



GCSE SPANISH 8698/WH

Paper 4 Writing Higher

Mark scheme

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6 G 2 1 8 6 9 8 / W H / M S

Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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Part 1 – General marking guidance for GCSE MFL Writing Tests

Level of response marking instructions

Level of response mark schemes are broken down into levels, each of which has a descriptor. The descriptor for the level shows the average performance for the level. There are marks in each level.

Before you apply the mark scheme to a student's answer read through the answer and annotate it (as instructed) to show the qualities that are being looked for. You can then apply the mark scheme.

Step 1 Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptor for that level. The descriptor for the level indicates the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptor and the answer. With practice and familiarity you will find that for better answers you will be able to quickly skip through the lower levels of the mark scheme.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not look to pick holes in small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best fit approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, ie if the response is predominantly level 3 with a small amount of level 4 material it would be placed in level 3 but be awarded a mark near the top of the level because of the level 4 content.

Step 2 Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark. The descriptors on how to allocate marks can help with this. The exemplar materials used during standardisation will help. There will be an answer in the standardising materials which will correspond with each level of the mark scheme. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the example to determine if it is the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the example.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points. Students do not have to cover all of the points mentioned in the Indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

An answer which contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

Marks will be allocated in the following way at Higher Tier:

	Content	Quality of Language	Range of language	Accuracy	Conveying key messages	Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures	Total
Question 1	10	6					16
Question 2	15		12	5			32
Question 3					6	6	12
Total	25	6	12	5	6	6	60

Higher Question 1/Foundation Question 4

10 marks for Content + 6 marks for Quality of Language (16 marks in total).

Candidates write approximately 90 words in total about four different bullet points. All bullet points must be covered, but **there is no need for equal coverage of the bullets**.

When deciding a particular mark, it is advisable to identify the band of marks first, and then decide whether you are tempted by the band above or the band below. This will enable you to award an appropriate mark within a mark range.

The question is marked for Content and for Quality of Language, according to the following criteria.

(NOTE THAT THESE CRITERIA ARE DIFFERENT FROM FOUNDATION QUESTION 2):

Content

Marks	Response
9–10	A very good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is clear and a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
7–8	A good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is mostly clear but perhaps with occasional lapses. Quite a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
5–6	A reasonable response covering almost all aspects of the task. Communication is generally clear but there are likely to be lapses. Some information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
3–4	A basic response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is sometimes clear but there are instances where messages break down. Little information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
1–2	A limited response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is often not clear and there may be frequent instances where messages break down. Very little information is conveyed. There may be no opinions expressed.
0	The content does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The candidate's response must be relevant to the bullet points. Any information which cannot be deemed relevant in the broadest sense must be ignored when awarding the mark for Content.

A **minimum** number of bullet points must be covered for the award of marks for Content, as follows:

7–10 marks:	4 bullet points
5–6 marks:	3 bullet points
3–4 marks:	2 bullet points
1–2 marks:	1 bullet point

The information that the candidate gives must be clear. If what is written is unclear, this will have a bearing on the mark for Content. For example, the candidate may convey information in relation to all four bullet points, but lapses in clarity may mean that a mark lower than the 9 or 10 band is more appropriate. The more lapses in clarity that there are, the lower the mark is likely to be. All of the information that a candidate attempts to give in relation to a particular bullet point may be unintelligible, in which case that bullet point will not have been covered, meaning that the **maximum** mark will be 6.

You must accept any information which is a plausible response to the bullet point, even if it does not explicitly mention, for instance, a time or place. For example, if the bullet asks what the candidate did last weekend, and he/she writes 'I went to see my grandparents and then went to a theme park', this can feasibly be an account of what happened last weekend, even though 'last weekend' is not mentioned. Equally, if the student is asked to say what he/she does on a typical visit to a shopping centre and they write 'I buy some clothes and go to see a film', this is also an acceptable fulfilment of the task, even though 'shopping centre' is not mentioned.

The bands refer to the amount of information that is conveyed, as follows:

9–10:	a lot
7–8:	quite a lot
5–6:	some
3–4:	little
1–2:	very little

All of these have to be considered with reference to the suggested number of words, which is approximately 90. In other words, a candidate who writes approximately 90 words, clearly understandable and relevant to all four bullet points, will be able to achieve 10 marks, provided the other criteria are met. Conversely, a candidate may write much more than 90 words, but the language is so inaccurate that little or very little information is conveyed successfully and the mark will be much lower. If a candidate writes considerably fewer than 90 words, 'a lot of information' will not be conveyed.

The candidate must give opinions in order to have access to certain marks, as follows:

7–10:	two opinions
3–6:	one opinion

This is not an automatic mark and the other criteria within a particular band must be met. If there is no opinion, the maximum mark is 2. An opinion may be expressed simply, for example: 'I like going shopping'. Any positive or negative adjective ('interesting'; 'boring', etc) is classed as an opinion. A neutral or descriptive adjective is only classed as an opinion if it is preceded by something like 'I think that'. For example: 'I think that my town is big'.

