

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2011 Assessment Report

Spanish Level 2

- 90426 Listen to and understand spoken language in Spanish in less familiar contexts**
- 90429 Read and understand written language in Spanish in less familiar contexts**
- 90430 Write text in Spanish on a less familiar topic**

COMMENTARY

This was the final year for examinations to assess these achievement standards.

Candidates who achieved read questions carefully, understood what was required, and wrote clear answers. For listening (90426) and reading (90429), these candidates had a sound knowledge of the vocabulary and structures required at Curriculum Level 7; consequently they had showed comprehension of the texts. Candidates gaining Achievement with Excellence summarised relevant information in order to answer questions appropriately; they did not simply translate the text. They located information that answers the questions, rather than translating paragraph-by-paragraph.

Many candidates who gained Achievement with Excellence made use of the space provided to take notes and draft ideas, a practice which should be encouraged in the receptive skills of listening (90426) and reading (90429). For the productive skill of writing (90430), high achieving candidates showed strong evidence of planning and proofreading.

STANDARD REPORTS

90426 Listen to and understand spoken language in Spanish in less familiar contexts

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- showed understanding of the basic meaning of the listening texts
- answered simple questions e.g. what?, when?, where?
- recognised numbers and decoded vocabulary so that they could provide some pertinent details in some questions
- sometimes selected relevant information that answered the question, but often chose to just translate text. If they translated almost the entire text, they gave much information that was not required for the answer, and it detracted from rather than adding to the quality of the response.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- did not show understanding of sufficient vocabulary
- often translated literally and wrote things that did not make sense
- left many answers blank
- did not provide enough information
- answered questions using prior knowledge rather than using relevant information selected from the texts. This was especially evident with the text on Mediterranean diet.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- selected information necessary to address the question
- added at least one detail to their answers
- sometimes showed understanding of the question well but did not express the answer clearly
- deduced the range of cognates required for understanding the texts e.g. in the second text, “alumnado”.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- showed mastery of a wide range of Curriculum Level 7 appropriate language
- wrote logical, legible, well-structured answers that included all the necessary information
- interpreted information according to the requirements of the questions, thus describing, explaining, and making the necessary connections needed
- showed creativity in their answers while still using the relevant information provided in the texts
- supported their ideas with relevant information from the texts.

90429 Read and understand written language in Spanish in less familiar contexts

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- showed understanding of the basic meaning of the texts
- provided only one or two correct aspects of each answer
- attempted to translate the whole text and included unnecessary information.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- attempted only some questions or parts of questions
- demonstrated inadequate knowledge of vocabulary to enable accessing the gist of the texts
- used prior knowledge to answer questions rather than the information provided in the text – this was especially so with the Gaudi text
- did not answer in enough detail where required.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- selected information necessary to address the question
- wrote clear, concise answers and provide the details necessary to demonstrate a very good understanding of the texts
- showed mastery of a wide range of Curriculum Level 7-appropriate language and structures.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- displayed knowledge of a wide variety of vocabulary and structures, including a good knowledge of the different meanings of single words e.g. in the text on rural festivals the word “papel” and the word “pueblo”
- provided the information necessary to answer the question, often in a concise and lucid style, rather than providing lengthy and unnecessary translation of the texts
- showed understanding of the Spanish by reflecting on the text and writing answers in natural-sounding language
- supported their ideas fully with relevant information from the texts.

90430 Write text in Spanish on a less familiar topic

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- answered at least two bullet points, communicating relevant information
- expressed and/or justified an opinion relevant to the chosen topic
- showed some variety of language, selecting appropriate vocabulary, but showed limited understanding of the structures needed to fulfil the task
- wrote text of sufficient length to demonstrate their ability.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- wrote off the topic and did not answer any part of the question
- employed formulaic expressions inappropriately, and used memorised chunks of information with no relevance to the topic
- demonstrated a lack of knowledge of the vocabulary needed to fulfil the task
- did not communicate because of extensive grammatical errors.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- showed development of their chosen topic, often responding to at least three bullet points
- provided a structured response that demonstrated greater coherence and accuracy
- employed a wider range of vocabulary relevant to the topic
- used a good variety of language, selecting appropriate vocabulary and structures to fulfil the task
- showed evidence of planning and proofreading.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- showed strong evidence of proofreading and drafting
- developed ideas logically
- expressed and justified opinions
- demonstrated a high level of flexibility with the language, manipulating both vocabulary and complex sentence structures
- used a range of linking expressions
- wrote sufficient length to convey the message required.