

Scholarship

2011 Assessment Report

Spanish

COMMENTARY

Candidates were required to listen to a passage in Spanish and respond in written Spanish to the questions relating to it; then read a Spanish text, extract accurate information from it, and prepare and deliver a spoken response to questions relating to that text. The majority of candidates completed both tasks as intended; however, a number simply lifted language directly from the texts provided and so did not show understanding of the text/language.

Listen/Write

In Question One, candidates who based their responses on what they had read in the text and gave their own interpretation of that performed better than candidates who limited themselves to repeating what they had read. Question Two, in general, was better developed by most candidates who were able to develop their own viewpoint whilst also making reference to the text.

Read/Speak

Assessment decisions were based on the quality of the language, the content of the response, and the extent to which the candidate took steps beyond the stimulus material. Candidates are rewarded for the quality of their personal interpretation/ideas rather than quantity of language produced; very long answers rarely represented a quality response.

SCHOLARSHIP WITH OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship with Outstanding Performance typically:

- showed understanding of what the questions were asking and kept the answers relevant to the question
- answered the questions using an extensive range of ideas
- provided ideas in a coherent and organised manner, giving information that not only came from the information given in the text but also went beyond it
- manipulated the text competently to produce a response that contained no material copied from the text
- used a wide variety of complex language relevant to the answer (as opposed to pre-learned material)
- used fluent and natural language throughout the entire examination
- delivered their oral responses with the appropriate intonation throughout
- demonstrated clear pronunciation that held the listener's interest
- demonstrated adequate and appropriate pauses throughout the speech.

SCHOLARSHIP

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

- showed understanding of what the questions were asking and kept the answers relevant to the question
- answered the questions using a wide range of ideas
- generally provided ideas in a coherent and organised manner, giving information that not only came from the information given in the text but also went beyond it
- manipulated the text competently to produce a response that contained little material copied from the text

- used a wide variety of complex language relevant to the answer (as opposed to pre-learnt material)
- used fluent and natural language throughout most of the examination
- delivered their oral responses with the generally appropriate intonation
- demonstrated clear pronunciation which contributed to holding the listener's interest
- demonstrated adequate pauses throughout the speech.

OTHER CANDIDATES

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

- demonstrated incorrect use of complex language e.g. inappropriate use of verbal forms, artificial use of Curriculum Level 8 structures
- lifted large chunks of information from the written and aural texts
- showed evidence of having misread/misunderstood question requirements by, for example, including personal opinions and points of view when only answers based on information from the text was necessary (first question for both tasks)
- did not engage the audience, especially in the speaking section, mainly because of lack of intonation
- used pre-learnt expressions that were not relevant to the answers needed
- translated literally from English to Spanish, resulting in unnatural language use.