



Written component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Most students understood the requirements of the Spanish written examination and were well prepared. Some sections of the paper required a response in English and others a response in Spanish. It is very important for students to answer in the correct language, as responses in the wrong language were considered incorrect and were not awarded any marks. Students should read the tasks thoroughly, follow instructions carefully and make use of the space provided for taking notes.

It is recommended that teachers make the students aware of the following information.

- Responses in the wrong language will receive no credit.
- No credit will be given for notes or drafts. Marks will be awarded only for responses given in the space provided for answers.
- If a student makes a minor English language mistake, yet produces a correct answer, full marks will be given.
- The meaning of the response should be conveyed accurately for marks to be awarded.
- Not all questions based on a text are purely factual; some are higher-order thinking questions and require analysis so that students can demonstrate that the text was understood at a deep level.
- In Section 3 – Writing in Spanish, students should comply with the specified word limit.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Listening and responding

Part A – Answer in English

In this section most students answered the questions correctly. The texts were very clear and the questions were based on the information heard in the recordings. Students are advised to listen carefully and to take notes during both readings of the text, as this will assist them in completing their answers.

Text 1

The first text consisted of an advertisement for a product. It was a special offer for a mobile phone with a number of features, and included its price and the length of the contract required to access this phone.

Question 1a.

Young people

Question 1b.

A free mobile phone with a 24-month contract

Question 1c.

This phone allows you to (all of):

- use email
- surf the Internet
- watch your favourite programs
- take photos.

Text 2

The second text consisted of a movie review on a radio program. The speaker mentions the award this film received and gives a brief description of the movie.

Question 2a.

The movie's title is *Almas Intrépidas* and it won the *Veracruz* award.

Question 2b.

The film is about two friends who, after completing university, embark on an adventurous trip in the North of Africa, starting in Egypt. During their voyage they discover amazing cultures and breathtaking landscapes.



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Question 2c.

It is recommended for its humour, adventure and survival experiences. It is also a good summer film.

Part B – Answer in Spanish

Text 3

This section consisted of a dialogue in a restaurant in Barcelona. The customer is a man visiting the city on a business trip who wishes to try the gastronomy as well as the wines.

Question 3a.

Por asuntos de negocios

Question 3b.

La gastronomía típica y los vinos de la región

Question 3c.

El cliente quiere una mesa junto a la ventana para poder tener una vista al mar.

Question 3d.

Porque el cliente era alérgico a varias comidas, tales como la pimienta y los mariscos.

Section 2 – Reading and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 4

This part consisted of a piece of writing entitled ‘The Main Avenue’ (*La Avenida Central*).

Question 4a.

A historic or patriotic date of the country

And both of:

- Independence Day
- the day the Constitution was proclaimed.

Question 4b.

Event	Typical activities	Reasons for celebration
Patriotic date	Parade	Patriotic event/remembrance
Carnival	Dance, music, popular party	Cultural traditions
Football	Spontaneous party	Triumph or achievements in football

Question 4c.

All of:

- statues
- sculptures
- fountains
- monuments.

Question 4d.

Coin and stamp collectors gather and talk about the old days; young people talk in groups and enjoy the sun, and children feed the pigeons.

Question 4e.

On the main avenue you can find the traditions and the cultural values that characterise each country.

Part B – Answer in Spanish

Text 5

This text consisted of a short story/anecdote by Eduardo Galeano, ‘*Celebración de la fantasía*’ (Celebration of Fantasy).



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Question 5a.

La fantasía ocupa un lugar primordial en la vida humilde de estos niños. El autor solo puede ofrecerles dibujos en sus manitas y otros brindan una celebración de alegría a sus vidas.

Question 5b.

Le pidió que le regalara una lapicera pero, como tenía una sola y la necesitaba le dibujó un cerdito en la mano.

Question 5c.

Un niño ‘enclenque y haraposo’, ‘manitas cuarteadas de mugre y frío’, ‘pieles de cuero quemado’, ‘un desamparadito’ son palabras que nos indican las condiciones de vida de estos niños.

Question 5d.

El reloj puede tener más de un significado para el niño, puede ser su seguridad familiar, el hecho de tener un tío en Lima que se acuerda de él. También podría ser la manera como el niño le demuestra al autor que él también celebra la fantasía materializando el dibujo del reloj.

Una de las respuestas fue ‘Quizás civilización y educación porque si el tío se lo dibujó y vive en Lima, significa que tiene mayor educación y vive en un lugar más civilizado.’

Section 3 – Writing in Spanish

In preparing for this section, students are encouraged to practise different kinds of writing (informative, persuasive, evaluative, personal and imaginative) and the conventions that correspond to each text type. Students would benefit from practising the different writing styles and revising verbs and tenses.

Many of the responses in this section were excellent pieces of writing that complied with the requirements of the task. Some, however, lacked structure, content and appropriate use of grammatical structures. It is recommended that students practise writing in different styles throughout the year. Reading texts in Spanish (short stories, novels, articles and magazines) is also a very effective method of improving written expression. There is a range of reading materials online.

Question 6

Students were asked to produce an evaluative piece of writing for the school magazine, discussing the advantages and disadvantages of taking a gap year. Most students discussed a number of arguments. They demonstrated the capacity to present information and ideas with reasons, examples and evidence. Students were expected to:

- use a report format and impersonal language
- maintain a balance between advantages and disadvantages
- use appropriate language for the target audience
- provide a conclusion
- use evaluative language, including present and future tense
- include a logical sequence of ideas for the text type using connectors and vocabulary relevant to the topic.

