

London Examinations GCE Ordinary Level

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Syllabus

London Examinations GCE Ordinary Level
Spanish(7593) May/June 2006 & January 2007

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Spanish 7593

This subject may be taken at the May/June examination only.

The Examination

The examination will consist of two written papers. The allocation of marks is as follows:

Paper 1 – 15 marks;

Paper 2 – 70 marks.

Paper 1 – Dictation/Listening Comprehension (1 hour)

(a) *Dictation (30 minutes) – 5 marks*

A passage of modern Spanish of about 100 words will be read aloud, first straight through, then in repeated groups, and finally straight through again. The candidates will write down the passage in Spanish during the reading of the repeated groups. After the final reading, five minutes will be allowed for revision.

The intention of this part of the paper is to test the candidates' grasp of the orthography and grammatical structure of Spanish by requiring them to relate the language as written to the language as spoken.

(b) *Listening comprehension (30 minutes) – 10 marks*

A narrative or descriptive Spanish passage of about 200–250 words will be read aloud to the candidates. They will then write answers in English to questions printed in English in the paper. The questions will be concerned with information essential to the understanding of the passage as a whole, but the candidates will also be expected to show that they have grasped necessary points of detail.

The intention of this part of the paper is to test the candidates' understanding of spoken Spanish.

Paper 2 – Translation/Essays (2 hours 15 minutes)

(a) *Translation from Spanish – 20 marks*

A passage of modern Spanish of about 150–200 words will be set for candidates to translate into English. The passage will consist of narrative, a description or a conversation or any combination of these.

The intention of this part of the paper is to test the candidates' understanding of written Spanish and their ability to render the text accurately into acceptable English.

(b) *Directed production – 20 marks*

A passage of Spanish of about 200–250 words will be printed in the paper, followed by questions in Spanish. The candidates will be required to read the passage carefully, and then write answers in Spanish to the questions on it. They will be expected to write about 100 words of Spanish.

The intention of this part of the paper is to test the candidates' ability to write accurately and relevantly in Spanish.

(c) *Essay – 30 marks*

The candidates will be required to write one essay of about 150 words in Spanish. The candidates will have a choice of three subjects: there will be a series of pictures, a dialogue *or* a letter, and another subject.

The intention of this part of the paper is to test the candidates' capacity to express ideas freely in accurate Spanish on a given subject using a variety of vocabulary and idiom.

Syllabus Guidelines

The following notes list those structures, rules and expressions which O level candidates should be able to use actively. All the items featured may not necessarily appear in any one examination. The list is not intended to be all-inclusive but it provides guidance on the linguistic content of the examination. Knowledge of, and ability to use, the structures listed below may be tested in any language area within the normal range of the imaginative or real experience of the average school pupil of 15 or 16. It would clearly be impossible to produce a comprehensive list of such areas but they would include the family, school, life in town and country, transport and travel, shopping, eating and drinking, holidays, sport, usual professions and occupations.

The language of O level, as compared with A level, is more straightforward and does not involve very complex description or complicated intellectual processes. The registers are narrative with simple description, or conversation; a very colloquial flavour, as well as a very literary or technical flavour, is avoided. It should, however, be noted that where no production of Spanish is required (e.g., in Paper 1(b)) the language may well be more complex and may contain some lexical items not necessarily actively known by pupils for whom the examination is intended.

1. *Verbs* – formation and use of all regular and common irregular verbs, including radical and orthographical changing verbs and reflexives, in all indicative and subjunctive tenses (the subjunctive will be required for active use only in common situations such as: in its imperative use; after verbs of feeling; in straightforward conditional clauses; in future temporal clauses; after common conjunctions like *para que*, *sin que*, *como si*, etc.); interrogative, negative and imperative forms; passive and avoidance of the passive; participles, infinitive, gerund; common impersonal verbs; use of *ser* and *estar*.
2. *Articles* – indefinite, definite including neuter *lo*.
3. *Nouns* – singular and plural; all genders
4. *Pronouns* – conjunctive, disjunctive, demonstrative, common indefinite, interrogative, possessive, relative; position of pronouns; use of *se*.
5. *Adjectives* – qualifying, numeral (cardinals and lower ordinals), demonstrative, indefinite, interrogative, possessive, compound, masculine/feminine and plural forms (of regular and common irregular adjectives), comparative and superlative; agreement and position; adverbial use; apocopation.
6. *Adverbs* – formation, position, comparative and superlative; adverbial phrases; negative expressions.

7. *Common conjunctions*
8. *Common prepositions* – with special reference to the differences between Spanish and English usage; *por* and *para*; personal *a*.
9. *Expressions of time, date, age, distance, quantity and weather.*
Common idioms – eg (*desde*) *hace*; *hay que*, etc.