Quality of Language

Marks	Response
5–6	A variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. Complex structures and sentences are attempted. There are references to three time frames, which are largely successful. Errors are mainly minor. Some more serious errors may occur, particularly in complex structures and sentences, but the intended meaning is nearly always clear. The style and register are appropriate.
3–4	Some variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. There may be some attempt at complex structures and sentences. There are references to at least two different time frames, although these may not always be successful. There may be some major errors, and more frequent minor errors, but overall the response is more accurate than inaccurate and the intended meaning is usually clear. The style and register may not always be appropriate.
1–2	The range of vocabulary may be narrow, repetitive and/or inappropriate to the needs of the task. Sentences are mainly short and simple or may not be properly constructed. There may be frequent major and minor errors. Little or no awareness of style and register.
0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The whole of the response must be assessed when awarding the mark for Quality of Language, even if some of it is irrelevant to the bullet points.

Once you have decided on the mark for Content, you should read through the response once more and decide on the mark for Quality of Language. A mark of 0 for Content automatically results in a mark of 0 for Quality of Language but, apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the mark for Quality of Language. However, a short piece is unlikely to demonstrate sufficient variety for a high mark for Quality of Language.

- Each band has five strands: variety of vocabulary; complexity of structures and sentences; reference to time frames; accuracy of the language; style and register. Sometimes it will be necessary to adopt a 'best fit' approach, because the five strands will not be consistently demonstrated. Whether it is the top or bottom mark in the band will depend on whether the criteria are nearer to those of the band above or below.
- In order to score in the 5–6 band, there **must** be reference to all three time frames (past, present and future). For the 3–4 band, there **must** be reference to at least two time frames. Reference to a particular time frame may be demonstrated with one example. The verb used to refer to a particular time frame need not be totally correct, provided the message is clear. These marks are not awarded automatically and the other criteria in the band are equally important. Notice that references are to **time frames**, not tenses. So, for example, the present tense usage in the following sentence is a reference to a **future** time frame: 'I'm going to the concert next week'.
- When considering the complexity of the language, you should bear in mind that a) this is the overlap question and is attempted by both Foundation and Higher candidates; b) that the criteria for Quality of Language in this question are not as demanding as the language criteria for Higher Question 2. However, for a mark of 5 or 6, complex structures and sentences are **attempted**. They may not always be successful and this may lead to serious errors because of the complexity of the structure or sentence which the candidate attempts. Complexity may be shown in some of the following ways: different tenses; intensifiers; time markers; connectives; subordinate clauses; infinitive constructions.

This should not be seen as a ‘tick list’, but rather as an indication of the definition of complexity at GCSE level.

- The setting and bullet points are likely to mean that the style and register of the writing will be appropriate. If informal address is used when the task is in a formal setting, or vice versa, there is no need to penalise the candidate merely for that. It may, however, be a contributory factor in the award of the overall mark if there are other weaknesses.
- There is no requirement for candidates to present their piece of writing in a particular way because of the context, eg a blog or email does not need to look like a blog or email. It is the content which is to be marked.

Higher Question 2

15 marks for Content + 12 marks for Range of Language + 5 marks for Accuracy (32 marks in total).

Candidates write approximately 150 words in total about two different bullet points. Both bullet points must be covered, but **there is no need for equal coverage of the bullets**.

When deciding a particular mark, it is advisable to identify the band of marks first, and then decide whether you are tempted by the band above or the band below. This will enable you to award an appropriate mark within a mark range.

The question is marked for Content, for Range of Language and for Accuracy, according to the following criteria:

Content

Marks	Response
13–15	An excellent response which is fully relevant and detailed, conveying a lot of information. Communication is clear with little or no ambiguity. Opinions are expressed and justified.
10–12	A very good response which is almost always relevant and which conveys a lot of information. Communication is mostly clear but there are a few ambiguities. Opinions are expressed and justified.
7–9	A good response which is generally relevant with quite a lot of information conveyed. Communication is usually clear but there are some ambiguities. Opinions are expressed and may be justified.
4–6	A reasonable response with some relevant information conveyed. Communication is sometimes clear but there may be instances where messages break down. An opinion is expressed.
1–3	A basic response which conveys a limited amount of relevant information. Communication may not be clear and there are instances where messages break down. An opinion may be expressed.
0	The content does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The candidate’s response must be relevant to the bullet points. Any information which cannot be deemed relevant must be ignored when awarding the mark for Content; however, as the bullet points are much more open-ended, there is scope for candidates to include information which is still relevant but not in direct response to a bullet point. For example, when addressing a bullet point requiring a response about a memorable holiday, candidates may refer to where they might go on a future holiday.

Any information which cannot be deemed at all relevant must be ignored when awarding the mark for Content.

As with the overlap question, you must accept, as an accomplishment of the task, any plausible response to a bullet point, even if an element such as time or place are missing.

