

SPANISH

Paper 3035/01

Translation and Composition

General comments

Examiners are pleased to report that the overall standard was sound this session, though with fewer excellent scripts than last year. The vast majority of candidates were well prepared for the style of questions and were able to respond appropriately to the tasks set.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

It is pleasing to report that there were many fewer instances of candidates using the perfect tense to render the story in the past tense. Examiners are happy to accept a fair variety of interpretations of the basic story line and some candidates were able to inject individual touches very well. In this case, there were a number of variations on the theme of where the parents were, how much they knew about the party and the circumstances surrounding their return, which were often very entertaining. The best pieces showed solid understanding of the preterite tense with the inclusion of dialogue giving the opportunity to use the present, future and conditional tenses. *Ser* and *estar* were generally used correctly in expressing feelings. Candidates chose to write in the first and third persons – either was acceptable. There seemed to be no problems as regards candidates' knowledge of vocabulary for this topic.

Question 2

Options **(a)** and **(c)** were the most popular choices here. In **(a)**, candidates had some difficulty in writing in the format of a formal letter. Although this did not affect marks unduly, it might be useful for Centres to cover the basic phrases for opening and closing formal letters to give candidates confidence in tackling such a task. Unusually in this question, some candidates did not cover all the tasks. As the question required an individual to apply for a job, the nature of the work needed to be made explicit, as did other details listed, such as date of starting and previous experience. Candidates must be sure to read the question carefully to check that all essential information is included in their answer. This option gave much scope for candidates and did not present any difficulties with specific vocabulary. The best examples included description of work undertaken, in the preterite or imperfect tenses, plans for the future using the immediate future with *ir a* or the future tense, and many instances of conditional phrases, particularly with *gustar*, which was generally used accurately. Learned phrases such as *cuando sea mayor* or *cuando termine mis estudios* in the subjunctive could also be included to good effect.

Option **(b)** gave candidates the opportunity to shape their answer in an imaginative way within the context given. One of the key factors here in achieving a good response was to avoid repetition and the inclusion of needless exchanges (eg too many exchanges along the lines of 'How are you? I'm fine, and you?'). There needed to be a reason for the individual being suggested as the recipient of the prize, and this was where the past tense could be used. This option requires considerable planning and organisation, and indeed practice.

Option **(c)** resulted in some very interesting and touching pieces of writing. Candidates responded well to the task and were able to recount their lives to date with a good degree of accuracy. The descriptions of those persons identified as most important in their lives were often vivid and gave scope for varying tense usage and use of more expressive language.

Question 3

The overall standard of the answers to this option has risen because candidates tend to choose it only if they have been specifically prepared for the task. Vocabulary presented few difficulties, except for 'desear' 'jealous', 'noisy' and 'commit crimes'. A surprising number of errors came in translating 'Public Library'. The majority of candidates were alert to the different tenses, but there were some careless errors in rendering 'used to go' and 'have taught myself'. The phrase which resulted in most errors was the 'if' clause involving the imperfect subjunctive: many attempts were partly correct, but few translated the whole sentence accurately. The main point to emphasise is that candidates must translate exactly what is given – for example in the first line, 'it is eight o'clock' cannot be rendered as 'at eight o'clock' and 'most' in 'most young people' cannot be omitted.

SPANISH

Paper 3035/02 Reading Comprehension

General comments

This year's paper was very well tackled by the large majority of candidates. As is usually the case, **Section 1** was tackled confidently and well by most, particularly **Exercise 2**. **Section 2** proved more demanding, although a good proportion of candidates managed to score at least 8 out of 10 in both exercises. The Cloze test in **Section 3** proved a good discriminator.

The large majority of the Centres are to be congratulated on doing an excellent job in preparing the candidates so thoroughly for this paper. Nearly all of them tackled the exercises purposefully, really entering into the spirit of the questions and producing some first-rate pieces of comprehension, and an encouraging proportion did themselves justice with a fine total mark.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Exercise 1 Questions 1-6

This was done well by most candidates. There were several mistakes in **Question 4**, perhaps because *nevera* was unfamiliar, and some went astray in **Question 2**, heading for *llegadas*, which was natural in an airport but incorrect in this case.

Exercise 2 Questions 7-13

This was very well done, with a large majority of candidates scoring full marks. **Question 10** was where errors tended to occur, with a few candidates opting for F instead of A.

Exercise 3 Questions 14-20

This was also quite well done, with an impressive number of candidates scoring full marks. **Question 18** proved the most difficult. Candidates often seemed unfamiliar with the term *pensión completa*: the Playa Hotel offered breakfast but not full board.

Section 2

Exercise 1 Questions 21-26

This exercise was done quite well by candidates. The main errors occurred in the corrections provided for **Questions 25** and **26**. Examiners were looking for answers along the following lines:

Question 21 F *Sandra no usa mucho su móvil / Sandra no es adicta al móvil*

Question 22 F *En verano es cuando lo usa bastante / En verano lo usa para organizar citas*

Question 23 V

Question 24 V

Question 25 F *Para Noelia esto es lo peor / No es una ventaja cuando ella está en una fiesta y sus padres le pueden contactar para decirle que vuelva a casa*

Question 26 F *A veces Albert recibe mensajes y no entiende nada.*

Exercise 2 Questions 27-31

The final comprehension exercise was also done well by many candidates. The most demanding question proved to be **Question 27**, **Question 28(b)**, where candidates spoilt their answers by including negatives when positive statements were required, and **Question 31**, where a phrase lifted from the text like *Porque hay muchísimas carreras y muchísimas instituciones* was not a satisfactory answer to the question asked. Marks were awarded for answers along the following lines:

Question 27 *Solo el 52% de los jóvenes que entran en la universidad termina los estudios*

Question 28 (a) *La falta de consejos / La falta de orientación profesional*
 (b) (i) *Los estudiantes pierden tiempo*
 (ii) *Los padres gastan dinero en libros y materiales innecesarios*

Question 29 *Los profesores and Los estudiantes (both needed)*

Question 30 (i) *Asistir a clases de introducción*
 (ii) *Participar en cursos organizados por la universidad durante el verano*
 (iii) *Pasar una semana en una empresa*

Question 31 (a) *Porque es solo una pequeña selección*
 (b) *Consultar las páginas de Internet de las organizaciones*

Section 3

Exercise 1 Questions 32-51

This exercise proved a real challenge this year. Most candidates experienced problems with **Questions 34, 36, 38, 39, 40, 42, 44, 47, 48 and 50**. The easiest questions were **Questions 32, 33, 35, 41, 43, 46 and 51**.

Question 32 *a / sobre*
Question 33 *para / a*
Question 34 *había*
Question 35 *en / sobre*
Question 36 *los*
Question 37 *me / ya*
Question 38 *desde / tener / comprar / escuchar*
Question 39 *había / recibí / tuve*
Question 40 *iba*
Question 41 *de / haciendo*
Question 42 *le*
Question 43 *por / en*
Question 44 *lo*
Question 45 *vimos / viendo / con / mirando / miramos*
Question 46 *Cuando*
Question 47 *donde*
Question 48 *Qué / Vaya*
Question 49 *hasta*
Question 50 *tenía / tuve*
Question 51 *al / el*