



GCSE

SPANISH

8698/LF Paper 1 Listening Foundation Tier
Report on the Examination

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General comments

Changes were made to the 2023 papers to reflect the removal of the regulatory requirement to test vocabulary outside of the published vocabulary list.

Students were clearly well-rehearsed for this examination and understood what to expect in terms of the style of the questions and the nature of the responses required. The vast majority of students followed instructions and answered clearly but there is still a problem with a small number of students who select a letter as their answer which does not exist as an option or who leave two answers visible when only one is required. Handwriting has also been an issue and has inevitably led to loss of marks when a response is not legible.

Foundation tier

Questions 1 and 2

This proved a very accessible start to the paper, as intended, and the vast majority of students were able to identify the departments correctly. Students clearly knew the clothes vocabulary very well; the words for kitchen appliances were slightly less well known.

Questions 3 and 4

Students felt comfortable with this question on the whole and around three quarters of students identified the correct opinions here.

Questions 5 to 7

This group of questions was more challenging than the previous two as it required answers in English and was an overlap question, also appearing on the Higher tier paper. It was clear in question 7 that the word *sin* was not well-known at all, and very few students seemed to know the verb *vender*. This meant that the majority thought visitors would receive an alcoholic drink and free tapas, instead of just a soft drink. It was also very surprising to see how few students knew the phrase *plaza de toros*. Question 5 required an understanding of the dates of the start and end of the film festival and less than half of the students were able to identify the correct date. This was partly due to a lack of knowledge of numbers, but also as they did not pick out the verbs *empezar* and *terminar*.

Questions 8 to 10

Students felt more at home with the question after the previous group and almost all students were able to pick up marks here. Question 9 proved the most accessible as students knew the vocabulary for family and pets well.

Questions 11 and 12

Question 11 was done very well and most students knew or worked out what *suerte* meant. Question 12 was far less successful and many students misinterpreted *notas* as notes. Some were swayed by the verb *sacar* and thought it must be connected to taking a photo.

Questions 13 and 14

This question targeted a low grade and was answered very well on the whole, particularly question 14. In question 13 just over half the students identified the subjects as being sciences, a large number chose the option 'Sport'.

Questions 15 and 16

These questions were also on the Higher tier paper and, as such, were more demanding. About half the students could identify the phrase 'protect the environment' but *bosques* was not well known and only a very small percentage scored both marks here.

Question 17

Students were comfortable with this question involving time, and around three quarters of students chose the correct options.

Question 18

Around half of the students coped well with this question. In question 18.2 the word *campo* did lead to a number of students choosing option E, which referred to 'fields' but over half did manage to select the correct option C.

Questions 19 and 20

Students coped very well with question 19 and the vast majority were able to pick out the correct answer. Question 20 proved much more demanding and less than 50% of students arrived at the correct answer *hombre de negocios*.

Questions 21 and 22

These questions produced a very varied response. The final question was well done, but less than half worked out the Lucía was in the middle of her computer game and only around a quarter ascertained that she would be helping her grandfather with his emails in the future. It should be noted that over a hundred students wrote N as a possible answer, when the only options are P, A and F.

Question 23

This selection-style question was a comfortable end to the paper and almost all students found they could answer something. The most common mark was three out of four. The one option that was less accessible seemed to be *viajar*.

Advice to students

Ensure your handwriting is absolutely clear and legible.

Cross any mistakes out with one clear line and rewrite the correct answer clearly next to it.

Read the question instructions carefully; you need to know exactly how to answer the question and also what the setting of the question is. If you know it is about free time, then your brain is already geared towards listening out for vocabulary linked to hobbies and free-time activities.

Also, the question instructions tell you which letters you can choose from to answer the question. So, if a question requires the answer either P, A or F, you will know not to answer with any other letter.

If you are asked for two things (such as two places you can visit), do not give more than two. If you give both the correct and the incorrect answer, you cannot be awarded a mark.

If a question contains the word **exactly**, then the answer will require the full details in order to answer the question properly. For instance, if conservation work involves observing bird behaviour then you must put the whole phrase ‘the behaviour of birds and not just ‘birds, which is too vague.

Don’t panic or feel despondent if you find a question difficult. The paper is designed to have different levels of challenge throughout; a demanding question will be followed by a more accessible one. Don’t leave multiple choice questions blank, guess at one of the options – you may be right but a blank is always wrong.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.