



GCSE

SPANISH

8698/LH Paper 1 Listening Higher 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.

Higher tier

Question 1

The paper opened with an accessible question to ease the students into the exam and give them confidence. It was answered very well with almost 80% of students achieving all three marks.

Question 2

Students were also fairly comfortable with this question with almost all students gaining one mark or two on both parts.

Questions 3 to 7

There was a very mixed response to this question. The most accessible was question 7 and students were able to link the concept of *pobreza* to 'deprived urban area'. Question 3 proved to be the most challenging as students opted for the 'live music performance' in option G instead of the 'interview with a musician' which was the correct answer. This type of questions tests the ability to grasp the whole message, picking out that the musician was due to speak to the presenters, and not just focus on individual words like *canciones* and *álbum*.

Questions 8 and 9

These questions were also on the Foundation tier paper. Question 8 was very well done with the highest score rate on the paper. Question 9 caused more problems; many students were not aware that *notas* are grades/marks and not notes.

Questions 10 and 11

The first three questions on this page were consistently answered well by just over 60% of students. The last one proved much more challenging: the majority of students identified that a strike was being planned, but the words *amenaza* and *aguantar* were not well known and therefore few realised that both options A and B were correct.

Questions 12 and 13

These questions targeted the highest grades and, inevitably, the multiple-choice questions were much more accessible than those that required answers in English. The nuances of question 13.2 were identified by only the most highly-attaining students who correctly interpreted the tense of *poder* as 'could' or 'might', and also picked up the detail of 'more than four weeks'.

Question 14

This produced a mixed response, ranging from almost all students answering 14.1 correctly to less than half selecting the correct answer to 14.2

Questions 15 to 17

These questions were also on the Foundation tier paper. Higher tier students coped well with question 15, coping with the two dates mentioned, and correctly selecting the start date and not the end date. However, surprisingly, only around a third answered questions 16 and 17 correctly. The phrase *plaza de toros* was not well known at all, and many students did not grasp that only a soft drink was included with the ticket – food had to be bought.

Questions 18 and 19

These questions were targeting the higher grades and parts did prove challenging. The less well-known vocabulary in question 18 caused difficulties, the word *aislado* was tackled a little better and students had a good grasp of what was needed (written permission) for question 19.2.

Questions 20 and 21

Students coped very well with inferring the lack of concern of the person speaking in question 20. Question 21 was less well done, the less common vocabulary (*harto*, *quejarse*, *castigar*) proved a challenge.

Questions 22 and 23

These questions were also on the Foundation tier paper. Most students were able to answer 'protect the environment' in question 22, but fewer managed the second part as they did not know the word *Bosque*. Question 23 proved more challenging than expected. Almost all words caused some problems: *menos* was often rendered as 'little', *lluvia* was not well known and relatively few students identified the superlative (the hottest) for the second part.

Questions 24 and 25

These questions required one word answers in Spanish, but the challenge was to pick out the correct two words from the four options heard. Spelling was not a problem here; if a student identified the correct place or purchase, they were able to produce a recognisable spelling. The word *churros* seemed to be well-known.

Questions 26 and 27

These questions tested the ability to pick out detail and just under 40% of students were able to recognise that in question 26, the speaker felt positive after her holiday experience. The reference to being 'not pleased' was her initial reaction to the idea, not her final opinion. Question 27 proved less challenging and over three quarters of students gained a mark.

Questions 28 and 29

These questions were also on the Foundation tier paper. These questions were well answered on the whole, particularly question 29.2. As at Foundation, question 29.1 was the most demanding of the four, possibly because the word *mañana* was in a different sentence different from the rest of the answer.

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.