

Example answers and examiner commentaries: Paper 2

This resource comprises an essay on each of three prescribed works for A-level Spanish (7692) Paper 2. Each essay is accompanied by the relevant mark scheme extract and by a commentary to explain the marks awarded. This resource aims to exemplify to teachers the way the mark scheme is applied to students' essays.

The works covered are *Rimas*, *Las bicicletas son para el verano* and *Volver*.

Further marked exemplar essays can be found in Secure Key Materials on e-AQA.

Assessment criteria

A03	
17-20	The language produced is mainly accurate with only occasional minor errors. The student shows a consistently secure grasp of grammar and is able to manipulate complex language accurately. The student uses a wide range of vocabulary appropriate to the context and the task.
13-16	The language produced is generally accurate, but there are some minor errors. The student shows a generally good grasp of grammar and is often able to manipulate complex language accurately. The student uses a good range of vocabulary appropriate to the context and the task.
9-12	The language produced is reasonably accurate, but there are a few serious errors. The student shows a reasonable grasp of grammar and is sometimes able to manipulate complex language accurately. The student uses a reasonable range of vocabulary appropriate to the context and the task.
5-8	The language produced contains many errors. The student shows some grasp of grammar and is occasionally able to manipulate complex language accurately. The student uses a limited range of vocabulary appropriate to the context and the task.
1-4	The language produced contains many errors of a basic nature. The student shows little grasp of grammar and is rarely able to manipulate complex language accurately. The student uses a very limited range of vocabulary appropriate to the context and the task.
0	The student produces nothing worthy of credit.

Minor errors are defined as those which do not affect communication.

Serious errors are defined as those which adversely affect communication.

Minor errors include:

- incorrect spelling, unless the meaning is changed;
- accents, unless the meaning is changed;
- confusion of noun/adjective e.g. *peligro/peligroso*;
- occasional slips in gender adjectival agreements;

Serious errors include:

- incorrect verb forms;
- incorrect use of pronouns;
- errors in basic idiomatic expressions e.g. *es muy calor: soy 17*;

Complex language includes:

- subordinate clauses
- relative
- conditional
- purpose etc
- appropriate use of Subjunctive;

- formation of regular and irregular verbs;
- reflexive verbs;
- use of impersonal expressions using reflexive verbs or verbs with indirect object pronoun eg *gustar, faltar, interesar* etc.;
- value judgements;
- verb + infinitive (+ preposition) expressions.

A04	
17-20	<p>Excellent critical and analytical response to the question set</p> <p>Knowledge of the text or film is consistently accurate and detailed. Opinions, views and conclusions are consistently supported by relevant and appropriate evidence from the text or film. The essay demonstrates excellent evaluation of the issues, themes and the cultural and social contexts of the text or film studied.</p>
13-16	<p>Good critical and analytical response to the question set</p> <p>Knowledge of the text or film is usually accurate and detailed. Opinions, views and conclusions are usually supported by relevant and appropriate evidence from the text or film. The essay demonstrates good evaluation of the issues, themes and the cultural and social contexts of the text or film studied.</p>
9-12	<p>Reasonable critical and analytical response to the question set</p> <p>Knowledge of the text or film is sometimes accurate and detailed. Opinions, views and conclusions are sometimes supported by relevant and appropriate evidence from the text or film. The essay demonstrates reasonable evaluation of the issues, themes and the cultural and social contexts of the text or film studied.</p>
5- 8	<p>Limited critical and analytical response to the question set</p> <p>Some knowledge of the text or film is demonstrated. Opinions, views and conclusions are occasionally supported by relevant and appropriate evidence from the text or film. The essay demonstrates limited evaluation of the issues, themes and the cultural and social contexts of the text or film studied.</p>
1-4	<p>Very limited critical and analytical response to the question set</p> <p>A little knowledge of the text or film is demonstrated. Opinions, views and conclusions are rarely supported by relevant and appropriate evidence from the text or film. The essay demonstrates very limited evaluation of the issues, themes and the cultural and social contexts of the text or film studied.</p>
0	<p>The student produces nothing worthy of credit in response to the question.</p>

