

Examiners' Report November 2007

IGCSE

IGCSE Spanish (4440)

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Paper 1: Listening

General comments

There were 6 entries for this examination series 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

Candidates answered all these questions correctly.

Question 6

The mean mark for this question was 4.9 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 (a) where candidates misheard or misinterpreted the word *jueves*. 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

Questions 7 - 11 were answered with varying degrees of success. The following links between the transcript and the questions proved problematic to some. *Reciente* linked to *última* and *tradicional* wrongly linked to *clásica* instead of *Flamenco* and *danza* linked to *baile*.

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

Candidates scored maximum marks on this question.

Question 14

This question was generally not well answered. The following links between the transcript and the questions proved problematic to some: *amigos* linked to *novio* and *distraer atención en clase* and the link with *la educación es importante*.

Paper 2: Reading and Writing

General comments

Overall, candidates performed very well on the paper, 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 sections or leave questions unfinished.

Questions 1-3

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

Question 4

As native speakers, candidates found no problems at all with this question and answered clearly and often imaginatively.

Question 5

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

Question 6

Most candidates performed well on this question. Some made errors by confusing the information in the different parts of question (d). All other sections were addressed well in terms of comprehension, with some good use of language and idiomatic expression overall.

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. Part (a) was by far the most popular choice.

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

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