

Teacher Support Booklet

Exemplar Responses with Commentaries

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The recordings of these examinations can be downloaded free of charge from Interchange. They can be found by following the link : Resources & Materials/exam resources/past papers and mark schemes. Select AS/A Level GCE, select Spanish, click on folders named : “F723 Spanish – Exemplar Speaking Responses 1, 2 and 3”.

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Text B: El turismo alternativo (11)

The candidate shows limited understanding of the text and the short responses she manages to offer are mainly lifted verbatim from the text. Her responses do not develop the textual points made and she experiences difficulty with going beyond the use of basic vocabulary and structures. She is hesitant on occasions and, despite the examiner's attempts to nudge, she continues to struggle, especially with the last question based on the text. Accordingly, the mark awarded in Grid K was 2/10.

With the more general questions on the theme of the text, the candidate is a little more forthcoming. Her responses to the questions asked show some understanding. She is prepared to take a little more initiative in this section and her answers are easy to follow if somewhat limited in their scope. Accordingly, the mark awarded in Grid L was 4/10.

Linguistically, she makes a number of basic errors although she still manages to make her views understood. Her use of simple sentence structures is generally accurate. There are a few utterances that could be considered as complex in their structure but there is not enough consistency to warrant a mark higher than 3/5 in Grid C.1. In Grid F.1 the candidate was awarded a mark of 2/5. The range of vocabulary overall in this section is restricted, although she does at least attempt some degree of complexity.

Topic Conversation: La política cubana (17)

In the Topic Conversation, the candidate elects to talk about politics in Cuba. She shows some ability to develop her ideas and, indeed, to express her thoughts. Factual information, whilst sometimes restricted, comes across clearly. The mark awarded in Grid M was 6/10. More marks would have been available had the candidate managed to offer more development and explanation of ideas. In terms of fluency, spontaneity and responsiveness it would be fair to say that there is some hesitation on occasions. A number of responses are brief, despite the feeling that the candidate had prepared herself reasonably well and had a decent grip on her material. Accordingly, the mark awarded in Grid E.2 was 2/5.

The quality of the language used by the candidate in this section is acceptable. There is evidence of fair understanding of grammatical structures, although the overall feeling is that the candidate restricts herself to the use of basic language. She encounters problems with adjectival agreement, correctly conjugated verbs and occasional key words (*resulto* for *resultado*, for example). She scored 3/5 for accuracy (Grid C.1) and 3/5 for range (Grid F.1). Her pronunciation throughout is reasonable, as is her intonation despite the fact that she frequently raises it every now and then in the middle of a sentence for no apparent reason. However, communication is rarely impeded. The mark awarded in Grid G was 3/5.

Overall, therefore, the candidate scored 28/60.

Text A: El castellano en Estados Unidos (21)

The candidate is able to deal with the main points of the text and responds to the questions with efficiency and a reasonable degree of confidence. She attempts to develop the ideas in the text although she could probably have gone into a bit more depth. If she had offered a little more detail in her utterances, she would have scored more than the 7/10 awarded to her in Grid K. There is no hesitation in her answers and her performance in this section is good.

With the more general questions on the theme of the text, the candidate again scored 7/10 in Grid L. She responds readily and is happy to express her thoughts on the issues raised by the Teacher/Examiner's questions. She keeps the conversation going and has few problems of comprehension. She occasionally loses a degree of fluency when she struggles to find the appropriate item of vocabulary but the overall impression is positive.

Linguistically, she clearly shows evidence of fair understanding of grammatical usage. Simple sentences were handled well although she encounters a few problems with more complex language. Prepositions cause a number of minor problems as does the correct use of the infinitive ("*sin visitando el país...*" for example). She was awarded 3/5 in Grid C.1 for accuracy and 4/5 in Grid F.1 for range given that there is plenty of variety in her answers and very little repetition.

Topic Conversation: El comunismo en Cuba (24)

In this part of the test, the candidate discusses Communism in Cuba. She is well prepared for the discussion, having done meaningful research. She develops information, facts and ideas in a mature manner. She is able to quote source materials in order to support her ideas and opinions. In Grid M, the candidate was awarded 8/10 given that the development of ideas is indeed good. She responds readily to the questions asked and, again, there is little hesitation in her replies. It would be fair to say that the listener will have learnt a good deal about the situation in modern Cuba. There is a good degree of spontaneity and she is certainly able to keep the momentum going. Accordingly, in Grid E.2 she was awarded 4/5. Had she been able to lead the conversation a little more, she may well have scored an extra mark in this grid.

The quality of language used by the candidate in this section is good. She was awarded 4/5 in Grid C.1 for accuracy and 4/5 in Grid F.1 for range. She undoubtedly shows a sound grasp of advanced level structures and is able to inject variety and some degree of complexity into her utterances. There are a few missed opportunities with the use of the subjunctive, for example. Nevertheless, the overall impression with regard to the use of language is good. Her Spanish accent throughout the test is good, although there are occasional mispronunciations of more difficult sounds ("*...tomó la posesión de los Estados Unidos...*", for example). Accordingly, she was awarded 4/5 in Grid G.

