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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

<p>Paper 3035/01 Translation and Composition</p>
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General comments

Entries covered the full range of marks, with some very competent answers indeed. Candidates had been prepared for the type of question set, but some did not choose options judiciously. It is advisable to concentrate on the first two questions which give much scope for individual expression and only tackle the prose *translation* if this skill has been practised consistently in preparation for the examination.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Picture essay

This question was tackled competently by most candidates. It gave scope for individual interpretation and focus and the story line was most accessible. Candidates used the correct tense (preterite) for the narrative and some were able to incorporate dialogue in the present tense as well. The most common errors came in distinguishing between *tocar* and *jugar*, agreement of adjectives, and the attempt to render phrases such as 'it looked good' as *miro bueno*.

Question 2

- (a) The letter option was popular. Unfortunately a number of candidates did not read the rubric carefully enough and misinterpreted the scenario. It stated that the writer of the letter had to change plans for the expected visit of the friend, not the other way round. The rubric also required information as to why plans had to be changed. Candidates are advised to read such material very thoroughly before embarking on their answer as omissions will result in lower marks. There were some good full answers with imaginative reasons for the change in plans.
- (b) The dialogue is always the least popular option for **Question 2**, but gave scope for some lively and amusing responses. Candidates must be practised in manipulating dialogue before tackling this option and be aware of the need to be able to incorporate material in present and past tenses to satisfy the rubric.
- (c) This was chosen by a relatively small number of candidates, but was generally well answered with some competent and personal essays.

Question 3

Prose translation

The difficulties encountered in this exercise tend to be consistent from one session to the next – errors in the preterite tense, misuse of the perfect tense, *ser/estar* usage. In this particular passage, there were many errors in expressing time (it was half past seven) and the preterite of *reírse* was not known by many candidates. Candidates need to ensure that they do not miss out any words or phrases, typically adverbs or adjectives. Practice in the use of the subjunctive is also required.

<p style="text-align: center;">Paper 3035/02 Reading Comprehension</p>
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General comments

As usual there was quite a broad range of ability among the candidates, from the very well prepared to those who could not really cope with the last two exercises. There were signs of real effort and enterprise among the weaker candidates, such as translating the questions into the vernacular, word by word, and struggling to make sense of them even when quite a few of the words in them remained a mystery. Some of the candidates should perhaps have continued their studies for another year before tackling a Paper that was bound to prove difficult if their knowledge of Spanish barely went past foundation level.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Exercise 1

Questions 1 - 6

Well done by most candidates: scores of 5 or 6 out of 6 were common. The most common error was in **Question 4**, where candidates tended to opt for B, perhaps because they had never encountered *Sangría*.

The correct answers were as follows:

Question 1: B; Question 2: B; Question 3: A; Question 4: C; Question 5: D; Question 6: C.

Exercise 2

Question 7

This was done extremely well by all candidates, with the vast majority scoring 9 out of 9.

The following should have been indicated as available at the *Hotel Paraíso*: (a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (i), (j), (m), (n).

Exercise 3

Questions 8 - 15

Candidates did not find this as accessible as the previous exercise and there were few who scored full marks. Errors were frequent on **Question 9**, **Question 10** and **Question 14**. **Question 10** was *Falso* because the *133.000 pesetas* included not just the return flight but also nine days' stay plus insurance.

The correct answers were as follows:

Question 8: V; Question 9: V; Question 10: F; Question 11: F; Question 12: V; Question 13: V; Question 14: V; Question 15: F.

Section 2

Exercise 1

Questions 16 - 23

This exercise proved a good discriminator. There were some candidates who seemed to be guessing the answers, but for those who were attempting to answer the questions from the text, there was no question which seemed to cause particular problems.

The correct answers were as follows:

Question 16: *...ha inspirado una serie de leyendas*

Question 17: *...estaba harto de la música de João Gilberto*

Question 18: *...porque había irritado al dueño*

Question 19: *...vivió una época de pobreza*

Question 20: *...trabajar con João Gilberto resulta complicado*

Question 21: *...sujeto a impulsos repentinos*

Question 22: *...por la mañana temprano*

Question 23: *exigente* and *excéntrico* should have been ticked

Exercise 2

Questions 24 - 30

Most candidates scored around half the possible marks. **Question 24** proved the most difficult, followed by **Question 28**. Answers along the following lines were correct:

Question 24: *porque se habla fuera del país donde se habla como lengua materna*

Question 25: *el inglés*

Question 26 (a): *de moverse por Europa/de estudiar o trabajar en cualquiera de los estados miembros*

Question 26 (b): *porque no saben hablar otro idioma*

Question 27: *(las lenguas extranjeras) se empiezan a estudiar en la escuela primaria*

Question 28: *fuera de Europa se habla más/fuera de Europa hay más interés*

Question 29: *porque hay más de 31 millones de hispanos en Estados Unidos*

Question 30: *en Internet*

Section 3

Exercise 1

Questions 31 - 50

There was a huge variety of performance on this Cloze test, with scores ranging from 0 to 18 out of 20.

The following answers were correct or acceptable:

Question 31: *Era, Fue, Durante*

Question 32: *donde*

Question 33: *había*

Question 34: *sin*

Question 35: *al, por, en*

Question 36: *que*

Question 37: *a*

Question 38: *al*

Question 39: *con*

Question 40: *Llevaba, Llevo*

Question 41: *le*

Question 42: *Nos, Me, El, Luego*

Question 43: *le*

Question 44: *haciendo*

Question 45: *para*

Question 46: *ser*

Question 47: *las*

Question 48: *del*

Question 49: *sacamos, cogimos*

Question 50: *preparado, comprado, hecho*

In **Question 44**, *en* was deemed incorrect, and in **Question 50**, *comido* was unacceptable.