

Scholarship

2012 Assessment Report

Spanish

COMMENTARY

The reading and speaking topic proved very relevant to the interests and concerns of the candidates and none of the papers received showed signs of finding problems with providing the relevant information.

The writing task was culturally charged (on the topic of bull fighting) and candidates had strong opinions which they shared using complex language and vocabulary. Many were able to connect their own experiences to material from the listening and move beyond with supporting answers. The second part of the question gave scope for many eloquent answers and comparisons were made between bull fighting and fishing and hunting in a coherent manner.

The speaking task was also very relevant to the candidates (being bilingual) and many used personal experience in answering the speaking questions. The outstanding candidates were able to dig deep into the text and use the details given to support extensive development of their responses.

SCHOLARSHIP WITH OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship with Outstanding Performance typically:

- showed an excellent, accurate and idiomatic command of Spanish and employed an appropriate register
- expressed mature ideas that reflected thoughtful processes of thinking
- explained the arguments of the texts and linked them with broader views on the topics and their own insightful opinions
- manipulated text in a logical manner and summarised information, which resulted in confident and polished essays and speaking
- linked prior knowledge with the topic presented.

SCHOLARSHIP

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship but not Scholarship with Outstanding Performance typically:

- showed an excellent, accurate and mostly idiomatic command of Spanish
- explained the arguments of the texts and incorporated further information and thoughtful personal opinions
- organised their ideas clearly and in a convincingly way.

OTHER CANDIDATES

Candidates who were not awarded Scholarship or Scholarship with Outstanding Performance typically:

- were neither proficient nor accurate in the language
- did not convey appropriate ideas, and did not organise them clearly (despite their good command of the language)
- answered the questions in a sketchy, superficial way
- did not engage the audience- especially in the speaking section – mainly because of lack of intonation
- relied heavily on reading their answers to avoid making mistakes, as could be inferred by tone and pace of speaking.