

GCE O Level

Edexcel GCE O Level

Spanish (7593)

Summer 2006

Examiners' Report

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Contents

1. Examination Report 2006

7593 Spanish, June 2006

Paper 1

Question 1 - Dictation

This description of the magnificent Iguazú waterfalls was certainly not a difficult dictation exercise, but certain phrases and words proved to be less accessible than others.

Whilst incorrect accents attract only half an error, it should be remembered that random embellishment of words with accents is a dangerous policy to pursue.

Typical errors are the following:-

Pasalleras, mez, insordecedor, extencion, corer, recoger, buelcan, siguien, fuersa, naturalesa, secundo, ygaules, baillan, ciendo, ciglos

Mistakes with *s/z*, *b/v*, and *c/s* are not new or uncommon, but *uno ruido* is less comprehensible, and the relatively straightforward *cataratas* appeared as *cataracas* and *catalacas*.

Question 2 - Listening Comprehension

The listening comprehension, like the dictation, was answered accurately in the main, with parts 1 and 3 appearing to be easier than the central section which contained the relatively difficult questions

(f) *Why does his grandmother carry on working?*

and

(g) *What does Rafa think is strange?*

Candidates recognised the importance of *friends* as a key component in the answer (f) but failed to understand the context. Vague replies such as *She enjoys working* may be true but are not sufficiently precise to attract credit. *She wants to help her friends, she doesn't talk to her friends, and she wanted to look younger than her friends* are examples of typical answers.

Rafa, (g), according to a number of candidates, thought it strange *to do a such long distance to do a game, to sleep after lunch, that she is a grandmother, that his grandparents are well off, that his grandmother plays dominoes and goes to sleep.*

There was no overall pattern to incorrect answers of the other questions. Some appeared to rely, unsuccessfully, upon intelligent guessing and others did not understand or take into account the facts within a context. Question (h) *How old is Rafa's father?* is a case in point.

(a) *Where in León does Rafa live?*

Afuera...in the centre...near León...

(b) *What does Rafa's sister keep in the garden?*

Birds...pets...her mess...flowers...conejos...animals...dogs

(c) *Where did he get his computer from?*

Unsurprisingly everyone got this right.

(d) *Where do his grandparents live?*

In the capital of León...in the city...a flat

(h) *What did his grandfather do for a living?*

He was a waiter...travel agent...barman...cartero...partially...carpenter

(i) *What travel benefits does Rafa have?*

90% discount...and doesn't have to pay the extras...overcoats are free...doesn't pay supplies...

Candidates are advised to guess rather than include Spanish in the answer since only correct English is credited.

Paper 2

Question 1 - Translation

The translation appeared to be easier than previous years because the topic was about what took place in a restaurant. However, although there were some good translations, only one candidate obtained maximum marks.

Overall the first sentence did not cause many problems although the verb tense was not always correct. A later section, **Pedí medio pollo con salsa picante** was generally translated acceptably.

...pero esperando a que le invitáramos, nos acompañó and Esta vez optamos por no hacerle caso, caused quite a few difficulties.

... pero yo, el goloso de siempre was extremely difficult to translate; many understood the phrase but could not reproduce it correctly in English.

Finally, for the phrase **con un delicioso sabor de boca** many translations for 'delicioso' were accepted - nice/good/wonderful/delicious/fantastic.

Question 2 - Directed Writing

The answers were fairly straightforward, the candidates are often clearly not aware that this is more than a simple reading comprehension test and, therefore, often copy their answers directly from the text. Only some of the more competent students produced the format required. The answer to question 1 required: **condujo** but in a surprising number of answers this became **conducio**.

Questions 3 and 4 - Essays

The standard of writing this year appears to be higher overall. As in previous years there were some candidates who mixed Spanish with Italian, but noticeably less than last year. There were some spelling mistakes by candidates otherwise familiar with Spanish of everyday words, eg *abierto* spelt *habierto*, *iba* spelt *iva*, *estaban* spelt *estavan* as well as *disponieron* for *dispusieron*. However, maximum marks were allocated to most of these candidates for their essays as generally the standard was very good.

There were two or three scripts in which the candidates inserted the odd idiomatic phrase, which is good, and particularly impressive was: *Como el burro que tocó la flauta, Julian consiguió atrapar el caballo.*

Question 3, writing a story from pictures, was, as usual, the most popular and most candidates produced very similar stories. This question attracted the weaker students.

Question 4a, writing an article about how to protect the environment, attracted only a few students. These however, were obviously concerned about the environment and knew enough about ways of reducing pollution to give a good account.

Question 4b, attracted a fair number of candidates and some accounts were excellent, though whereas others were a little confusing and incoherent.

7593 SPANISH, GRADE BOUNDARIES JUNE 2006

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade (Max=85)	57	45	33	29	21

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.
