awarded for the candidate’s performance across both sections of the test, Parts 1 and 2.*

Highly accurate with authentic pronunciation and intonation. A high level of fluency throughout.

This performance, therefore, fits the descriptors of a mark of 5 for Quality of language (Accuracy)

**Quality of language (Range of lexis)**

**Mark awarded – 5/5**

*This mark is awarded for the candidate’s performance across both sections of the test, Parts 1 and 2.*

The candidate has a wide range of lexis and a good variety of complex structures.

This performance, therefore, fits the descriptors of a mark of 5 for Quality of language (Range)

**Reading and research**

**Mark Awarded 3/5**

*This box only assesses the candidate’s level of research and awareness of the chosen issue for debate.*

This candidate has excellent evidence to demonstrate that he has undertaken thorough research and wide reading into his chosen issue. He is able to formulate his opinions, justify his arguments and give examples to illustrate his answers. He offers many facts and figures.

The WSP03 Mark Scheme says that to be able to access the top mark bands (4 and 5) candidates will have to mention target language newspaper, and magazine articles, online sources, or any other suitable target language written source that they have used.

This candidate says: *Como dice el torero Curro Romero* … and also, *En una entrevista, el rejoneador Pablo Mendoza nos explica …* but he does not refer to any of the above-mentioned sources. Therefore, this performance matches the Marking Criteria for a mark of 3.

**Critical analysis**

**Mark awarded – 3/5**

Candidates will be assessed here on their ability to handle abstract concepts not purely concrete exchanges. There will be a critical analysis of key issues and justified links between ideas, with coherent arguments mostly present that show a developing individual response.

An example of good practice is that during the debate and the discussion about surrogacy, the teacher-examiner asks questions that allow the candidate to show evidence of deeper thinking and understanding of different sides to an argument.

The candidate often illustrates his points of view with facts, example, explanations and justifications. For example, when the teacher asks: *Hay asociaciones que defienden a la mujer y justifican que la maternidad subrrogada afecta a la mujer y no se debe realizar. ¿Cómo crees tú que les puede afectar? Puede afectar, para una mujer es muy lógico hacerlo si está desesperada y necesita dinero pero creo que hay mujeres que se sienten agradecidas por tener hijos y quieren dar la oportunidad a otras personas de sentir lo que ella han sentido y ayudar a los demás.*

The issues discussed which relate to the three specific IAL General Topic Areas must refer to the Spanish speaking world to be able to reach the two top boxes in Critical analysis.

This performance fits the descriptors of a mark of 3 for Critical analysis.

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