Rimas – example essay

In front of the two digit question number inside the boxes next to the first line of your answer

Answer

Leave blank

LAS RIMAS DE BÉCQUER SON "CONFESIONES DE UN ALMA HERIDA POR EL AMOR Y EL DESTINO". ANALIZA HASTA QUÉ PUNTO ESTÁS DE ACUERDO CON ESTA DESCRIPCIÓN JUSTIFICA LA RESPUESTA

"Rimas y Leyendas" es un libro escrito por Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer, un gran poeta español del movimiento del Romanticismo. Bécquer es famoso por escribir algunos de los poemas más humanos de la literatura española, ya que expresa de una manera muy honesta sus sentimientos. Aunque estas emociones son, a veces, bastante fuertes, Bécquer las describe con muchos detalles y en esta redacción voy a analizar utilizando cuatro rimas como ejemplos, si esta forma de escribir puede ser vista como confesión de un alma herida o si debemos describirla de otra manera.

En primer lugar, estoy de acuerdo con la pregunta porque, en muchas ocasiones, Bécquer confiesa que está herido y que una mujer ha causado este sufrimiento. Por ejemplo, en la Rima XLVI, el poeta dice: "Me ha herido recatándose en las sombras..." La forma de expresión es tan sincera y el lenguaje tan claro que el lector entiende muy bien sus sentimientos, por ejemplo cuando dice que le ha partido el corazón. Evidentemente esto es una confesión de un alma herida por el amor.

Otro ejemplo sería la Rima LXI. En esta poema vemos que Bécquer se siente solo y sin fuerzas y se pregunta cosas como "¿quién se levantará a la orilla de mi lecho cuando estoy enfermo?" o "¿quién llorará cuando muera?" En mi opinión es un poema muy triste que nos muestra con un lenguaje muy sencillo que necesita compañía. El mensaje es muy claro para el lector y es fácil sentir



Write the two digit question number *inside* the boxes next to the first line of your answer

Answer

Leave blank

para por Bécquer ya que sabemos que su mujer Costa fue infiel y separaron. Además, su hermano Valeriano murió antes y el poeta está enfermo de tuberculosis. Esta rima es claramente otro ejemplo de confesión de un alma herida por el destino y la soledad que siente.

Por otro lado, es un hecho que Bécquer habla del amor. En estas poemas, el poeta no está herido, pero contento. Por ejemplo, en la Rima XLIX habla de su felicidad cuando ve a su amada en la calle y ella mira a él. Me encanta como utiliza esta prosopopeya para describir esta felicidad: "Hoy la tierra y los cielos se ríen". Esto también es una confesión de sus sentimientos pero definitivamente, no hay dolor.

Otro ejemplo sería la Rima XXV donde Bécquer confiesa que daría todo por la amada. En la rima afirma que "daría cuanto peso" y menciona la luz, el aire y el pensamiento. Esto también es una confesión, pero no de un alma herida, pero de amor.

En conclusión diría que, como he explicado antes, no todas las Rimas de Bécquer demuestran un dolor, por lo tanto, no podemos afirmar que sus poemas son confesiones de un alma herida. Desde mi punto de vista, es mejor definirlos como confesiones de una vida.



Extract from mark scheme

Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer: *Rimas*

Las *Rimas* de Bécquer son “confesiones de un alma herida por el amor y el destino”. Analiza hasta qué punto estás de acuerdo con esta descripción. Justifica tu respuesta.

[40 marks]

Possible content

Students could agree with this statement for the following reasons:

Bécquer's *Rimas* deal with many negative aspects of love and destiny which support the above quote.

Rimas XXI and *XXXI* for example, speak of infidelity, breakdown in relationships, separation and the pain that they cause.

Throughout the later *Rimas* he speaks of unrequited love and rejections and the suffering experienced as a result.

In *Rima LXXVI* death is presented as the only escape from the pain and suffering and in *Rimas LII* and *LIII* the imagery of the dark and violent storms represent the emotions and feelings, the loneliness and regret.