- In order to score a mark of 13 or more for Content, both bullet points must be covered. However, there is no requirement for an equal coverage of both bullet points.
- A candidate who conveys information in relation to one bullet point only can score a **maximum** of 12 marks for Content.
- Provided at least some coverage of both bullet points is evident, candidates will have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.
- The bands refer to the amount of information that is conveyed, as follows:

13–15:	a lot
10–12:	a lot
7–9:	quite a lot
4–6:	some
1–3:	a limited amount

All of these have to be considered with reference to the recommended number of words, which is approximately 150. In other words, a candidate who writes approximately 150 words, clearly understandable and relevant to both bullet points, will be able to achieve 15 marks provided the other criteria are met. Conversely, a candidate may write much more than 150 words, but the language is so inaccurate that only a limited amount of information is conveyed successfully. If a candidate writes considerably fewer than 150 words, 'a lot of information' will not be conveyed.

- The candidate must give and justify opinions in order to have access to certain marks, as follows:

10–15:	at least two opinions are expressed and justified
7–9:	at least two opinions are expressed
4–6:	at least one opinion is expressed

This is not an automatic mark and the other criteria within a particular band must be met. If there is no opinion, the maximum mark is 3. An opinion may be expressed simply, for example: 'I like going shopping'. Any positive or negative adjective ('interesting'; 'boring', etc) is classed as an opinion or a justification of an opinion. A neutral or descriptive adjective is only classed as an opinion or a justification if it is preceded by something like 'I think that'. For example: 'I think that my town is big' (opinion); or a neutral adjective can be given as a justification of an opinion: 'I like my town because it is big' (opinion + justification).

- Once the correct band has been decided upon, the middle mark in the band will be given to a candidate whose writing fits the band well. If the band above was a consideration, then award the higher of the three marks; if the band below was a consideration, then award the lower of the three marks.

Range of language

Marks	Responses
10–12	Very good variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. More complex sentences are handled with confidence, producing a fluent piece of coherent writing. The style and register are appropriate.
7–9	Good variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. More complex sentences are regularly attempted and are mostly successful, producing a mainly fluent piece of coherent writing with occasional lapses. The style and register are appropriate.
4–6	Some variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. Longer sentences are attempted, using appropriate linking words, often successfully. The style and register may not always be appropriate.
1–3	Little variety of appropriate vocabulary. Structures are likely to be short and simple. Little or no awareness of style and register.
0	The range of language produced does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The whole of the response must be assessed when awarding the mark for Range of language, even if some of it is irrelevant to the bullet points.

Once you have decided on the mark for Content, you should read through the response once more and decide on the mark for Range of language and for Accuracy. A mark of 0 for Content automatically results in a mark of 0 for Range of language but, apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the Range of language mark. However, a short piece is unlikely to show sufficient variety for a high mark for Range of language.

- Each band has five strands: variety of vocabulary; variety of structures; complexity of sentences; fluency of the writing; style and register. For a mark of 12, there will be good evidence that the criteria for all five strands have been met comfortably. Sometimes it will be necessary to adopt a 'best fit' approach, because the five strands will not be consistently demonstrated. Once the correct band has been decided upon, the middle mark in the band will be given to a candidate whose writing fits the band well. If the band above was a consideration, then award the higher of the three marks; if the band below was a consideration, then award the lower of the three marks.
- There must be more complex sentences for the candidate to score 7 marks or more. For a mark in the 10-12 band, the complex sentences are produced confidently, with few errors in structure; for a mark in the 7-9 band, the attempts at complex sentences are **mostly** successful. Complex sentences may be formed in some of the following ways across the languages: use of subordinate clauses; use of relative clauses; use of infinitive constructions; the use of object pronouns within a sentence to lend greater fluency. This should not be seen as a 'tick list', but rather as an indication of the definition of complexity at GCSE level.
- The setting and bullet points are likely to mean that the style and register of the writing will be appropriate. If informal address is used when the task is in a formal setting, or vice versa, there is no need to penalise the candidate merely for that. It may, however, be a contributory factor in the award of the overall mark if there are other weaknesses.
- There is no requirement for candidates to present their piece of writing in a particular way because of the context, eg a blog or email does not need to look like a blog or email. It is the content which is to be marked.

Accuracy

Marks	Response
5	Accurate, although there may be a few errors especially in attempts at more complex structures. Verbs and tense formations are secure.
4	Generally accurate. Some minor errors. Occasional major errors, usually in attempts at more complex structures. Verbs and tense formations are nearly always correct.
3	Reasonably accurate. There are likely to be minor errors and there may be some major errors, not only in complex structures. Verb and tense formations are usually correct.
2	More accurate than inaccurate. The intended meaning is generally clear. Verb and tense formations are sometimes correct.
1	There may be major errors and frequent minor ones, and the intended meaning is not always clear. There is only limited success with verb and tense formations.
0	The accuracy does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

The whole of the response must be assessed when awarding the mark for Accuracy, even if some of it is irrelevant to the bullet points.

A mark of 0 for Content automatically results in a mark of 0 for Accuracy but, apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the Accuracy mark. However, a short piece is unlikely to show sufficient evidence for a very high mark for Accuracy.

