



National
Qualifications
2025

2025 Spanish

Reading

Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2025

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by SQA appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

The information in this document may be reproduced in support of SQA qualifications only on a non-commercial basis. If it is reproduced, SQA must be clearly acknowledged as the source. If it is to be reproduced for any other purpose, written permission must be obtained from permissions@sqa.org.uk.



General marking principles for Higher Spanish Reading

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (c) Award a mark for each answer. Marks are not transferable between questions and the answers for each question must come from the item.
- (d) Marks are available as follows:
 - (i) The first set of questions (worth 18 marks in total) asks candidates to provide answers based on comprehension of information from the text. There are generally 1-3 marks available for each question.
 - (ii) The penultimate question is the overall purpose question, and candidates must identify the overall purpose of the text and draw meaning from their overall understanding of the text. There is a maximum of 2 marks available for reference to the text and detailed comment. Pegged mark descriptors (2/1/0) and associated commentary are available, along with further guidance, in the detailed marking instructions.
 - (iii) The last question is the translation. For this question, candidates must translate the underlined section of the text. The section for translation is divided into five sense units. For each sense unit, award 2, 1 or 0 marks: 2 marks for a full translation, 1 for partial translation, and 0 for an unsuccessful attempt.
- (e) Award marks according to the accuracy and relevance of the candidate's answers. Award marks where the answer is accurate but expressed in their own words.

Marking instructions for each question

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
1.	(a)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cultural and social factors lack of time/they don't have time/not enough time <p>Any 1 from 2</p>	1	less time
	(b)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (25-35-year-olds) see/saw their friends once a week (over 65s) see/saw their friends every day 	2	
	(c)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> people who work and have a family have more responsibilities 	1	many responsibilities
	(d)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> many teenagers don't spend as much/so much/much/a lot of time with their friends outside of school hours/outside of school (nor at weekends, summer holidays) 	1	
2.	(a)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (traditionally) young people used to go/went to the cinema or used to watch/watched a movie together/with friends at home these days they watch (their favourite) series/shows on their own lots of young people binge-watch and watch ten episodes/chapters in a day <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	wanted/stayed to go to the cinema
	(b)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> we have more contacts, we know/meet more people, but we have fewer real/proper/true friends 	1	friends in real life
3.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> young people chat, share memes or play online with lots of people from their room they do not go out (to play) with other young people who live in the same street 	2	from home

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
					Do not accept:
4.	(a)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> we spontaneously went out (to play) with friends (who were at the square) we spent a lot of time walking around/in the neighbourhood/area at times we were bored, but we were bored together <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	around in the town
	(b)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> their diaries/agendas/schedules are very full when they meet friends, the programme of activities is so intense there is no time to talk to nurture/grow/promote/foster/maintain/improve friendship <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	occupied stay with friends foment/incite/form
5.	(a)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> they need close friends in the real world/in real life these people must be empathetic, trustworthy and listen to their problems 	2	nearby trusting hear their problems
	(b)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (for most young people) superficial conversations in the virtual world are not enough they don't like chatting often with people they haven't met/don't know 	2	making small talk

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
6.			<p>Possible assertions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comparing friendships in the past with friendship now • stating that many people don't have real friends anymore • friendships are not as strong as they used to be • nowadays, it is harder to maintain friendships • there is a generational difference in how people maintain friendships • young people don't see their friends as much as they used to because of technology • young people isolate themselves due to technology • friendship has been impacted by social media/lack of free time <p>Possible justifications/exemplifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of statistics • use of interviews with Francisco Avenida (retired grandparent)/Jairo Garcia (psychologist)/Rosario Luque (sociologist) • young people used to go to the cinema/watch movies together, but they don't anymore • young people prefer to watch series alone • young people no longer see their friends at weekends/in holidays • young people don't see each other face to face often • young people used to play outside/now they prefer to play online in their rooms • young people are too busy with all of their activities • they don't have time to talk properly • young people have more contacts and know more people, but less real friends 	2	<p>The answer may be presented in one of two ways:</p> <p>There may be an assertion answering the question followed by one justification from the text, or there may be two examples from the text which answer the question.</p> <p>Award 2 marks where the candidate provides a clear answer, with justification that shows an accurate reading of the text.</p> <p>Award 1 mark where the candidate provides an answer which may contain some degree of misreading, but which offers evidence of some justification.</p> <p>Award 0 marks where the candidate simply provides quotes in Spanish from the text with no explanation or where there is no indication of an attempt to answer the question or to demonstrate an understanding of the text.</p>

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
7.			<p>Translate into English:</p> <p><i>“En el pasado . . . redes sociales.”</i> (lines 23-25)</p>	10	<p>The translation into English is allocated 10 marks. The text for translation is divided into a number of sense units. Each sense unit is worth 2 marks. Award marks according to the quality and accuracy of the translation into English.</p> <p>Award a mark for each sense unit, as follows</p> <p>2 marks - good The candidate understands and conveys essential information and relevant details, clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English.</p> <p>1 mark - satisfactory The candidate understands and conveys essential information clearly and comprehensibly, although some of the details may be translated in an imprecise or inaccurate manner. They convey the key message in spite of inaccuracies and weaknesses in the use of English.</p> <p>0 marks - unsatisfactory The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential idea.</p>

Text	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
Unit 1 <i>En el pasado, jugar al aire libre con amigos era casi obligatorio.</i>	In the past, playing/to play in the fresh/open air with friends was almost/nearly compulsory/obligatory/mandatory. playing outside/outdoors	back then in fresh air (omission of the) near necessary	omission of almost
Unit 2 <i>Este contacto constante construía amistades fuertes.</i>	This constant contact made/built/formed strong friendships. would/used to make/build/form	being in constant contact/having constant contact/the constant contact constructed/builds/forms strong relationships	strong friends
Unit 3 <i>Hoy en día, ya no es necesario salir a ningún lado</i>	Nowadays, it is no longer necessary to go/go out anywhere it is not necessary to go out anywhere any more	today omission of <i>ya</i> omission of a <i>ningún lado</i>	in this day already anyone
Unit 4 <i>porque existen numerosas maneras de mantenerse ocupado</i>	because there are numerous/many/a number of ways to keep/of keeping/staying busy/occupied because numerous ways exist	engaged/entertained there exist numerous ways	

Text	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
Unit 5 <i>y charlar con amigos gracias a las redes sociales.</i>	and to chat/chatting/talk with friends thanks to social media/social networks.	OR social platforms the social media/social networks	internet

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]