



GCSE MARKING SCHEME

SUMMER 2025

**GCSE
SPANISH – UNIT 4
WRITING – FOUNDATION TIER
3810U40-1**

About this marking scheme

The purpose of this marking scheme is to provide teachers, learners, and other interested parties, with an understanding of the assessment criteria used to assess this specific assessment.

This marking scheme reflects the criteria by which this assessment was marked in a live series and was finalised following detailed discussion at an examiners' conference. A team of qualified examiners were trained specifically in the application of this marking scheme. The aim of the conference was to ensure that the marking scheme was interpreted and applied in the same way by all examiners. It may not be possible, or appropriate, to capture every variation that a candidate may present in their responses within this marking scheme. However, during the training conference, examiners were guided in using their professional judgement to credit alternative valid responses as instructed by the document, and through reviewing exemplar responses.

Without the benefit of participation in the examiners' conference, teachers, learners and other users, may have different views on certain matters of detail or interpretation. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that this marking scheme is used alongside other guidance, such as published exemplar materials or Guidance for Teaching. This marking scheme is final and will not be changed, unless in the event that a clear error is identified, as it reflects the criteria used to assess candidate responses during the live series.

WJEC GCSE SPANISH

SUMMER 2025 MARK SCHEME

UNIT 4: WRITING – FOUNDATION TIER (60 marks)

General Advice

Examiners are asked to read and digest thoroughly all the information set out in the document *Instructions for Examiners* sent as part of the stationery pack. It is essential for the smooth running of the examination that these instructions are adhered to by all.

Particular attention should be paid to the following instructions regarding marking.

- Examiners must be positive in their approach. Look for opportunities to reward rather than penalise.
- Make sure that you are familiar with the questions and the relevant mark schemes.
- Familiarise yourself with the descriptors for each section of each assessment grid. See information below regarding advice on awarding marks using banded mark schemes.
- For questions at Foundation and Higher tier where an approximate word count is advised, the whole task must be marked and no marks are to be deducted for exceeding the word limit.

Translation into Spanish

Suggested translations of each sentence or passage are provided in the mark scheme and will be further discussed at the examiners' conference in the light of candidates' scripts.

Possible alternatives will be looked at on an individual basis.

When writing or speaking about themselves, gender identification should not be an issue as they should be using first-person pronouns. If candidates choose to write or speak in the third-person, they must be consistent in their pronoun choices, for example, use of 'they/them/xe/xhe' should not be seen as grammatically incorrect if the candidate is consistently using the chosen pronoun throughout their writing. Please be mindful of candidates' choices in assessing all work. When discussing another individual in the third person where gender or gender preference is unknown or undisclosed, WJEC expects consistent application of the gender agreement of the candidate's choice, for example, the discussion of a writer's craft could make reference to 'him/her' or 'they'.

Banded mark schemes

Banded mark schemes are divided so that each band has a relevant descriptor. The descriptor for the band provides a description of the performance level for that band. Examiners should first read and annotate a candidate's answer to pick out the evidence that is being assessed in that question. Once the annotation is complete, the mark scheme can be applied.

This is done as a two stage process.

Stage 1 – Deciding on the band

When deciding on a band, the answer should be viewed holistically. Beginning at the lowest band, examiners should look at the candidate's answer and check whether it matches the descriptors for that band. If the descriptors at the lowest band are satisfied, examiners should move up to the next band and repeat this process for each band until the descriptors match the answer.

If an answer covers different aspects of different bands within the mark scheme, a 'best fit' approach should be adopted to decide on the band and then the candidate's response should be used to decide on the mark within the band. For instance if a response is mainly in band 2 but with a limited amount of band 3 content, the answer would be placed in band 2, but the mark awarded would be close to the top of band 2 as a result of the band 3 content. Examiners should not seek to mark candidates down as a result of small omissions in minor areas of an answer.

Stage 2 – Deciding on the mark

Once the band has been decided, examiners can then assign a mark. During standardising (marking conference), detailed advice from the Principal Examiner on the qualities of each mark band will be given. Examiners will then receive examples of answers that have been awarded a mark by the Principal Examiner. Examiners should mark the examples and compare their marks with those of the Principal Examiner.