- For the award of 5 marks, the writing need not be perfectly accurate. There may be errors in attempts at more complex language and the occasional minor error, but these will be infrequent. A minor error is one which has no bearing on communication (for example, incorrect gender), whereas a major error is one where communication is affected.
- For a piece of writing that contains a good number of errors, a useful starting point will be to decide whether overall it is more accurate than inaccurate. If it is, then the **minimum** mark will be 2.
- A major consideration in awarding marks for accuracy is correctly formed verbs and tense formations. All verbs and tense formations should be considered here but as there are only two bullet points in this question, only two time frames will be elicited. While some candidates will develop their ideas and, in so doing, use a third time frame and different tenses, there is not the same requirement as there is in Foundation Question 4/Higher Question 1 to refer to all three time frames.

Higher Question 3

6 marks for Conveying key messages + 6 marks for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures (12 marks in total).

Candidates translate into the target language a passage in English, totalling at least 50 words. The translation is marked for Conveying key messages and for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures, according to the following criteria:

Conveying key messages

Marks	Response
6	All key messages are conveyed.
5	Nearly all key messages are conveyed.
4	Most key messages are conveyed.
3	Some key messages are conveyed.
2	Few key messages are conveyed.
1	Very few key messages are conveyed.
0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

The translation is divided into 13 key messages. A tick will be awarded for each key message that is communicated, despite any minor inaccuracies. The total number of ticks awarded equates to a mark according to this table:

Total ticks	Mark
13	6
11/12	5
8/9/10	4
5/6/7	3
3/4	2
1/2	1
0	0

When deciding on whether a key message is conveyed, you should ask yourself the question: 'Would a native speaker understand the target language version without reference to the original English?' If the answer is 'yes', award a tick.

Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures

Marks	Response
6	Excellent knowledge of vocabulary and structures; virtually faultless.
5	Very good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly accurate.
4	Good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally accurate.
3	Reasonable knowledge of vocabulary and structures; more accurate than inaccurate.
2	Limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally inaccurate.
1	Very limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly inaccurate.
0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Once you have decided on the mark for Conveying key messages, you should read through the translation once more and decide on the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.

- This mark is not limited by the Conveying key messages mark, unless the mark for Conveying key messages is 0, in which case the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures must also be 0.
- There is no direct correlation between the two marks, but your first thought should be to see if the same mark is appropriate. For example, a candidate may have been given 7 ticks and you have awarded a mark of 4 for Conveying key messages. You may have had to hesitate when deciding on one of the ticks but just decided against it. This may then encourage you to give a mark of 5, rather than 4, for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.
- If a candidate leaves gaps, you must assume that any attempt would have been highly inaccurate and award a mark accordingly. Not to do so will penalise unfairly those candidates who make an attempt but commit serious errors in so doing.
- Perfection is **not** required for full marks. For example, occasional missing accents and minor spelling errors do not preclude a top band mark. However, if there are numerous minor errors and incorrect use of accents which change the meaning of a word, this is likely to have an impact on the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.

Appendix 1

Notes on the use of language

The following notes are a guide to the kind of language that may help to fulfil the criteria for higher bands of marks in the Quality of Language and Range of Language categories. They should **not** be seen as a checklist.

Variety of vocabulary

Consider particularly:

- use of synonyms, eg *prefiero* and *me encanta* rather than just *me gusta viajar*, *coger* (*el tren/autobús...*), *llegar a* etc, rather than just *ir*, *espléndido*, *emocionante*, *estupendo*, *maravilloso*, etc, rather than *bueno* etc, etc
- use of more sophisticated vocabulary – though the emphasis is on avoiding a lot of conspicuous repetition.

Variety of structures

Consider, for example:

- use of infinitive constructions introduced by prepositions (*después de*, *antes de*, *al*, *para*, *sin*), adjectives (*Es fácil hacerlo*), nouns (*Tengo la intención de salir*) and after verbs (*Prefiero ir*, *suelo ir*)
- use of object pronouns
- use of disjunctive pronouns (*conmigo*, *para mí*, etc)
- use of indefinite pronouns such as *algo*, *alguien*, etc
- use of connectives such as *tanto... como...*, *no sólo... sino también...*, *por un lado... y por otro...*, *por una parte... por otra parte...*, *además (de)*, *aparte de*, *a pesar de*
- use of adverbs and adverbial phrases such as *sin embargo*, *por eso*, *por lo tanto*, *también*, *el año que viene*, *por ejemplo*
- use of negatives (*nada*, *nadie*, *nunca*, *ninguno*, *jamás*, *ni*, *tampoco*, *sino*, etc)
- use of *desde hace* constructions and constructions such as *Llevo 5 años estudiando español*
- use of comparative expressions (*tan... como/que*, *más/menos... que...*)
- use of demonstrative adjectives and pronouns (*este*, *ese*, *aquel*, etc)
- use of possessive pronouns (*el mío*, *la mía*, etc)
- use of *lo* + adjective (*lo bueno*, *lo más importante*, etc)
- use of complex sentences and a range of tenses.

