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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

SPANISH

GCE Ordinary Level

Paper 3035/01
Translation and Composition

General comments

The entry in May/June is relatively small in number so comments are not necessarily representative. The standard of work seen was largely in line with previous sessions, with candidates achieving the full range of marks. There were some answers which were awarded maximum or nearly maximum marks for **Questions 1, 2(a) and 3**. Candidates seemed familiar with the question types in general, although a minority included irrelevant material in answer to **Question 1** (picture essay) in order to use pre-learned phrases and a small number presented responses to **Question 2 (b)** as a narrative, and not as a dialogue as specified on the Question Paper.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The scenario was most accessible to candidates who were able to outline the mistaken assumption that a burglary was taking place – in fact the ‘thief’ was an actor being filmed. Most candidates attempted to use the correct past tense, but the level of accuracy in the preterite was generally not high and incorrect use of the imperfect was also found. The best essays managed to inject humour into the narrative and presented some of the story in dialogue form.

Question 2

- (a) This was the most popular option in this question and there were some competent answers. Weaker candidates were tempted to reproduce material from the question without being aware of the grammatical changes necessary to adapt the verbs and pronouns to the task. Some answers did not take account of the final part of the question where the candidate was asked to express their own views regarding going to University. Examiners take a flexible approach with reference to the balance of content in such questions, but expect all aspects of the task to be addressed in some form. The basic vocabulary of daily routine and free time activities was known. Candidates seemed less confident in manipulating language to express questions successfully.
- (b) A small number of responses. This task highlighted a weakness mentioned above – namely formulating questions. It was possible to construct a lively conversation with some imaginative plans for acquiring the necessary funds to purchase the bicycle. It was perfectly acceptable to use the present tense only in response to such a task.
- (c) Insufficient numbers to warrant generalised comments.

Question 3

The majority of candidates who chose this question managed to attain a good standard, reflecting focused preparation for this task. Candidates paid closer attention to required tenses than in previous years and showed some understanding of the subjunctive. Errors noted were very much the same as mentioned previously – agreements, *ser/estar*, *gustar*, and irregular verbs being perhaps the most common. The vocabulary required should not have presented any problems as it was centred on food. A surprisingly large number of scripts revealed that words such as ‘dessert’, ‘cakes’, ‘biscuits’, ‘cooks’ were not secure. *Preguntar* and *pedir* were frequently muddled. Examiners can only repeat advice given in previous sessions that candidates should be advised to choose this question only if they have had considerable practice in translation and have a solid understanding of grammar.

Paper 3035/02
Reading Comprehension

General comments

The requirements of the Paper were similar to the requirements of Papers in previous years. As usual, the exercises were of increasing difficulty, with a gentle start in **Section 1**, more demanding passages and questions in **Section 2**, and a Cloze test to finish off with in **Section 3**.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Exercise 1 Questions 1 - 5

The vast majority of candidates scored 4 or 5 out of the 5 marks available. The most common errors were in **Question 1**, where candidates did not seem to know the word *manzana*, and **Question 4**.

Question 1: C; **Question 2:** D; **Question 3:** B; **Question 4:** C; **Question 5:** A.

Exercise 2 Questions 6 - 10

Done extremely well, with nearly all candidates scoring full marks. The correct answers were as follows:

Question 6: E; **Question 7:** F; **Question 8:** A; **Question 9:** D; **Question 10:** C.

Exercise 3 Questions 11 - 15

Done well by many candidates, but a significant minority got confused and could only manage one or two marks out of 5. The correct answers were as follows:

Question 11: B; **Question 12:** A; **Question 13:** F; **Question 14:** E; **Question 15:** C.

Exercise 4 Questions 16 - 23

This exercise was done extremely well by most candidates, with a good number scoring full marks and a majority scoring 8 or more out of 10. For those who struggled, **Question 18** (where answers mentioned *where* Julia studied rather than *what* she studied), **Question 20** (where candidates thought Julia's problems with her brother started when he helped her to get into the world of cinema), and **Question 23** (where Julia's attempts to give up smoking were seen as a vice) proved problematic. Correct answers were along the following lines:

Question 16 *veterinaria*

Question 17 *porque no tenía ganas de estudiar*

Question 18 *estudió arte dramático*

Question 19 *eran malas/no se hablaban*

Question 20 *cuando eran pequeños/empezaron desde pequeños*

Question 21 (i) *no le invitó a su boda*; (ii) *no le recordó en su discurso de aceptación del óscar*

Question 22 (i) *le gusta hacer punto*; (ii) *le gusta la cocina/cocinar*

Question 23 *fumar/fuma/el tabaco/nada grave*

Part 2**Exercise 1 Questions 24 - 28**

Done well by a good number of candidates. The most common mistakes were to give only a partial correction in **Question 28** and to agree with the statement in **Question 27**. The correct answers were as follows:

Question 24: A; **Question 25:** B; **Question 26:** D; **Question 27:** V; **Question 28:** F – *No. El ecoturismo ofrece vacaciones divertidas que no cuestan demasiado dinero.*

Exercise 2 Questions 29 - 36

This proved to be a demanding exercise and the weakest candidates were only able to answer one or two questions successfully. In **Question 34**, Examiners did not accept *por décima vez*, since it was felt the question demanded a cardinal number for an answer. In **Question 36**, *bailar* (on its own) was quite a common answer, and was not accepted. There was dancing during the actual parade and the question specifically asked what happened 'after' the parade. In **Question 39**, examiners felt it was not sufficient for candidates to answer *respetaron las ordenes de los organizadores*, and a mention of the water pistols was required.

Correct answers were along the following lines

Question 29 *en la calle* – also acceptable was *a Zurich*

Question 30 *diez veces*

Question 31 *de haber superado el anterior record de participantes* – also good was *de haber reunido más personas que el 'Street Parade' de Berlín*

Question 32 *ir a una fiesta/continuar en diversos locales deportivos, bares, y casas particulares*

Question 33 *a primeras horas del lunes* – the brief *el lunes* was also acceptable

Question 34 Any two of the following: *había djs de la China; había una carroza de la China; había muchos franceses; también hay un 'Street Parade' en Berlín*

Question 35 *se prohibió el uso de las pistolas de agua*

Question 36 *los esfuerzos del comité organizativo* – also acceptable was an answer emphasising the huge financial rewards of the event, or the enormous crowds it draws, which made the same point

Part 3**Exercise 1 Questions 37 - 56**

As usual, the Cloze test produced performances ranging from full marks down to zero (for the few candidates who left the exercise blank or filled in the blanks with the words *una, sola* and *palabra*). Correct answers were as follows:

Question 37: *me*; **Question 38:** *a*; **Question 39:** *estaba*; **Question 40:** *Nos*; **Question 41:** *para/hacia*; **Question 42:** *que*; **Question 43:** *a*; **Question 44:** *no*; **Question 45:** *de*; **Question 46:** *hacia/tuvimos*; **Question 47:** *había*; **Question 48:** *para*; **Question 49:** *Sin*; **Question 50:** *en*; **Question 51:** *al*; **Question 52:** *de*; **Question 53:** *a*; **Question 54:** *más*; **Question 55:** *volver/bajar/irnos/ir*; **Question 56:** *nuestro*.