Students could disagree with this statement for the following reasons:

Many of the *Rimas* deal with positive aspects of love and destiny which do not support the above quote.

Love and its pleasure are the two central themes that run throughout the *Rimas* – with love presented as a marvellous sentiment that can change your destiny.

Bécquer often describes love in an idealistic manner, with women portrayed as beautiful angelic creatures who entrance and enthral the male protagonists. (*Rima LXXVI*)

The male characters have no choice but to follow their heart and pursue the women that they love.

Rima X talks of love with a dream girl for whom he would do anything:

his destiny is inextricably linked to hers.

There is plenty of evidence throughout the *Rimas* of Bécquer being an eternal romantic and of his love of /obsession with many different types of women.

Students could also mention:

Rima LXII which deals with both the positive and negative aspects of love and destiny – the shining light and the gloomy shadows.

References to aspects of Bécquer's own life could be made, for example: Bécquer was orphaned aged 6, is thought to have had an arranged marriage to Casta Esteban Navarro,

Navarro is also said to have had an extramarital affair – infidelity is a common theme throughout the later *Rimas*.

Commentary on Rimas essay

Las Rimas de Bécquer son “confesiones de un alma herida por el amor y el destino”. Analiza hasta qué punto estás de acuerdo con esta descripción. Justifica tu respuesta.

A03

The language produced by this student is clearly mainly accurate with only occasional minor errors. There are errors with the agreement of *visto*, *esto sufriendo* and *esto poema* for example which detract from an otherwise convincing grammatical performance. The student shows a consistently secure grasp of grammar in the essay and is able to manipulate complex language accurately. There are, for example, clear correct uses of pronouns. There are correct formations of regular and irregular verbs in tenses such as the present, conditional, preterite and the perfect. There are also some good uses of the passive and comparatives which add to the complexity. It is also pleasing to note that the candidate does not unnecessarily seek to impose on the reader uses of the subjunctive but uses accurate language effectively to answer the question set. The student uses a good range of vocabulary which is appropriate to the context and task. The student uses nice linking phrases to create subordinate clauses, for example, with the use of *ya que*. The use of terminology such as *prosopopeya* is particularly impressive at this level. However, the student could have used more poetic terminology for the essay to have deemed to have contained a wide range of vocabulary. As such, despite occasional minor errors the essay is awarded 18/20 for A03.

Mark for A03:18/20

A04

The essay is well structured but suffers from an overly long introduction which serves no purpose until the reader reaches line 6. Students are instructed that they should be writing around 300 words and with such a word length it is advisable to keep the introduction to a minimum to allow the student to explore the answer set in detail. There are no marks awarded for the structure of the essay with the A04 marks centring on detailed knowledge, opinions, evidence and evaluation. The student's opinions, views and conclusions are consistently supported by relevant and appropriate evidence from the poems. The essay is nicely balanced as the student puts forward evaluation of both sides of the argument. Each paragraph takes a point and is then backed up by an example with evidence from the text. In this case it is quotations from the poems but in the case of literature or film could be examples of scenes or events in the narrative. The length of the introduction means that the candidate does not do further exploration of the question as they have reached the word length and as such impacts the A04 mark as it is judged to be a good evaluation of the question rather than an excellent evaluation. A mark of 17/20 is therefore appropriate here.

Mark for A04:17/20

Total mark for the essay: 35/40

Las bicicletas son para el verano – example essay

Write the two digit question number inside the boxes next to the first line of your answer

Answer

Leave blank

Al final de la obra, se acaba la guerra. ¿Pueden esperar un futuro mejor los personajes principales?

El tema clave de esta obra es la cotidiana existencia y agónica supervivencia de una familia oriunda en Madrid durante la guerra civil. Cuando al final, el conflicto termina, el futuro que se espera a los personajes dependerá del bando político que apoya, ya que "No ha llegado la paz, ha llegado la victoria".

