

Examiners' Report Summer 2007

IGCSE

IGCSE Spanish (4440)

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Paper 1: Listening

General comments

There were 103 entries for this paper this year and overall candidates performed very well. Topics covered and task types set were well within scope. Overall teachers are to be congratulated on the way in which they had clearly prepared their candidates for the examination. Comments on individual sections of the paper are included below.

Questions 1-5

All candidates scored 5 out of the 5 marks available for this question

Question 6

The mean mark for this question was 4.8 of the total possible, 5. Candidates scored very well indeed writing the correct information in the correct spaces and in the correct language. Minor inaccuracies occurred in section (iv) where candidates provided only one of the two points available. Teachers would be well advised to remind their students to look carefully at the marks total noted at the end of each question on the paper.

Questions 7-11

Qs 7 - 9 were answered correctly by all candidates entered. In Qs 10 and 11 the following links proved problematic to a minority: *La basura* linked to *reciclar* and *coches en la carretera* linked to *tráfico*.

Question 12

The mean mark for this question was 5.5 of a possible 6. Candidates answered with confidence using the target language to good effect and providing all of the information required. Very occasionally positive information was wrongly noted as negative and vice versa. Clearly in these instances the answers were incorrect.

Question 13

The mean mark for this question was 4.5 of a possible 5. Most candidates scored full marks for their choices. Occasionally *Hizo de todo* and *la gente fue simpática* were missed.

Question 14

This question differentiated candidates as per grade as follows:

Difficulties between mark ranges 17-29 with answers 14b and 14d: Matching *no es muy sano* with *la salud* and *relaciones personales* with *como se lleva y reacciona la gente*

Paper 2: Reading and Writing

General Comments

Candidates performed very well on the paper overall, the vast majority of them having first language skills in Spanish. Rubrics and attention to conventions were followed appropriately. Candidates were able to complete the paper in the time allocated and did not omit section or leave questions unfinished.

Section A - Part One

Questions 1, 2, 3.

Candidates generally scored full marks on these sections; there was no evident pattern of error in the few mistakes which did arise.

Section A - Part Two

Question 4

As native speakers, candidates found no problems at all with this question and answered clearly and often imaginatively. There were some candidates who wrote more than the suggested word total, but due to their competence, this was not detrimental to their score.

Section B - Part One

Question 5

As in Section A, although the text was more difficult here, candidates had no problems and scored very highly overall.

Section B - Part Two

Question 6

Most candidates performed well on this question. Some made errors in (a) by missing the idea of 'ideas, proyectos etc'. All other sections were addressed well in terms of comprehension, with some errors in tense usage in (h) and (i).

Section C - Part Three

Question 7

Candidates performed very well in the essay writing part of the paper and produced fluent, imaginative and interesting work which met the criteria and made good use of appropriate idioms. Some candidates wrote more than was suggested for the total number of words but, as in Section A, this was not generally detrimental to their marks due to their overall competency.

Paper 3: (Optional Speaking Paper)

Fewer than 100 students opted to take this new IGCSE examination and nearly all those who entered were native Spanish speaking candidates.

The exams were efficiently conducted by sympathetic examiners who skilfully directed the three conversations and kept strictly to the timings prescribed for the examination. The pictures chosen by the candidates were varied and interesting, mostly photographs but also some drawings.

The conversations that developed from these stimuli were in-depth and fluent. The general conversations based on specific prescribed topics were well conducted and every opportunity was given to the candidates to demonstrate their fluency and linguistic versatility.

The tape recordings were clear and well labelled and the administration for the examination was thorough and detailed, apart from one Centre that failed to send the relevant Appendix 7 mark form to accompany the pictures submitted by their candidates.

The centres are to be congratulated on conducting this examination so professionally and on producing natural, spontaneous and fluent conversations with their candidates.

Statistics

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Grade	Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Lowest mark for award of subject grade (all candidates)	100	85	76	67	59	49	39	30	21
Lowest mark for award of grade for Paper 3, Speaking (optional)	60	51	45	39	33	26	19	13	7

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