

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback Summer 2010

IGCSE

IGCSE Spanish (4440/03)
Unit 3: Speaking

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information please call our Customer Services on + 44 1204 770 696, or visit our website at www.edexcel.com.

If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Mark Scheme that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our **Ask The Expert** email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>

Alternatively, you can speak directly to a subject specialist at Edexcel on our dedicated **languages** telephone line: **0844 576 0035**.

(If you are calling from outside the UK please dial + 44 1204 770 696 and state that you would like to speak to the **languages** subject specialist).

Summer 2010

Publications Code UG024326

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Edexcel Ltd 2010

Paper 3: Speaking Test (4440/03)

There was a substantial increase in the numbers of candidates who entered the Unit 3 oral examination this summer, both from home centres and overseas, and the standard of the students remained comparably high. It was heartening to hear how frequently the consistently high standard of linguistic competence that was displayed in the first prepared conversation topic was maintained in the two unprepared general topic conversations.

The students had been well prepared for the examination and the tests were professionally and sympathetically conducted by the Teacher Examiners who ensured that their students were given every opportunity to demonstrate their competence over a wide range of vocabulary, tense usage and accurate syntax.

The pictures and photographs selected by the students for the first part of the test were varied and interesting and the Teacher Examiners made full use of the opportunity to encourage the candidates to talk fully and at length about their chosen stimulus material. The majority of pictures and photographs chosen were based on holidays, some candidates brought cartoon style drawings of beach scenes or the effects of pollution while others chose sports or concerts. A number of personal photographs, for instance of candidates playing instruments in orchestras, were interesting and it was clear that this gave the candidates the opportunity to talk about a topic that was dear to their heart. As a consequence they spoke of their passion for music and of the enjoyment they gained from it. It is at times like these, when the candidates take ownership of the conversation, that they begin to talk more freely and with increased confidence about subjects that interest them most.

The general conversations based on the specific topic areas were professionally conducted and again the students were put at their ease and spoke fluently, comprehensively and in depth, giving their opinions and justifying their points of view. It was clear that the majority of candidates had prepared well for the test and had a good command of vocabulary over a wide range of topic areas and could talk with conviction and in detail. In general the candidates responded with spontaneity, fluency and accuracy and demonstrated wide knowledge and application of the language. Teacher Examiners are to be congratulated on their timings of the tests and the preparations they had made to ensure that the exams ran efficiently and smoothly. In a couple of instances, blank CDs and cassettes were submitted and the recordings of some candidates could not therefore be assessed. It is essential that centres check very carefully the quality of recordings before dispatch. However, most of the recordings were generally clear and well labelled. A few centres new to the exam made mistakes over the administration; they failed to send mark sheets and it was disconcerting to find only two pictures and an attendance register accompanying the recordings. In some cases the stimulus material was missing. Some centres repeated the same prepared topic of conversation as one of the unprepared topics and because of the repeated vocabulary and structures the candidate lost marks for Communication and Content. However, the administration carried out by the majority of centres was thorough and detailed.

Recommendations

- 1) It is clearly best for candidates to select their own pictures for the first conversation; it is much easier to talk fully and with confidence about a subject that is of personal interest.
- 2) When recording, make sure that the microphone is positioned so as to favour the candidate rather than the Teacher Examiner and that the volume and tone controls are turned down.
- 3) The use of a stopwatch is recommended to make sure that the oral tests are correctly timed - up to 4 minutes for the prepared conversation and approximately 3 minutes each for the two unprepared conversations.
- 4) Make sure that the CDs or cassettes have recorded satisfactorily. It is essential to check them before dispatch.
- 5) Listen carefully to what the candidate says and build on that in order to create as natural a conversation as possible. Avoid the slavish progression through a list of prepared questions; this turns the oral test into a question and answer session rather than a discussion.
- 6) Make sure that the mark sheet headings are correctly filled in and that the mark sheets and attendance registers are sent with the recordings together with the stimulus material used for the prepared conversation.

Grade Boundaries

Grade	Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Paper mark	60	51	45	39	33	26	19	13	7

Centres are reminded that Paper 03 (Speaking) is an optional endorsement and cannot be taken as a separate qualification.

Further copies of this publication are available from
International Regional Offices at www.edexcel.com/international

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit www.edexcel.com
Alternatively, you can contact Customer Services at www.edexcel.com/ask or on + 44 1204 770 696

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH