Question #2 on 2018 Sample 9 is a Xenocrypt:

2) [300 Points] Solve this Xenocrypt which is a quote by Albert Einstein in Spanish.

MDJ FK FNFACKR IR FV KD CJQIUQCDK ADIFJD MF QIZKYQJ

VRWJF KRV MFADV; FV KD YIQUD ADIFJD.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	Ñ	0	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Frequency	4		3	10		10			6	6	7		3	1				5	4			2	5	1		2	1
Replacement																											

Here's one approach to solving it. Note that it is helpful to understand the most common words in Spanish. Wikipedia has a nice one at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Most common words in Spanish with 100 words that are worth studying and recognizing.

1. Looking at the frequency, we see that both **D** and **F** are high frequency letters, so we will assume that they are **E** and **A** which are the most frequently used letters in Spanish. However, given that they are both the same, we must look at the usage. Looking at the two-letter words using them we see **FV KD**. Since there are almost no two letter words that start with **A**, we can make a good guess that the **F** must be an **E** leaving **D** to stand for **A**.

MDJ FK FNFACKR IR FV KD CJQIUQCDK ADIFJD MF QIZKYQJ

A E E E E E A A A E A E

VRWJF KRV MFADV; FV KD YIQUD ADIFJD.

E A E A A A E A

	A	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н	1	J	K	L	M	N	N	U	P	Q	K	S	Ί	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Frequency	4		3	10		10			6	6	7		3	1				5	4			2	5	1		2	1
Replacement				A		E																					

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4. Our remaining high frequency letters are **I J** and **Q**. Given that the eight most common Spanish letters are **EAOSNRIL** and we have used five of them, we can check to see if **N R** and **I** make sense for filling in for any of them. Looking at the **IR** as **?O**, we can only see **NO** as the two letter word with **I** standing for **N**. Looking at the first word **MDJ** as **?A?**, there are no common words that end as **?AI** so we can guess that **J** stands for **R**.

MDJFK FNFACKR IR FV KD CJQIUQCDK ADIFJD MF QIZKYQJ ANERA E LO NO ESLAR NALARE VRWJF KRV MFADV; FV KD YIQUD ADIFJD. E AS SO RE LOS LAN **ANERA**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	N	0	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Frequency	4		3	10		10			6	6	7		3	1				5	4			2	5	1		2	1
Replacement				A		E			N	R	L								О				S				

5. Another two letter word stands out – **MF** as **?***E*. Another very common Spanish word is **DE** and since **D** has not been mapped, we will assume that **M** maps to **D**. This works out well as it makes the first word be **DAR**. Filling this in gives us:

MDJ FK FNFACKR IR FV KD CJQIUQCDK ADIFJD MF QIZKYQJ DAR EL ELO NO ES LARNALANERA N L VRWJF KRV MFADV; FV KD YIQUD ADIFJD. LASO RE LOS DE AS ESN ANERA A

	A	В	C	D	\mathbf{E}	F	\mathbf{G}	H	I	J	K	L	\mathbf{M}	N	Ñ	O	P	Q	R	S	T	\mathbf{U}	\mathbf{V}	\mathbf{W}	\mathbf{X}	Y	Z
Frequency	4		3	10		10			6	6	7		3	1				5	4			2	5	1		2	1
Replacement				A		Е			N	R	L		D						O				S				

6. Coming back to the \mathbf{Q} which we didn't map and remembering that we wanted to try \mathbf{I} , we look at usage and it fits nice with the last word on the first line so we put it in to give us:

MDJ FK FNFACKR IR FV KD CJQIUQCDK ADIFJD MFQIZKYQJ ELO NO ES LA RIN I AL ANERA DEIN L IR VRWJF KRV MFADV; FV KD YIOUD ADIFJD. NI A LOS DE AS LASO RE ESANERA

	A	В	\mathbf{C}	D	\mathbf{E}	F	\mathbf{G}	H	I	J	K	L	\mathbf{M}	N	Ñ	0	P	Q	R	S	T	\mathbf{U}	\mathbf{V}	\mathbf{W}	\mathbf{X}	Y	\mathbf{Z}
Frequency	4		3	10		10			6	6	7		3	1				5	4			2	5	1		2	1
Replacement				A		Е			N	R	L		D					I	O				S		·	·	

7. Looking at the **?NI?A** and the remaining letters, the only one which makes sense to be in front of the **N** is **U** so we will map **Y** to **U**:

MF MDJ FK FNFACKR IR FV KD CJQIUQCDK ADIFJD QIZKYQJ DAR EL ELO NO ESLARINI AL ANERA DEIN LUIR YIOUD VRWJF KRV MFADV; FV KD ADIFJD. SO RE LOS DE AS LAUNI A ANERA ES

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	N	0	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Frequency	4		3	10		10			6	6	7		3	1				5	4			2	5	1		2	1
Replacement				A		Е			N	R	L		D					I	O				S			U	

8. Looking at the **?ANERA** we look for letters which remain and could make sense as a word. We haven't used **TCMPBHQYVGFJZÑXKW**. Going through the letters one at a time we have **TANERA**, **CANERA**, **MANERA**, etc. But the only one which makes sense is **MANERA**, so we map A to **M**to give us:

CJQIUQCDK ADIFJD MF MDJ FK FNFACKR IR FV KD QIZKYQJ E EM LO NO ES LAIN LUIR DAR EL RIN I AL **MANERA** DE KRV MFADV; FV KD YIQUD VRWJF ADIFJD. RELOS DEMAS LAUNI A **MANERA**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	\mathbf{M}	N	Ñ	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	\mathbf{W}	X	Y	Z
Frequency	4		3	10		10			6	6	7		3	1				5	4			2	5	1		2	1
Replacement	M			A		E			N	R	L		D					I	O				S			U	

9. At this point, we have 8 letters that haven't been filled in. Since this is a 300 point question, you can get 7 letters wrong and still get 50 points, so every letter from here on out is worth 50 points. Looking at CJQIUQCDK as ?RIN?I?AL we see that the C is used twice in that word. With our unused letter list now at TCPBHQYVGFJZÑXKW, we quickly try them as TRIN?ITAL, CRIN?ICAL, PRIN?IPAL etc and stop as we see that it looks suspiciously like PRINCIPAL and that it looks good paired in PRINCIPAL MANERA so we assume C maps to P and U maps to C which gives us 5 more letters solved:

MDJ FK FNFACKR IR FV KD CJQIUQCDK ADIFJD QIZKYQJ MF DAR EL E EMPLO NO ES LA PRINCIPAL **MANERA** DEIN LUIR VRWJF KRV MFADV; FV KD YIQUD ADIFJD. **MANERA** SO RE LOS **DEMAS** UNICA

	A	B	C	D	\mathbf{E}	F	G	H	Ι	J	K	L	M	N	Ñ	0	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Frequency	4		3	10		10			6	6	7		3	1				5	4			2	5	1		2	1
Replacement	M		P	A		Е			N	R	L		D					I	O			C	S			U	

10. With only 3 letters unmatched, on this 300 point question, we would score 250 points, so we could stop. However, there is no penalty for guessing and any one of the tree being right would get us 50 more points. Our remaining unused letters are **TBHQYVGFJZÑXKW**, Running letters through the three remaining words, possible guess are **EJEMPLO** and **EXEMPLO**. Since **J** is more common than **X** we will guess **N** maps to **J**. The only letter that makes sense for **IN?LUIR** is **F**(**C** was already taken, otherwise we would guess **INCLUIR**) so **Z** must map to **F**. Lastly **SO?RE** is the very common Spanish word **SOBRE** so we map **W** to **B** with a solution of:

MDJ FK FNFACKR IR FV KD CJQIUQCDK ADIFJD MF QIZKYQJ

DAR EL EJEMPLO NO ES LA PRINCIPAL MANERA DE INFLUIR

VRWJF KRV MFADV; FV KD YIQUD ADIFJD.

SOBRE LOS DEMAS ES LA UNICA MANERA

	A	В	\mathbf{C}	D	\mathbf{E}	F	\mathbf{G}	H	I	J	K	L	\mathbf{M}	N	Ñ	O	P	Q	R	S	T	\mathbf{U}	\mathbf{V}	\mathbf{W}	\mathbf{X}	Y	Z
Frequency	4		3	10		10			6	6	7		3	1				5	4			2	5	1		2	1
Replacement	M		P	A		Е			Ν	R	L		D	J				I	O			C	S	В		U	F

Dar el ejemplo no es la principal manera de influir sobre los demás; es la única manera.

Translation: *Setting the example is not the main way to influence others; it's the only way*