

Assessment Schedule – 2025

Spanish: Demonstrate understanding of a variety of extended spoken Spanish texts (91568)

Assessment Criteria

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>Demonstrating understanding</i> involves making meaning of relevant information and varied perspectives in the texts.</p> <p>Responses as a whole show an understanding of the general meaning (gist) of the texts.</p>	<p><i>Demonstrating clear understanding</i> involves selecting relevant information and varied perspectives from the texts and communicating them unambiguously.</p> <p>Responses as a whole show a clear understanding of the content of the texts. Information is selected and connected to provide responses supported by relevant detailed examples from the texts.</p>	<p><i>Demonstrating thorough understanding</i> involves expanding on relevant information and varied perspectives, and communicating meanings or conclusions implied within the texts.</p> <p>Responses as a whole show a comprehensive understanding of the content and underlying meaning of the texts, including nuance and meanings not obviously stated in the texts.</p>

Evidence

N1	N2	A3	A4	M5	M6	E7	E8
Shows very little understanding and does not communicate the general meaning of the text.	Shows little understanding and does not communicate the general meaning of the text.	Demonstrates some understanding and communicates some of the general meaning of the text.	Demonstrates understanding and communicates the general meaning of the text.	Demonstrates clear understanding and unambiguously communicates some of the meaning by selecting and using relevant supporting detail from the text.	Demonstrates clear understanding and unambiguously communicates most of the meaning by selecting and using relevant supporting detail from the text.	Demonstrates thorough understanding and communicates some of the implied meanings by providing supporting detail from the text to justify conclusions.	Demonstrates thorough understanding and communicates most of the implied meanings by providing supporting detail from the text to fully justify conclusions.

N0 = No response; no relevant evidence.

Cut Scores

Not Achieved	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
0–7	8–13	14–19	20–24

Sample Evidence

What follows is not a complete list of all acceptable responses, nor is it an indication of the exact wording required.

Assessment judgments are based on the level of understanding shown, rather than knowledge of individual lexical items.

Quoting or direct translation alone are not sufficient evidence that the candidate understands the meaning of the text **clearly** or **thoroughly**.

The overall grade for a question must be judged after considering how much of the text as a whole has been understood, and to what depth. Refer to the Evidence statements on Page 1.

Question ONE	Evidence	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p>Is there still a place for zoos in today's society? Use the positive and negative arguments discussed in the passage to support your answer.</p>	<p>Yes, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entertainment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have many fond memories of going to the zoo when I was a child. - Zoos offer unique educational opportunities for children and families to learn about animals and the environment. - Families can still enjoy a modern zoo. - Becoming fond of the animals by being entertained by them could lead to wanting to protect them. - Modern zoos such as Cabárceno National Park have animals outside in natural habitats, without cages, which is much more appropriate for the animals. • Conservation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zoos can play a key role in protecting endangered species, <i>contributing to breeding programmes and scientific research.</i> - While not perfect, zoos do contribute to preserving biodiversity. <i>One thing they could do is implement more modern practices, prioritising animal welfare and effective conservation.</i> - <i>Nowadays, zoos include interactive programmes that increase respect for animals, and as a society we are more likely to want to protect them.</i> <p>No, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many experts warn that they are not good for animals and cause animals to suffer stress <i>when they are confined.</i> • Limited spaces in traditional zoos <i>prevent animals from performing natural behaviours</i>, which harms their physical and mental well-being. • <i>Modern zoos, while being cage-free, only simulate the natural habitats of non-native species, such as giraffes and elephants in Spain.</i> They are hardly different from traditional zoos. Animals should be kept in their natural habitats, not in artificial environments that cause distress. <p>Overall: Yes, but they need to change – modern zoos must be “cage-free zoos” that focus on conservation and education through technology in their natural habitat. Traditional zoos are outdated and no longer have a place in today's society, as the harm they do to captive animals outweighs their positive attributes.</p>	<p>Demonstrates understanding by identifying some of the arguments for and against the existence of zoos today.</p>	<p>Demonstrates clear understanding by explaining the main arguments for and against the existence of zoos today. Gives reasons.</p> <p>Includes <i>italic</i>-type evidence.</p>	<p>Demonstrates thorough understanding by explaining and evaluating the positives and negatives of zoos today and generating a conclusion that takes these into account. Infers meaning.</p> <p>Includes bold-type evidence.</p>

Question TWO	Evidence	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p>Is it more beneficial to have positive or negative news in the media? Consider the different perspectives discussed in the passage to justify your answer.</p>	<p>There are beneficial aspects of both positive and negative news. Negative news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A problem can only be addressed <i>when one is aware of it</i>, for example, and <i>we always make more informed decisions when we recognise the risks</i>. <p>Positive news:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can also serve the purpose of helping us identify what is not working, but also encourages us to do something about it <i>by allowing us to witness examples of change</i>. Positive news stories alert us to problems like negative news stories do, but also encourage us to act. • For example, <i>“Zero-emission clothing brand”, “First deforestation-free cafe opens in Ecuador”, “African women use poetry to foster peace” – positive news stories published in 2024 and included in the year-in-review on the United Nations Development Programme website.</i> • They do not lead to despair like negative news, which can lead to despair, pessimism, and a lack of confidence in human beings. • They are inspiring and informative. They do not serve the purpose of simply selling more, like negative news, which attracts us, and <i>the more shocking the headline of the news, the more likely we are to click on it</i>. This is because of the way the connections in our brains work, which tend to focus on problems. <p>However, even though positive news is preferable, it is important to keep a sense of proportion, as some argue that anecdotal positive examples could distract us from the magnitude of the problems that still need to be overcome.</p>	<p>Demonstrates understanding by identifying some of the effects of positive and negative news.</p>	<p>Demonstrates clear understanding by explaining in detail the effects of positive and negative news.</p> <p>Includes <i>italic</i>-type evidence.</p>	<p>Demonstrates thorough understanding by linking the different positive and negative aspects to construct a logical argument.</p> <p>Includes bold-type evidence.</p>

Question THREE	Evidence	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p>Why has Poleana become such a popular board game in Mexico? Use information from the passage to support your answer.</p>	<p>It has deep symbology and <i>very ancient roots</i>. <i>This game was developed in Mexican prisons</i>, and in fact, the board represents a prison <i>from which the players try to escape</i>.</p> <p>In the daily life of Mexican society, there is no doubt that Poleana attracts so many people because they see themselves reflected in it: in life, <i>as in Poleana, there are difficulties that must be overcome, there is good or bad luck, etc.</i> The game symbolises life.</p> <p>It can be played by anyone now without fear of being judged.</p> <p>In the past, there was a certain stigma regarding Poleana, since it was assumed that whoever knew how to play had been in prison, but today it can be played anywhere.</p> <p>Poleana plays a very important role in prison because it offers a way to distract oneself from reality. <i>“Many people who are serving sentences have told me that, if this game were not available, they would have sought out other, much more harmful distractions.”</i></p> <p>On the other hand, the practice of this game supposes an increase in mathematical skills, <i>due to the need to make quick calculations.</i> It is worth noting that many parents encourage their children to play so that they improve in this area.</p>	<p>Demonstrates understanding by identifying the main traits that make the game popular.</p>	<p>Demonstrates clear understanding by providing explanations on the ideas identified. Gives reasons.</p> <p>Includes <i>italic</i>-type evidence.</p>	<p>Demonstrates thorough understanding by making inferences (for example, of the symbology of the game), and by identifying subtle evidence, such as the stigma of the player.</p> <p>Includes bold-type evidence.</p>