Por un lado, tenemos a aquellos del bando republicano, cuyo porvenir no parece nada próspero. Don Luis, el padre de la familia, espera ser depurado, una práctica represiva que en muchos casos acababa en la cárcel o los campos de concentración. Como líder del Sindicato de Distribución Viático, Fermín-Jaime no da a entender que se le impondrá un cargo muy suero. Entonces Luisito tendrá la responsabilidad de agarrar económicamente a su madre, su hermana y su sobrino, lo que implica que no podrá terminar sus estudios de Bachillerato, ni ir a la universidad. Tendrá que contentarse con su nuevo trabajo de chico de los recados, para el cual, indirectamente, la bicicleta que quería "para el verano, para salir con una chica" le vendría de maravilla.

Manolita, ahora niña, tendrá que sacar adelante a su hijo con su trabajo de actriz de teatro. No cabe duda que su vida será dura, ya que encima de estar sola con su bebé, su ocupación tenía muy mala reputación en esa época.



Write the two digit question number inside the boxes next to the first line of your answer

Answer

Leave blank

Esse es el fado de los partidarios, consideramos ahora aquellos patronos que apoyan el bando nacional. El marido de Doña Julia Silva, el casero y escudero de san- tos, volvend a casa, despues de haberse refugiado en una embajada y pasado al bando nacional, y su hija Isabel estudiara en Suiza, así que para esta familia la victoria derechista supone un bienestar.

Otro ejemplo de este grupo es Emilio, el marido de Julia, que se abandona, porque ha hecho buenos contactos durante la guerra y no le gustaria que la chica se arrojara al bilboite firmo en "una bota precipitada"

Así, el dramaturgo nos ofrece un retrato muy realista de la España dividida de postguerra.

(332 palabras)

Extract from mark scheme

Fernando Fernán-Gómez : Las bicicletas son para el verano

Al final de la obra, se acaba la guerra. ¿Pueden esperar un futuro mejor los personajes principales? Justifica tu respuesta.

[40 marks]

Possible content

Their future depends on which group they have sided with – *No ha llegado la paz, ...ha llegado la Victoria.*

Don Luis fears arrest and deportation to a concentration camp. As leader of the trade union *Sindicato de Distribución Vinícola* he is unlikely to be well treated.

Luisito is also fearful of the future: *nos esperan malos tiempos.*

Doña Dolores is hopeful of a better future *cuando esto se normalice* but is likely to face more difficulties.

Manolita will find life hard as a single mother working in a profession which is not well regarded.

Pablo and his family hope for a brighter future in Barcelona. His father has been given a good job as director of the Post Office.

Pablo's maid, Fiorentina, has been abandoned by her husband who was in the International Brigades and who left when the war finished.

María has been abandoned by Basilio who has good prospects which he doesn't want ruined by *una boda precipitada.*

Commentary on Las bicicletas son para el verano essay

Al final de la obra, se acaba la Guerra. ¿Puede esperar un futuro mejor los personajes principales? Justifica tu respuesta.

A03

The language used in this student response is highly accurate and is exemplary of the very best candidate who is likely to be achieving the top grades. The student shows a consistently secure grasp of grammar and is able to manipulate complex language accurately and with ease. The highly accurate language flows naturally aided by the excellent use of a variety of linking phrases such as *ya que* and *no cabe duda que*. There are various examples of complex language such as *le impondrá* and the imperfect subjunctive *arruinara* which serve to highlight the secure grasp of grammar and structure the student possesses. Furthermore, the student uses a wide range of vocabulary which at times is impressive, for example through the use of *corriente* and *depurado*. The student therefore receives a mark at the top of the band. One could not expect a better grammatical performance at this level.

Mark for A03:20/20

A04

The concise introduction immediately focuses on the crux of the question and as such informs the readers of the student's intention in the response that follows. It is clear that the knowledge of the play is consistently and accurate given the confines of the word limit. It is not expected that candidates will go beyond the word limit and this essay is an excellent example of a student who uses the conciseness of his/her response to full effect. Opinions, views and conclusions are consistently supported by relevant and appropriate evidence from the play as the student argues that it will depend on the character's political leaning which will ultimately define their 'better' future. In this way the essay demonstrates an excellent evaluation of the issues, themes within the cultural and social context of Spain at the end of the civil war. Once again, one could not expect a better performance at this level and an award of full marks for this essay is duly deserved.