Overall, therefore, the candidate scored 45/60.

Text C: Mujeres militares (24)

The candidate deals fairly well with the text. He supplies the main points from the article, as required by the question. There is some lifting from the text and more marks would have been available had the candidate manipulated the text a little more. He is, however, able to infer meaning and justify his points of view. Accordingly, the mark awarded in Grid K was 7/10.

With the more general questions on the theme of the text, the candidate responds very readily and attempts to take the initiative in terms of developing the topics raised. He deals well with unpredictable elements in the questions and is able to sustain a mature conversation. He skirts around the question relating to families suffering if a woman goes out to work, but the overall impression was a positive one. The mark awarded in Grid L was 8/10.

Linguistically, he performs very well indeed. In terms of accuracy of language, the mark awarded in Grid C.1 was 4/5. His use of complex structures is generally accurate and his use of tenses and agreement is reassuringly good. In terms of the range of language used, the candidate was awarded 5/5 in Grid F.1 given that his language displays a wide range of vocabulary and idiom as well as a variety of linguistically complex structures.

Topic Conversation: La inmigración en España (26)

In the Topic Conversation, the candidate discusses the issue of Immigration in Spain. He develops his ideas well and is quite comfortable when it comes to offering explanations of his points of view. The information he offers, often based on personal experience, is both varied and relevant. Accordingly, the mark awarded in Grid M was 8/10. The way in which he keeps his thought processes moving along at some considerable pace is impressive and contributes to the very 'natural' feel that this conversation has. The Teacher/Examiner plays an important role in this respect, asking questions at the right time and allowing the candidate to speak unhindered and yet interrupting on occasions in order to draw more out of the candidate. The mark awarded in Grid E.2 for Fluency, Spontaneity and Responsiveness is 5/5. The candidate leads this conversation and does it with relative ease.

The quality of language used in this section is also good. He shows a sound grasp of advanced structures and his language is accurate on the whole. He was awarded 4/5 in Grid C.1 (Accuracy) and 4/5 in Grid F.1 (Range). He injects a good level of variety into his utterances and there is little repetition. He seems very much at ease throughout this section. Niggling little errors do creep in (eg. "...no tengo ninguna problema..." [sic.]) but these are kept to a minimum.

In terms of the candidate's accent and intonation, these are both very good indeed. He sounds authentic all the time and there are very few errors in his pronunciation. Accordingly, he was awarded 5/5 in Grid G.

Overall, therefore, the candidate was awarded 50/60.

Text A: El castellano en Estados Unidos (27)

The candidate deals very well indeed with the text. There is excellent understanding of this text and the candidate is genuinely able to develop her own ideas and to express them fully without resorting to heavy textual lifting. Her ability to paraphrase the original text is impressive and she is very comfortable in terms of justifying her points of view. Accordingly, the mark awarded was 9/10 in Grid K.

With the more general questions on the theme of the text, the candidate again performs very well indeed. She responds with promptness, elegance and maturity to the questions asked and is happy to take the initiative in developing the topics raised. There is a noticeable element of confidence in the way she articulates her responses. Accordingly, the mark awarded in Grid L was 9/10.

In terms of the language used in this section, the candidate expresses herself in an accurate manner. There are a few errors but the overall feel is one of general accuracy with an ability to use more complex structures when the need arises. The mark awarded for accuracy in Grid C.1 was 4/5. As far as range of language is concerned, the mark awarded in Grid F.1 was 5/5 given that she is able to use a wide range of vocabulary and idiom appropriate to the answers offered to the questions asked.

Topic Conversation: La discriminación de la mujer en España (28)

In the Topic Conversation, the candidate discusses the issue of women in society. She develops her ideas very well indeed and experiences no problems whatsoever when it comes to offering explanations of her points of view. She is clearly interested in her chosen subject – an important point in that a candidate is more likely to perform well if s/he has a clearly articulated interest in the topic chosen for discussion. The mark awarded in Grid M (Development of Ideas) was 9/10. Again, the role of the examiner here is crucial to the convincing feel of the conversation. The examiner asks questions to draw out information but does not interrupt the candidate when a particularly good response is being offered. Interruptions are made and they are dealt with well by the candidate who takes the whole 'interview' in her stride. The mark awarded in Grid E.2 for Fluency, Spontaneity and Responsiveness is 5/5. There is little doubt that the candidate leads this conversation and does it with some considerable style and self-confidence.

The quality of Spanish used in this section is also very good. She shows a high and consistent level of accuracy in terms of advanced structures and her language is overwhelmingly accurate throughout. She was awarded 5/5 in Grid C.1 (Accuracy) and 5/5 in Grid F.1 (Range). Again, it would be fair to say that the candidate seems to be very much at ease throughout this section.

The candidate's pronunciation and intonation are both generally accurate. It could be argued that there is a faint hint of mother tongue influence but, on the whole, her performance in grid G was such that the mark awarded was 4/5.

Overall, therefore, the candidate was awarded 55/60.