Use of complex/longer sentences

Consider:

- use of subordinate clauses introduced by eg *si*, *cuando*, *donde*, *porque*, *como*, *aunque*, *mientras que*, *ya que*, *dado que*, etc
- use of relative clauses introduced by *que*, *quien*, *lo que*, *el que*, *el cual*, *cuyo*, etc
- use of the present subjunctive after verbs of wishing, command, request, emotion, after *cuando* to express the future, after *para que* to express purpose

and, when considering use of longer sentences:

- use of co-ordinating conjunctions: *y*, *pero*, *así que*.

Use of time frames/tenses

- The criteria for Quality of Language in Foundation Question 4/Higher Question 1 include 'references to two/three time frames'. If a candidate refers to three time frames, it may well be through different tenses, but equally it could be through the present tense: *Normalmente voy al cine una vez al mes; Voy a la piscina el sábado que viene; Acabo de ir al centro comercial.*
- The criteria for Accuracy in Higher Question 2 refer to 'tense formations'. In this question, a candidate can impress by showing that he/she can use a good range of tenses, thereby adding to the range and complexity of language.

Appendix 2

A glossary of terms used in the Writing assessment criteria

NB This alphabetical list corresponds to all questions on both Foundation and Higher papers.

ambiguity	A problem with immediate communication caused by grammatical inaccuracy or a contradiction (eg, 'I love it because it's boring').
appropriate	Language which is suitable for the requirements of the task.
coherent	Language which is easy to follow with a logical sequencing of ideas. See 'fluent'.
complex sentences	Sentences which contain a subordinate clause or clauses. See Appendix 1 for examples.
complex structures	See Appendix 1 for examples.
confidence	Accurate use of language.
delay in communication	A problem with immediate communication caused by grammatical or lexical inaccuracy.
fluent	Language which is easy to follow with a logical sequencing of ideas. See 'coherent'.
grammatical structures	Structures which are listed in the specification.
justified	The reason for holding a stated opinion.
key messages	With reference to the translation questions on both papers, these are the key messages as identified in the mark scheme.
lapses	A problem with communication caused by grammatical inaccuracy
linking words	Words such as <i>porque</i> , <i>pero</i> , <i>aunque</i> , used to create longer sentences.
longer sentences	These may be complex, with more difficult subordinations, or more simple through the use of linking words such as <i>porque</i> ; <i>pero</i> ; <i>aunque</i> .
major errors	Errors which impair communication.
minor errors	Errors which do not have a bearing on communication.
opinions	A positive/negative verb or adjective used to give an opinion; or a neutral adjective, such as 'big', preceded by something like 'I think that'. For example 'I think that my bedroom is very small'.
secure	Accurate.
structures	See 'grammatical structures'.
style and register	The style of writing. Usually this will be determined by the nature of the task, requiring informal or formal register.
time frames	The use of tenses, with or without time markers, which refer to past, present or future events. A present tense may be a future or past time frame, eg <i>Este fin de semana voy al cine</i> (future time frame); <i>Estudio español desde hace cuatro años</i> (past time frame).
variety	Use of different verbs' nouns and adjectives which avoid a lot of conspicuous repetition.

Part 2 – Marking guidance for June 2021 series**Question 01**

For this question, there are four compulsory bullet points which are assessed for Content (10 marks) and Quality of Language (6 marks), as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark is 16. The student is expected to produce approximately 90 words for this task. The number of words is approximate and you must mark all work produced by the student.

[16 marks]**Content**

Level	Marks	Response
5	9–10	A very good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is clear and a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
4	7–8	A good response covering all aspects of the task. Communication is mostly clear but perhaps with occasional lapses. Quite a lot of information is conveyed. Opinions are expressed.
3	5–6	A reasonable response covering almost all aspects of the task. Communication is generally clear but there are likely to be lapses. Some information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
2	3–4	A basic response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is sometimes clear but there are instances where messages break down. Little information is conveyed. An opinion is expressed.
1	1–2	A limited response covering some aspects of the task. Communication is often not clear and there may be frequent instances where messages break down. Very little information is conveyed. There may be no opinions expressed.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

There may be some imbalance in the coverage of the four compulsory bullet points but, provided at least some coverage of all bullet points is evident, students will have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.

The candidate's response must be relevant to the bullet points. Any information which cannot be deemed relevant in the broadest sense must be ignored when awarding the mark for Content. A **minimum** number of bullet points must be covered for the award of marks for Content, as follows:

- 7–10 marks: 4 bullet points
- 5–6 marks: 3 bullet points
- 3–4 marks: 2 bullet points
- 1–2 marks: 1 bullet point

Quality of Language

Level	Marks	Response
3	5–6	A variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. Complex structures and sentences are attempted. There are references to three time frames, which are largely successful. Errors are mainly minor. Some more serious errors may occur, particularly in complex structures and sentences, but the intended meaning is nearly always clear. The style and register are appropriate.
2	3–4	Some variety of appropriate vocabulary is used. There may be some attempt at complex structures and sentences. There are references to at least two different time frames, although these may not always be successful. There may be some major errors, and more frequent minor errors, but overall the response is more accurate than inaccurate and the intended meaning is usually clear. The style and register may not always be appropriate.
1	1–2	The range of vocabulary may be narrow, repetitive and/or inappropriate to the needs of the task. Sentences are mainly short and simple or may not be properly constructed. There may be frequent major and minor errors. Little or no awareness of style and register.
0	0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- (a) A major error is one which seriously affects communication.
- (b) A mark of zero for Content automatically results in a mark of zero for Quality of Language. Apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the mark for Quality of Language.