Question 7

The task required students to write an imaginative story in which they and the two children they are babysitting are the main characters. Responses needed to:

- develop a story with a beginning, middle and an ending
- contain a logical sequence of events
- correctly use tenses, including the preterit and imperfect tenses for describing and recounting past events, and use connectors
- contain a variety of vocabulary.

Question 8

Students were asked to write a personal letter to a friend in a Spanish-speaking country describing their final year at school and their plans for the future. Responses needed to:

- be an informal letter and include the date, a salutation and informal letter conventions
- have clearly defined paragraphs that contained a topic sentence and its further development
- contain a logical sequence of events
- provide a conclusion



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- correctly use tenses, including the preterit and imperfect tenses for describing and recounting past events, and use connectors
- contain a variety of vocabulary
- involve an engaging narrative.

Many students chose this question and produced very interesting pieces of writing. However, in some cases the writing was not well structured and lacked flavour or substance.

Question 9

Students were asked to write an informative piece of writing that consisted of a speech to the students at their school about environmental changes that will occur due to global warming and suggesting some ideas to help reduce these problems. The task required:

- salutations appropriate to the target audience
- identification and description of no less than three activities
- informative and factual language
- examples of changes and measures taken by the speaker
- a logical sequence of ideas for the text type using present tense, connectors and vocabulary relevant to the topic
- informative and factual language.

The following is an example of a good piece of writing.

Damas y caballeros,

Me presento ante ustedes para informarles de un tema predominante en el mundo y para alertarlos de los efectos perjudiciales que pueden ocurrir, si no se ve un cambio drástico en el mundo.

El problema es denominado “el calentamiento global”, y es un fenómeno que puede tener consecuencias horribles, si no se toma acción.

El calentamiento global se deriva de una acumulación de gases del efecto invernadero en la atmósfera, los cuales atrapan el calor, y no dejan que se escape de la Tierra. Con este excedente de los gases del efecto invernadero, se ve un marcado aumento en la temperatura global.

Este aumento puede acarrear repercusiones negativas ya que, solamente una diferencia de tres grados puede ser suficiente para cambiar al mundo de forma irreversible. El hielo se puede derretir, desplazando varias especies de animales, los cuales cuentan con las capas de hielo, como su hábitat natural. El agua también se expande con el calor, y junto al hielo derretido, puede subir el nivel del agua, la consecuencia de esto sería que las islas y las zonas costales queden completamente sumergidas.

El mayor contribuidor a este fenómeno es la industria, la cual cada año larga innumerables litros de estos gases perjudiciales a la atmósfera, como subproducto. Además, la industria requiere recursos naturales; esto quiere decir, que se eliminan los bosques, los cuales se necesitan para eliminar algunos de estos gases.

Es muy difícil encontrar una forma de erradicar este problema, tan relevante en nuestras vidas. No hay una solución fácil, pero, yuxtaponiendo la fragilidad del Medio Ambiente con la industria tan poderosa, es evidente que se necesita una acción radical. Hay que estimular un cambio de actitud para salvar el Medio Ambiente eficientemente.

Muchas gracias por escucharme y espero que los convencí a ustedes a que trabajen para mejorar nuestro mundo, aliviando este problema inminente.

Question 10

The task involved the writing of a letter to the owner of a bookshop, persuading her to choose the writer for a job. Responses needed to:

- be a formal letter in formal register and include the date, a heading and formal letter conventions
- use persuasive language, including present subjunctive in order to persuade
- include a logical sequence of ideas for the text type using connectors and relevant vocabulary.

The following is an example of a good piece of writing.

Melbourne, 16 de noviembre de 2009

Librería de Madrid

A quien corresponda

Estimado/a:

2009 Assessment Report



Mi nombre es Máximo E., tengo diecisiete años y estoy comenzando ano doce en la escuela. Mis pasatiempos incluyen; tocar la guitarra, salir con mis amigos y leer mucho. Soy una persona disciplinada, ordenada y trabajadora. Además, aprendo rápido y me encanta ayudar a la gente.

Le escribo porque estoy extremadamente interesado en el trabajo ya que, se acercan las vacaciones. Me gustaría tener un trabajo, así no me vuelvo desidioso y hago algo de dinero que pudiese utilizar en muchas otras cosas como, visitar a mi familia en Latinoamérica o comprarme un carro.

Yo una vez trabaje en una biblioteca y ahí gane mucha experiencia en el asunto de los libros. Mi jefe me felicitó por mi trabajo arduo, cuando me tuve que ir porque me estaba mudando de Málaga. Ahora, de nuevo estoy disponible para trabajar y estaré encantado de hacerlo en una tienda tan prestigiosa como la suya. El número de teléfono de mi exjefe es 000000... y a él podrá hacerle las preguntas que quiera, para sacarle de cualquier duda.

Lo demás que quisiera saber es cuanto sería mi sueldo y mi horario (recuerde que estoy disponible pero, me iré cuando terminen mis vacaciones)

Le agradezco su tiempo y espero con ansias una respuesta.

Atentamente,

Máximo E.