

Frequently Asked Questions

IGCSE First Language Spanish (0502)

Are there any changes to the syllabus?

There are no changes to the syllabus for 2007 and 2008.

What set texts are there for the syllabus?

There aren't any! IGCSE First Language doesn't have questions on set texts. (This need not preclude using literary material as stimulus for coursework, or in classroom preparation for the Reading paper, of course. Candidates benefit from exposure to a variety of types of writing, and literary texts have a part to play in First Language.)

Can students take dictionaries into the examination?

No. This is an IGCSE Language examination and dictionaries are not permitted.

What resources are available to support this syllabus?

The following resources are available:

- Coursework Guidelines.
- Standards Booklet (provides guidance on the marking of the Papers 1, 2 and 3).
- Past Papers.
- Mark Schemes.
- Principal Examiner Reports.

I have a very strong *foreign* language speaker candidate. Can I enter him/her for a *First Language* examination?

You can. However you will need to bear in mind that the level of sophistication, accuracy and fluency required in a First Language examination is that of a native speaker. The assessment objectives for Foreign Language examinations are quite different, rewarding communication and giving opportunities for Listening and Speaking. An alternative solution might be to enter your candidate for Advanced Subsidiary Spanish Language.

We're thinking about changing to coursework, but have no experience of it in our Centre.

What should we do?

You should obtain a copy of the Coursework Guidelines for IGCSE First Language Spanish from CIE Publications. If you decide you would like to make the change to coursework, you will need to write to CIE to apply for accreditation.

A new candidate is joining my class who has arrived with a partially complete First Language coursework folder. However, we don't do the coursework option at my Centre. Can the candidate still enter for coursework? What should I do?

You need to bear in mind that if the candidate is entered at your Centre (and entered for the coursework option) you (or a colleague in your department) will be responsible for authenticating and moderating the work. If you have not received accreditation to assess coursework this could be a problem, and you will need to write to CIE to apply for accreditation. Much will probably depend on which stage of the course the student has reached (is the coursework portfolio complete or would you need to supervise the production of further work?) and its standard. You should consider whether the candidate might actually be better served by shifting to the Directed Writing & Composition paper instead.

What effect does the Speaking & Listening component have on the "main" grade? Are my candidates at a disadvantage if they don't take it?

Speaking & Listening is optional, and is separately endorsed (on a scale of 1(High) to 5 (Low)). In other words, the "main" grade is not affected by it in any way.

Must I be accredited by CIE before conducting and assessing the 0502 Speaking & Listening test?

Accreditation from CIE is not required in order to conduct the Paper 5 Speaking & Listening test.

When will I receive the materials for the 0502/5 Speaking & Listening test?

No question paper is required. The materials for the conduct and assessment of the 0502 Speaking & Listening test are to be found in the syllabus booklet for the appropriate year. Centres must provide their own cassette on which to record the sample of candidates for moderation. CIE will provide Centres with the MS1 computer-printed mark sheet(s) in March for the June session and in October for the November session and marks can then be transferred from the working mark sheet(s).

What is the period for conducting the Speaking & Listening tests?

The Speaking & Listening test periods are as follows:

- May/June session: 1 March-30 April.
- November session: 15 September-31 October.

What is the deadline for submitting cassettes, Working Mark sheets and MS1 mark sheets to CIE for moderation?

Marks and cassettes for moderation for 0502/5 must arrive at CIE no later than:

- 15 May for the May/June session.
- 15 November for the November session.

Who marks the Speaking tests?

It is the responsibility of the person conducting the Speaking tests to mark them. The tests should be marked as they are being conducted. Examiners should mark the 'live' candidate and not a recording.

What happens to my (Centre's) Speaking marks when they arrive at CIE?

When your recorded sample, working mark sheet(s) and moderator copy of the MS1 mark sheet(s) arrive at CIE, they are forwarded to one of our Moderators. The Moderator listens to your sample and looks at the marks that you have awarded to ensure that they are in line with the IGCSE standard. If your marks are in line, then they will not be changed. If they are not, then an adjustment will be made to bring them into line, e.g. the marks will be raised if you have marked your candidates severely, or lowered if you have been too generous. A report on your conduct and assessment of the Speaking tests will be sent to your Centre with the results.