General rule for this question:

- the use of an infinitive in place of a finite verb **is acceptable** for conveying a message. It would not, however, count as a reference to a present/past/future event (ie. no annotation of Pr / P / F).

Question 01.1 Content

Bullet	Comment
• qué hiciste para celebrar tu último cumpleaños	There needs to be a reference to the past, either by the use of a past tense or through a time marker with a present tense / infinitive (eg <i>Voy / Ir a un restaurante para celebrar mi último cumpleaños</i>).
• tu opinión sobre la televisión	Any opinion is acceptable.
• si prefieres pasar tiempo con tus amigos o con tu familia	A positive comment about either element is acceptable (eg <i>me gusta pasar tiempo con mis amigos</i>).
• qué vas a hacer este fin de semana.	There needs to be a reference to the future, either by the use of a future time frame or through a time marker with an infinitive (eg <i>Este fin de semana ir de compras</i>).

Question 01.2 Content

Bullet	Comment
• tu opinión sobre tu casa	Any opinion of the house/home is acceptable (eg <i>Me gusta mi dormitorio</i>).
• qué hiciste la última vez que visitaste un sitio interesante en tu región	There needs to be a reference to the past, either by the use of a past tense or through a time marker with a present tense / infinitive (eg <i>Voy / ir a un museo ayer</i>).
• qué te gusta hacer para llevar una vida sana	Any form of healthy activity is acceptable.
• dónde vas a vivir en el futuro.	There needs to be a reference to the future, either by the use of a future time frame or through a time marker with an infinitive (eg <i>En el futuro vivir en el campo</i>).

Question 01.3 Content

Bullet	Comment
• qué hiciste durante un día de excursión con tu colegio	There needs to be a reference to the past, either by the use of a past tense or through a time marker with a present tense / infinitive (eg <i>Visitar un castillo el junio pasado</i>).
• tus ideas sobre el profesor ideal / la profesora ideal	Any positive comment about a teacher is acceptable.
• tu opinión sobre los exámenes	Any opinion is acceptable.
• dónde vas a estudiar el año próximo.	There needs to be a reference to the future, either by the use of a future time frame or through a time marker with an infinitive (eg <i>Estudiar en un colegio el año próximo</i>).

The following indicative content is an example of the response that students may give to this question. It demonstrates a balanced coverage of the compulsory bullet points.

Either or or	Question 01.1	This is a possible response (indicative content): Celebré mi último cumpleaños en abril. Mis padres me regalaron un nuevo móvil que es estupendo. Por la tarde salí al cine con unos amigos y, después de ver la peli, fuimos a cenar a mi restaurante favorito. Creo que la televisión es buena, especialmente para ver el deporte, pero prefiero Netflix si quiero ver una serie. Me gusta pasar tiempo con mis amigos porque son divertidos, pero también me llevo muy bien con mi familia. Este fin de semana voy a repasar mis apuntes para un examen el lunes. <i>(90 words)</i> [16 marks]
	Question 01.2	This is a possible response (indicative content): Me gusta mi casa porque tengo un dormitorio bonito y hay un jardín grande donde puedo jugar al fútbol. El mes pasado, pasé el día en Leeds donde hay un centro comercial estupendo. Fui con una amiga porque queríamos ir de compras. Soy muy deportista, así que es muy fácil para mí llevar una vida sana. Tengo que admitir que me gustan los dulces, pero no como demasiados. No me gusta la idea de vivir en el campo en el futuro porque es aburrido. En las ciudades es más divertido. <i>(90 words)</i> [16 marks]
	Question 01.3	This is a possible response (indicative content): Como parte de nuestros estudios de historia, mis compañeros y yo visitamos el castillo de Warwick. Fue muy interesante y aprendí mucho. Mi profesora de español es la profesora perfecta. Es divertida y nos ayuda mucho, pero tenemos que trabajar mucho en sus clases. Detesto los exámenes porque son estresantes y nunca saco buenas notas. El año próximo tengo la intención de volver a mi colegio y estudiar lenguas que son mis asignaturas favoritas. Algunos amigos van a ir a otro colegio pero no me gusta la idea. Estoy contenta aquí. <i>(90 words)</i> [16 marks]

There may be some imbalance in the coverage of the compulsory bullet points but, provided at least some coverage of all bullet points is evident, students will still have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.

Question 02

For this question there are two compulsory bullet points, which are assessed for Content (15 marks), Range of language (12 marks) and Accuracy (5 marks), as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark is 32. The student is expected to produce approximately 150 words over the whole question. The number of words is approximate and you must mark all work produced by the student.