Mark for A04: 20/20

Total mark for the essay: 40/40

Volver – example essay

two digit question
inside the boxes next
to line of your answer

Answer

La película 'Volver' de Almodóvar es la película que refleja mejor la noción del pueblo español. Varios partes y personajes de la película representan muy bien eso mundo de un pueblo español. En este ensayo voy a desarrollar como explora el director esa noción de 'pueblo español' en 'Volver'.

La primera escena es clave. Vemos Raimunda y su hija y su hermana Sole en el cementerio del pueblo. Están limpiando sus padres tumba. Muchas mujeres vecinas del pueblo hacen lo mismo con otras tumbas. Luego Agustina llega por limpiar su propio tumba. La escena refleja una tradición muy grande en los pueblos: las muertas es importante. También Agustina limpiando su tumba presenta una superstición sobre la muerte.

Antes volviendo a la ciudad, las hermanas y Paula visitan Tía Paula. Ella ha preparado comida. Es también una tradición del pueblo. Cuando Tía Paula murió después la gente del pueblo va a entierro. Las mujeres llevan ropa negro. Ellas hablan de una fantasma. Creen en las fantasmas en el pueblo.

Luego Irene dice Sole que las vecinas son horribles y roban las cosas de Tía Paula. Ese es algo que ocurre en pueblos y Almodóvar presente también. Cuando Sole vuelve a la ciudad las vecinas de Raimunda ayudan ella. Dan comida y ayudan Raimunda para el restaurante.



Write the two digit question number *inside* the boxes next to the first line of your answer

Answer

Leave blank

En conclusión, Almodóvar presenta bien el pueblo español, los vecinos y las tradiciones. Los personajes son importante en la película para mostrar eso.

leave blank

Extract from mark scheme

Pedro Almodóvar: *Volver*

Analiza la manera en la que Almodóvar explora la noción del 'pueblo español'.

[40 marks]

Possible content

the funeral scene which evokes Lorca's plays

in the village the dead play an important part in the lives of the living

traditional scenes of cleaning the graves on a blustery day

rural, conservative and superstitions reign in the village

juxtaposition with modern-day Madrid

Almodóvar's romantic treatment of rural Spain

negative representation of urban cities

the town is a safe haven where the women are in charge

the importance of Catholicism in the town

the characters find more 'traditional' Spanish dishes on their return to the town

Commentary on Volver essay

Analiza la manera en la que Almodóvar explora la noción del 'pueblo español'.

A03

The language produced by this student is reasonably accurate but there are a few serious errors. There are errors such as *sus padres tumba, los muertos es, limpiando, ayudan ella*. When deciding on the band it is important to look at the band above and the band below to see which is more appropriate. This essay is looking towards the bottom end of A03 as there are a lot of errors but before deciding, the use of complex language and vocabulary needs to be considered. There are nice touches for example with the use of *clave* but there is a distinct lack of cinematic vocabulary which would be expected to reach the higher bands. Furthermore, the candidate uses very few subordinate clauses and remains almost exclusively in the present tense. Verb conjugation in the present tense is reasonably accurate. However, sequence of tenses is often quite mixed. As such, the mark for A03 is 9 as the essay is closer to the band below than the band above.

Mark for A03: 9/20

A04

The essay has a clear structure with a concise introduction and conclusion. However, the essay is often 'story-telling' rather than an evaluation of the point the student is making. For example, in the third paragraph we are merely told that women wear black and they think there are ghosts in the town. The student does not serve to analyse and evaluate the importance of what Almodóvar is aiming to achieve here. The student evaluates more successfully in paragraph where he/she tells the reader about the cleaning of the gravestones and how this reflects traditional values. There is further evaluation via the importance of food but overall it is not convincing. As such, the mark for A04 is closer to the band below than above and therefore a mark of 10 is awarded.

Mark for A04: 10/20

Total mark for the essay: 19/40