



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Spanish (4SP1) Paper 01

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General comments

4SP1 01 is assessed by means of a 30- minutes examination plus 5 minutes reading time. During this time, candidates are assessed on their understanding of spoken Spanish across a range of different types of texts.

The assessment consists of 7 questions and is out of 40 marks. Questions 3 and 7 seek responses in Spanish.

Recorded texts may be in the form of short statements, monologues, and dialogues. The topics of the listening texts are taken from a range of different situations from both everyday life and academic contexts with which students will be familiar. The examination begins with shorter statements, which build into short paragraphs and longer conversations.

The assessment is linear, and all rubrics are in Spanish. Multiple choice questions have four options.

It is positive to be able to report that most candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the format of the examination. In general, it was evident that candidates had been well prepared and had practiced in preparation for the examination. Most entrants achieved success on questions which required the recall of familiar vocabulary items from the list provided in the Specification. However, some candidates were less successful on questions which contained some complicated lexis and structures and required processing or interpreting meaning.

Spelling

The spelling of some Spanish words proved problematic for some candidates. However, where spelling was phonically recognisable versions of required words were credited.

Question 1

This question requires candidates to listen to short sentences about directions and to match them to the appropriate image. The sentences contained familiar vocabulary items from the list provided in the Specification. Many candidates found this question accessible, however, some candidates were not familiar with the words: *punte* and *semáforo*

Question 2

This question is a multiple matching question about protecting the environment. Candidates are provided with images and must identify what is being mentioned. This question requires candidates to recall and transcribe correctly from the recording.

Candidates must cross only six boxes. If a candidate crosses more than this number, one mark is deducted from the correct answers for each extra cross.

Many candidates were successful and gained full marks in this question.

Question 3

This question requires candidates to listen to an extended passage about my house and produce target language responses in bullet point form. This question assesses communication and not the quality of language.

(a) *Vive aquí ¿Desde?: el verano.* This was the most incorrect answer Several candidates wrote *en la costa*.

(b) *Tipo de casa: Antigua / tres plantas.* Several successful candidates identified one of these correct answers and gained a mark.

(c) *Muebles color: azul* This was the most correct answer.

(d) *Su dormitorio cómodo:* Several candidates wrote incorrectly *4*, that was the number of bedrooms in the house. Others wrote *grande*, this word referred to her sister's bedroom.

Question 4

This is a non-verbal question about sports which requires some deduction to work out whether the statements of the six speakers are positive, negative, or positive and negative. This question is worth 6 marks.

Although the level of demand increased in this question, it was pleasing to see that most candidates had some success and there were many that achieved around 4/5 marks.

The most frequently correct answer was:

4(c) *Mi abuela es un modelo a imitar ya que hace mucho ejercicio para mantenerse sana.*

The most frequently wrong answer was:

4(f). *Correr excesivamente hace daño a las rodillas.*

Question 5

This is a multiple-choice question about a director of photography in a film production. Most candidates scored 2/3 marks out of the 6 available.

A particularly challenging question was Q.5 (b) where candidates had to interpret and process what they heard to be able to select the correct answer by linking *ganó en la categoría de mejor Directora de Fotografía* with *logró el primer premio*.

The most correct answer was 5(d) *Las Niñas es una película sobre una chica y su madre.*

There was evidence that some of the items of vocabulary used in this question were sometimes not known. Errors were made at random which indicated that some candidates guessed an answer which seemed logical to them.

Question 6

This question requires candidates to process and interpret meaning in a gap-fill exercise about My New Life.

Most candidates found this question very challenging because they are provided with thirteen words in a box which they had to match to what the text said to complete six sentences. In this type of question candidates had to understand the passage, the items in the pool of words, and the vocabulary and grammatical content of the sentences in the questions.

Most candidates answered correctly:

6(b) *Ahora, él vive en una zona montañosa.*

6(e) *Su pasatiempo favorito es la jardinería.*

Question7:

This question is an advantage and disadvantage table fill question. It requires candidates to listen to an extended recording about banning mobile phones in schools. In this question communication and not the quality of language is assessed. The extended passage contained some complicated lexis and structures, as is appropriate for a question at this level.

(a) and (b) The positive aspects of banning phones at school were *reduce la adicción, no sentirse inferior (por no tener el último modelo)* and *hay menos conflictos*.

(c) The negative aspects were *no pueden hacer sus deberes* and *no pueden compartir sus problemas con amigos/ profesores*.

(d) and (e) The positive aspects were *la concentración mejora, hacen más deporte* and *charlan cara a cara*.

7 (f) The negative aspects were *estamos separando las aulas del mundo real* and *los padres no pueden comunicarse con sus hijos*.

Most candidates found this question challenging but many scored around 3 marks. Overall, the most frequent correct answers were *hay menos conflictos, la concentración mejora, charlan cara a cara* and *los padres no pueden comunicarse con sus hijos*.

Advice and Guidance

- Remember that the question title, e.g., 'Prohibir móviles en el instituto' provides an important clue.
- A good knowledge of vocabulary items is required.
- Candidates should focus their attention on checking carefully that what they have written is a coherent and logical answer to the question as it is asked.
- Candidates must remember that in the multiple-choice questions, most alternative incorrect options will contain an element of distraction, such as a word or phrase from what candidates have heard and learning to look for these can be a helpful skill.
- In this specification, longer passages appear earlier in the paper, and practice of notetaking is very important to be able to answer the more demanding questions.
- In Question 7 candidates must check if the information is a positive or negative aspect and ensure this information is placed in the correct part of the table.

Conclusion

Most centres had prepared their candidates well, so they had a good understanding of the requirements of this unit. The examiners marking this unit appreciated the efforts that the teachers had made to allow their candidates to reach their full potential.