[32 marks]**Content**

Level	Marks	Response
5	13–15	An excellent response which is fully relevant and detailed, conveying a lot of information. Communication is clear with little or no ambiguity. Opinions are expressed and justified.
4	10–12	A very good response which is almost always relevant and which conveys a lot of information. Communication is mostly clear but there are a few ambiguities. Opinions are expressed and justified.
3	7–9	A good response which is generally relevant with quite a lot of information conveyed. Communication is usually clear but there are some ambiguities. Opinions are expressed and may be justified.
2	4–6	A reasonable response with some relevant information conveyed. Communication is sometimes clear but there may be instances where messages break down. An opinion is expressed.
1	1–3	A basic response which conveys a limited amount of relevant information. Communication may not be clear and there are instances where messages break down. An opinion may be expressed.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

There may be some imbalance in the coverage of the two compulsory bullet points but, provided at least some coverage of both bullet points is evident, students will have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.

Range of language

Level	Marks	Response
4	10–12	Very good variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. More complex sentences are handled with confidence, producing a fluent piece of coherent writing. The style and register are appropriate.
3	7–9	Good variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. More complex sentences are regularly attempted and are mostly successful, producing a mainly fluent piece of coherent writing with occasional lapses. The style and register are appropriate.
2	4–6	Some variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. Longer sentences are attempted, using appropriate linking words, often successfully. The style and register may not always be appropriate.
1	1–3	Little variety of appropriate vocabulary. Structures are likely to be short and simple. Little or no awareness of style and register.
0	0	The range of language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

A mark of zero for Content automatically results in a mark of zero for Range of language. Apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the mark for Range of language.

Accuracy

Level	Marks	Response
5	5	Accurate, although there may be a few errors especially in attempts at more complex structures. Verbs and tense formations are secure.
4	4	Generally accurate. Some minor errors. Occasional major errors, usually in attempts at more complex structures. Verbs and tense formations are nearly always correct.
3	3	Reasonably accurate. There are likely to be minor errors and there may be some major errors, not only in complex structures. Verb and tense formations are usually correct.
2	2	More accurate than inaccurate. The intended meaning is generally clear. Verb and tense formations are sometimes correct.
1	1	There may be major errors and frequent minor ones, and the intended meaning is not always clear. There is only limited success with verb and tense formations.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

General rule for this question:

- the use of an infinitive in place of a finite verb **is not acceptable** for conveying a message.

Notes

- (a) A major error is one which seriously affects communication.
- (b) A mark of zero for Content automatically results in a mark of zero for Accuracy. Apart from that, the Content mark does not limit the mark for Accuracy.

Question 02.1 content

Bullet	Comments
qué efectos tienen las nuevas tecnologías en las relaciones familiares	There must be at least two effects to fulfil the task. The effects of new technology must be applied to the family, not in general.
si te gustaría casarte en el futuro	There must be a clear reference to the future through the use of future/immediate future/conditional tenses or through the present tense used as a future time frame (eg <i>Cuando tenga 25 años, quiero casarme</i>)

Question 02.2 content

Bullet	Comments
si crees que es importante hacer trabajo voluntario	A statement as to whether voluntary work is or is not important fulfils the task.
unas vacaciones en el pasado que no te gustaron	There must be a clear reference to the past through the use of past tenses or through the present tense used as a past time frame (eg <i>Acabo de volver de Francia donde...</i>).

Question 02.3 content

Bullet	Comments
el trabajo ideal que te gustaría hacer en el futuro	There must be a clear reference to the future through the use of future/immediate future/conditional tenses or through the present tense used as a future time frame (eg <i>Cuando sea mayor, quiero ser astronauta</i>)
si crees que es importante ir a la universidad	A statement as to whether going to university is or is not important fulfils the task.

The following indicative content is an example of the response that students may give to this question. It demonstrates a balanced coverage of the compulsory bullet points.

