



National Qualifications 2015 Internal Assessment Report Spanish

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification in National Qualifications in this subject.

National Courses

Titles/levels of National Courses verified:

C063 10 Spanish (Intermediate 1)

C063 12 Spanish (Higher)

General comments

Verifiers were largely in agreement with centres' application of national standards in assessments in speaking at Intermediate 1 and Higher levels. The majority of centres selected for verification have a very clear understanding of the requirements of the national standards. It was pleasing to note that candidates in the verification sample were very well prepared, and took part in the assessment tasks with sympathetic interlocutors who brought out the best in their candidates.

Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, instruments of assessment and exemplification materials

Centres had understood Course Arrangements and recommendations as outlined in the document entitled *National Qualifications Assessment of Speaking in Modern Languages*. All centres selected in this sample were familiar with the categories, criteria and pegged marks as detailed in this document.

Evidence Requirements

Centres are familiar with the advice and instructions contained in the document *Instructions for Modern Languages Departments on the Conduct of the Recorded Speaking Assessment*. In terms of Evidence Requirements, all centres understood what was required of candidates.

Administration of assessments

Centres have displayed thorough knowledge of Course Arrangements, Unit specifications, and instruments of assessment. There were many examples of Very Good and Good performances, and centres had prepared their candidates well for the speaking assessments.

Candidates had the opportunity to cover a wide range of topics. In general the content of presentations and discussions was appropriate to the level (Higher level only).

There was evidence submitted of internal verification processes which centres had used to finalise decisions on candidates' performance and marks awarded.

Areas of good practice

General comments

Centres had prepared their candidates well to take part in discussions and to demonstrate knowledge of a range of vocabulary appropriate to their level. In addition, on the whole, interlocutors were helpful, sympathetic and supportive to candidates and brought out the best in them.

Intermediate 1

The performances of candidates at this level were generally strong. Candidates had been well prepared and for the most part pronunciation was clear and accurate.

Higher

Some centres had prepared candidates well for the speaking assessment, giving them ample opportunity to go beyond minimal responses and handle a wide range of structures and vocabulary. Generally there was evidence of a good range of topics and themes being covered in the candidates' performances.

Specific areas for improvement

- ◆ In some centres it was noted that candidates' performances could have been stretched/extended more to allow for more opinions rather than just expressing factual statements. This will then allow candidates to demonstrate a wider range of vocabulary and structures. At Higher level, centres should also ensure that the discussion begins from the original topic of the presentation and moves into at least one of the other prescribed themes.
- ◆ In some cases the length of presentations at Higher level was far in excess of the recommended time and centres should ensure they are familiar with the guidance published on approximate length of presentations and discussions at this level.
- ◆ Although interlocutors helped candidates by re-phrasing questions or by prompting, it was sometimes the case that interlocutors would ask a series of unrelated questions and candidates would move from one topic to another without a real sense of conversation.