

## CCEA EXEMPLIFYING EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

### A2 1 (AK211)

#### Spanish: Speaking

#### Assessment Unit A2 1 Speaking

Please read this in conjunction with the relevant sound file on the GCE Spanish microsite, under the Support Materials (A21) tab.

#### Introduction

These tapes were chosen to give students a clearer idea of the many different styles of candidates who obtain top grades in spoken Spanish. You will find many different examples of how to cope with the demands of this examination.

Hopefully you will be reassured that you can aspire to this level and that the examiners who come to conduct the orals do so with great warmth and sensitivity as well as professionalism. The commentaries will also give you further insights in to what examiners are looking for.

#### 1. Discussion Title: *El País Vasco*

#### *Examiner's Comments*

##### Overall comments

This candidate possesses a lovely easy fluency in Spanish combined with a relaxed, engaging personality.

The candidate has clearly benefited from her extensive family connections to Spain but she has obviously immersed herself in the language and culture and developed a beautiful natural style.

The candidate chose to talk about El País Vasco but avoiding the controversial political aspect. I think this is a pity. She speaks with obvious appreciation for Basque culture including music, gastronomy and language.

We would normally expect a little more insight and engagement with either the politics, history or culture of a region. The candidate has many stylish flourishes of Spanish and reaches the expected level when talking about the language.

##### Conversation

The candidate speaks most engagingly about her family links to Spain, her ambitions and home town. Again the quality of her language is outstanding and a model for A level students of Spanish to aspire to. She engages fully with the examiner and develops her ideas but, as with the Discussion, there is sometimes a disappointing lack of depth, for example, when discussing literature.

Most Grade A Spanish candidates are the reverse of this candidate. They offer lots of detail and insights but have lower level language skills. If the purpose of these exemplar tapes is to give students a chance to study different techniques then this candidate is a model of the use of exquisite language.

## **2. Discussion Title: 'Solos' – La soledad de María**

### *Examiner's Comments*

#### **Overall comments**

This candidate gives future students another excellent example of how to prepare for and conduct an A level Spanish oral. Once again she wins the examiner's engagement by the quality of her ideas and her Spanish.

#### **Discussion**

The candidate shows excellent technique answering all of the examiner's questions in great detail, always developing and extending each point. There is great engagement between examiner and candidate.

#### **Conversation**

The candidate displays the same qualities in the general conversation. She gives lots of details about her role as head of the students' council in her school and, when talking about her ambitions in the field of chiropody, she manages to bring in the challenges of the economic crisis. This is excellent development and a model for others. There are interesting family details including her father's wish to do the Camino de Santiago and also nice detail on the 'mar de tentaciones que los jóvenes tienen que navegar'. The candidate's Spanish is of a very high quality with excellent vocabulary and sentence construction. Here is another model of how an examiner can set a candidate free to shine by examining with a lighter touch whilst always being able to 'raise the bar' to enable the candidate to soar higher.

## **3. Discussion Title: 'Solos' – Aislamiento y soledad**

### *Examiner's Comments*

#### **Overall comments**

This candidate provides yet another example of how to negotiate an A level Spanish oral. His upbeat, positive approach and engaging personality are in evidence from the beginning and he maintains a most interesting exchange with a very sympathetic examiner.

#### **Discussion**

He gives lots of detail and always develops his answers. He is never wrong – footed even by challenging questions such as whether or not the poor are expected to be

proud or whether María may have subconsciously wished to get pregnant to combat her loneliness. Whilst he doesn't always answer directly, the candidate never falters and steers the conversation to his own benefit.

### **Conversation**

The general conversation follows a similar trend. For example, when the examiner seeks to compare the treatment of old people in Latin American society with the widespread use of old peoples' homes in the UK, the candidate talks about his own attitude to his elderly relatives. Students must remember that the oral is not a quiz but rather a conversational engagement between two people. Sometimes the candidate doesn't give much detail but he is always interesting and certainly knew a lot about World Cup football. It was also impressive that he maintained his quality through to the end where he spoke about gap years and 'cirugía estética'. The quality of his Spanish held up throughout.