Either	Question 02.1	This is a possible response (indicative content): Hoy en día, a causa de las nuevas tecnologías, a veces las familias no pasan tanto tiempo juntas como antes. Por ejemplo, mi hermano pequeño pasa muchas horas al día jugando con su ordenador, y yo prefiero chatear con mis amigos en WhatsApp en vez de ver la televisión con mis padres. Sin embargo, también hay ventajas. Mis primos viven en América, y puedo mantenerme en contacto con ellos con las redes sociales. Creo que me gustaría casarme en el futuro porque me encantaría tener una boda muy bonita con todos mis amigos y mi familia. Además, creo que es importante tener una familia estable. El problema es que a veces las bodas son súper caras, y no es posible invitar a todos los amigos que querrías. Si tuviera dinero, me gustaría mucho casarme en la playa y tener una fiesta sensacional. Bailaría toda la noche y lo pasaría genial. (150 words) [32 marks]
or	Question 02.2	This is a possible response (indicative content): En mi opinión, hacer un trabajo voluntario es muy importante. Creo que hay muchas cosas que un joven puede hacer hoy en día para ayudar a otras personas, y para mí es esencial que todos ayudemos para crear una sociedad mejor. Yo trabajo en una tienda solidaria todos los sábados y me encanta porque, además de ayudar a otras personas, me ayuda a ganar experiencia de trabajo, que será útil en el futuro. El año pasado fui de vacaciones con mi familia a Irlanda y no me gustó nada. Primero, hizo demasiado frío y llovió casi todos los días, así que no pudimos ir a la playa y disfrutar de los paisajes espectaculares. Además, el hotel donde nos quedamos era demasiado antiguo, y no tenía piscina ni gimnasio. Si fuera posible, el año próximo preferiría ir a Ibiza en agosto, porque los hoteles son modernos y siempre hace buen tiempo. (150 words) [32 marks]
or	Question 02.3	This is a possible response (indicative content): Cuando sea mayor, me gustaría ser piloto. Me encanta viajar, así que sería mi trabajo ideal poder ir a un país diferente cada semana. Sin embargo, para conseguir el trabajo, será necesario estudiar mucho para mis exámenes y sacar buenas notas. Este año tengo muchos exámenes, así que tendré que repasar mucho. En mi colegio también hay clases de apoyo, y tengo que ir para mejorar en matemáticas. En mi opinión, ir a la universidad es importante porque creo que la universidad te da la oportunidad de conocer a mucha gente diferente, y puedes participar en actividades nuevas. Por ejemplo, me encantaría ser miembro del equipo de hockey porque, aunque me encantan los deportes, nunca he tenido la oportunidad de jugar al hockey. Sin embargo, a veces la universidad puede ser demasiado cara, y no merece la pena, porque es posible conseguir un buen trabajo sin ir a la universidad. (150 words) [32 marks]

Question 03

The translation is assessed for Conveying key messages (6 marks) and Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures (6 marks) as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark is 12. When awarding the marks the student's response across the passage should be considered as a whole.

[12 marks]**Conveying key messages**

Level	Marks	Response
6	6	All key messages are conveyed.
5	5	Nearly all key messages are conveyed.
4	4	Most key messages are conveyed.
3	3	Some key messages are conveyed.
2	2	Few key messages are conveyed.
1	1	Very few key messages are conveyed.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures

Level	Marks	Response
6	6	Excellent knowledge of vocabulary and structures; virtually faultless.
5	5	Very good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly accurate.
4	4	Good knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally accurate.
3	3	Reasonable knowledge of vocabulary and structures; more accurate than inaccurate.
2	2	Limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; generally inaccurate.
1	1	Very limited knowledge of vocabulary and structures; highly inaccurate.
0	0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

A mark of zero for Conveying key messages automatically results in a mark of zero for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures, but apart from that, the Conveying key messages mark does not limit the mark for Application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures.

Key messages

The translation is divided into 13 key messages (see below). As general rule, the **wrong person** or **wrong tense** of a verb will not receive a tick. Minor inaccuracies, such as incorrect gender or adjectival agreement, will not on their own prevent the award of a tick.

	Message	Accept	Reject
1	In the winter,	En (el) invierno,	inverano
2	it is cold in our towns	hace frío en nuestros pueblos / nuestras ciudades	es / está frío
3	and I think that	y creo que / pienso que / me parece que	
4	we must do more	debemos / tenemos que / hay que hacer más	
5	for the homeless people.	para / por los sin techo / la gente sin casa / la gente que no tiene casa / las personas sin casa / las personas que no tienen casa.	
6	When I left school yesterday,	Cuando salí (<i>with or without accent</i>) / Al salir del colegio / Cuando dejé (<i>accent required</i>) / cuando yo deje (<i>pronoun required if no accent</i>) / Al dejar el colegio ayer <i>Accept as words for 'school'</i> cole / instituto / insti / escuela	deje (<i>without pronoun</i>)
7	I went to buy	fui a comprar fui (para) comprar	compré fui a compré
8	a video game that	un videojuego / juego de ordenador / juego de computadora que	
9	was quite expensive.	era / fue / estaba bastante caro. costaba / costó bastante.	
10	I was sad	Estaba / Estuve triste	Era / Fui
11	because I saw	porque vi (<i>accept if written with accent</i>)	
12	an old lady who	(a) una vieja / (a) una anciana / (a) una mujer vieja / (a) una señora vieja / (a) una señora mayor que / quien	
13	was living on the street.	vivía / estaba viviendo en la calle.	vivió

Other reasonable alternative translations will also be accepted.

A tick will be awarded for each key message that is communicated, despite any minor inaccuracies. The total number of ticks awarded equates to a mark for Communication according to this table.

Total ticks	Mark
13	6
11/12	5
8/9/10	4
5/6/7	3
3/4	2
1/2	1
0	0

Indicative content

The following indicative content is an example of a response which would be awarded full marks.

En el invierno, hace frío en nuestros pueblos y creo que debemos hacer más para los sin techo.
Cuando salí del colegio ayer, fui a comprar un videojuego que era bastante caro. Estaba triste porque vi a una señora vieja que vivía en la calle.

Other reasonable alternative translations will also be accepted.