



GCSE **Spanish**

8698/LH Paper 1 Listening Higher Tier

Report on the Examination

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General comments

Students managed the paper well on the whole and were clearly well-versed in the variety of question styles. Where written answers were required, they had sufficient time to write their answers and students were not fazed by the longer recordings (such as question 14). However, a large number of students gave answers in English in Section B, thus losing marks unnecessarily.

Question 1

This question was done quite well, and the majority of students identified that the teacher was talking about eating arrangements and staying in groups. Some also realised that the instructions involved where to meet, but others thought wrongly that a map of the city was referenced.

Question 2

Students coped quite well with this question on technology, and, on average, two thirds of the students chose the correct options.

Questions 3 to 7

Responses here were understandably mixed as the vocabulary varied from question to question. Questions 3 and 5 were done extremely well and students were comfortable with the vocabulary referring to getting engaged and concert dates. The most challenging was question 4 as the reference to the manager possibly losing his job led many students to the option about unemployment. These questions are targeted at the top grades and students managed them well.

Questions 8 and 9

These questions proved more challenging than expected. The words *campeonato* and *equipo* caused problems for a large number of students. In question 9, many also added 'gymnastics' to their answer. Students need to be aware that, when a question asks for what someone likes **best**, we are asking them to eliminate the wrong answer(s) and select the one correct one. This tests close listening skills as well as students' ability to draw a conclusion from the information given, both of which are skills required by Ofqual for the current specification.

Questions 10 and 11

This question was tackled well, and students demonstrated a pleasing ability to listen for detail.

Questions 12 and 13

These questions were aimed at the top grades and proved appropriately challenging. Only the most able students knew *envases* and *vertedero*, but it was encouraging to see how many identified *pilas*. Question 13.2 produced many answers that gave insufficient detail; the presenters asked for ideas on how to save energy in the home and very many answers omitted the reference to house or home.

Question 14

Students answered this question well and seemed comfortable with the topic of future education prospects. Question 14.4 was done particularly well, with over 90% choosing the correct answer.

Questions 15 to 17

These questions also appeared on the Foundation tier paper and, as is to be expected, they were handled more successfully by Higher tier students. However, even at this level, the vocabulary was not as well-known as expected. *Caminar* and *principio* caused problems for a good number, but it was pleasing to see how many students knew or deduced the meaning of *albergues juveniles*. A few students misread question 15 and did not take in the question word ‘when’, producing irrelevant answers related to places or even the word ‘fireworks, as they misunderstood the reference to ‘setting off’ in the question.

Questions 18 and 19

These questions were aimed at the higher grades and featured some less commonly used vocabulary such as *selva* and *piragüismo*. In 18.1, only the most able students identified the full answer, that the celebrities had to spend a few weeks in the jungle. In 18.2 the most common mistake was omitting the idea of cooking over a fire and just stating that the contestants learned how to cook. Question 19.2 was well-done on the whole, but it was disappointing to see *mujer* translated as ‘mother’.

Question 20

The first part was done very well but the second proved more challenging. The wrong answer A (Some people were quite annoyed) was selected almost as many times as the correct answer C (They all took it very well).

Questions 21 to 24

These questions were also on the Foundation tier paper and were handled better at this level, as one would expect. The most accessible question proved to be question 22 with the vast majority of students recognising *niños* and *biblioteca*. The less-commonly used words like *anciano*, *barrio* and *necesitados* caused more issues than expected for students and so made the questions more challenging than anticipated. Question 21 proved the most challenging as many students were not familiar with the word *vecino* and did not make it clear where the gardening was taking place.

Questions 25 and 26

These questions required understanding of detail and conclusions to be drawn about the feelings of the speaker. Just under half the students identified the speaker’s pride in her son but more were able to work out that her feelings about the salary were mixed.

Questions 27 and 28

At the start of the exam, students should write a reminder for themselves at the top of the pages in Section B to alert them to the fact that answers in this section must be in Spanish. Many students knew the answers here, but had written them in English, thereby losing themselves up to four marks.

Questions 29 and 30

These questions were done well in general but question 30.2 showed that the verb *acabar de* was not widely known. This meant that a large number of students selected the answer A instead of deducing that Leo had already eaten and correctly choosing answer P.

Advice to students

Ensure your handwriting is absolutely clear and legible.

Cross out any mistakes with one clear line and rewrite the correct answer clearly next to it.

Read the question instructions carefully; you need to know exactly how to answer the question and also what the setting of the question is. If you need to guess, then understanding the scenario of the question is key to making an educated guess.

When you are asked what someone likes best, you are required to eliminate any secondary possibilities and select only the one thing that is preferred.

If a question contains the word **exactly**, then the answer will require the full details in order to answer the question properly. For instance, in question 15 (When **exactly** are they thinking of setting off?) it is not sufficient to answer simply 'August' as that is not an exact answer. The recording states *al principio de agosto* so the required answer is 'The beginning of August'.

Don't panic or feel despondent if you find a question difficult. The paper is designed to have different levels of challenge throughout; a demanding question will be followed by a more accessible one.

Don't leave multiple choice questions blank, guess at one of the options – you may be right, but a blank is always wrong.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.