

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2011 Assessment Report

Spanish Level 3

- 90588 Listen to and understand complex spoken Spanish in less familiar contexts**
- 90591 Read and understand written Spanish, containing complex language, in less familiar contexts**
- 90592 Write text in Spanish using complex language on a less familiar topic**

COMMENTARY

90588

This examination contained straightforward listening texts, allowing ample opportunity for candidates to achieve at all levels. In order to demonstrate very good or excellent understanding, candidates were required to discriminate between general textual information and relevant details in order to answer questions adequately. Those who made use of Listening Notes boxes generally achieved better results than students who transcribed directly into question spaces, as this latter option resulted in fragmented, incoherent answers that did not address the question.

90591

The combination of text types challenged students to draw from more than one source in responding to questions. Questions required students to process and apply information; this revealed clear distinctions between students operating at different levels of understanding.

90592

The wide variety of options allowed students a range of writing tasks that provided ample opportunity for achievement at all levels. Successful candidates addressed the guidelines provided for each topic and planned and proofread their writing.

STANDARD REPORTS

90588 Listen to and understand complex spoken Spanish in less familiar contexts

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- attempted most questions or parts of questions
- understood a good part of what they heard and provided information based on this
- supplied adequate detail but did not always address the question appropriately.

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 few questions or parts of questions
- provided insufficient information
- transcribed what they heard, without relating this to the question
- provided imprecise or inaccurate answers
- demonstrated limited understanding of texts
- showed evidence of having confused similar words or invented meanings.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- drew information from the whole text, not just one part, to respond to questions
- answered all questions completely
- wrote comprehensive answers
- distinguished between main ideas and background detail
- provided specific information relating to questions.

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:

- successfully interpreted and inferred meaning from texts, beyond the actual words
- responded directly to questions posed, applying their understanding to reach conclusions
- responded appropriately to different parts of questions
- articulated their answers well.

OTHER COMMENTS

Candidates are required to process and apply their understanding of the language they hear, rather than just translate; many found this a challenge.

90591 Read and understand written Spanish, containing complex language, in less familiar contexts

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- showed good understanding of texts by providing appropriate information
- attempted most questions or parts of questions
- responded to questions by directly translating but did not infer meaning.

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
- misinterpreted questions
- translated directly from text, without addressing the requirements of the questions
- provided information not drawn from texts
- often substituted incorrect words that were related to the key words.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- read and responded to the questions posed
- expressed comprehensive answers based on information contained in texts
- drew information from the whole text, not just one part, in order to respond to questions
- inferred meaning from texts to a limited extent.

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:

- demonstrated an excellent understanding of the texts and questions
- inferred meaning from texts, drew conclusions, and articulated reasoning based on the information contained in the texts
- responded appropriately to the different parts of questions.

90592 Write text in Spanish using complex language on a less familiar topic

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- attempted to address most of the bullet points for the topic
- provided the requested information
- demonstrated a sound knowledge of basic structures but a limited use of more complex structures.

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-topic and did not address any part of the question
- lacked knowledge of the vocabulary needed to fulfil the task
- used only structures below Curriculum Level 8
- employed formulaic expressions inappropriately, and wrote memorised chunks of information with no relevance to the topic
- wrote text containing extensive grammatical errors that hindered communication.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- addressed all the bullet points
- used a variety of structures at different levels of the Curriculum up to and including Level 8
- demonstrated good command of the language through well-structured arguments

- showed some 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:

- planned and drafted before writing
- developed ideas logically
- substantially developed relevant information, covering all bullet points and beyond
- wrote with a high degree of accuracy and flexibility
- used a wide variety of complex grammatical structures up to and including Level 8
- showed strong evidence of proofreading.

OTHER COMMENTS

Candidates responded to all four writing topics in equal numbers. Those who achieved at higher levels provided structured responses, utilized a range of language up to and including Curriculum Level 8, and took the time to proofread their work.