When marking, examiners can use these examples to decide whether a candidate's response is of a superior, inferior or comparable standard to the example. Examiners are reminded of the need to revisit the answer as they apply the mark scheme in order to confirm that the band and the mark allocated is appropriate to the response provided.

The following pages contain the mark scheme and assessment grids for both Foundation and Higher tier. In addition, examiners should ensure they are familiar with the grammar requirements in Appendix B of the specification.

When using the assessment grids for Question 2 Foundation tier, Communication and content and Linguistic knowledge and accuracy are to be assessed separately. Candidates achieving a lower mark in one skill are not automatically precluded from accessing higher marks in the other. Where a candidate produces a response which is wholly irrelevant to the task set, 0 marks for both Communication and content and Linguistic knowledge and accuracy will be awarded.

When using the assessment grids for Question 3 (Foundation tier) and Question 1 (Higher tier), Communication and content and Linguistic knowledge and accuracy are to be assessed separately. Candidates achieving a lower mark in one column are not automatically precluded from accessing higher marks in another. Where a candidate produces a response which is wholly irrelevant to the task set, 0 marks for Communication and content and Linguistic knowledge and accuracy will be awarded.

When using the assessment grids for Question 2 Higher tier, Communication and content and Linguistic knowledge and accuracy are to be assessed separately. Candidates achieving a lower mark in one column are not automatically precluded from accessing higher marks in another. Where a candidate produces a response which is wholly irrelevant to the task set, 0 marks for Communication and content and Linguistic knowledge and accuracy will be awarded.

MARK SCHEME

FOUNDATION TIER (60 marks)

Question 1

(12 marks)

The candidate will be required to provide 6 responses. In order to be awarded the maximum 2 marks for each response candidates must provide answers which are in full sentences.

Marks for each response will be awarded as follows:

Conveying meaning:

2	Meaning fully conveyed with a good degree of accuracy. Minor errors (such as incorrect gender, agreement, etc.) may be present.
1	Meaning partially conveyed. Errors (such as incorrect tense, use of a verb, etc.) may be present.
0	Inappropriate or no response.

Example

2 marks	*1 mark
e.g. Vivo en + name of place	e.g. en + name of place
e.g. hay un polideportivo/una tienda (any facility)	e.g. polideportivo/tienda
e.g. mi tienda favorita es 'Zara'	e.g. Zara/tienda Zara
e.g. voy a la playa	e.g. la playa
e.g. me gusta/encanta mi región	e.g. encanta/gusta región
e.g. me gustaría vivir en España	e.g. en España

*To be discussed at examiners' conference.

Guidance for examiners

Candidates are instructed in the question paper to write in complete sentences and must provide a response with a verb in order to gain maximum marks.

Question 2**(16 marks)**

Marks will be awarded for Communication and Content and Manipulation of language.

Band	Marks	Communication and content
5	9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response is mainly clear and coherent in many sections but is occasionally ambiguous. Some facts, ideas and opinions (as appropriate to the task) presented are fairly detailed but occasionally are not relevant.
4	7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response is fairly clear and coherent in some sections but is often ambiguous. Some facts, ideas and opinions (as appropriate to the task) presented contain some detail but are fairly often not relevant.
3	5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response in a few parts has some clarity and coherence but is frequently ambiguous. A few facts, ideas and opinions (as appropriate to the task) contain a little detail but are frequently not relevant.
2	3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response in most parts has little clarity and coherence and is mainly ambiguous. Very few facts, ideas and opinions (as appropriate to the task) are presented and are mostly not relevant.
1	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response in most parts is mainly obscure, incoherent and ambiguous. Isolated facts and opinions (as appropriate to the task) are presented but are mostly not relevant.
0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response not worthy of credit or not attempted.

Band	Marks	Linguistic knowledge and accuracy
3	5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A simple range of vocabulary and grammatical structures is used. A good level of accuracy when using simple structures, though errors are often present when attempting more complex structures.
2	3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic vocabulary and grammatical structures used. Some accuracy demonstrated when using simple structures, very occasional attempts at complex structures.
1	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses a very limited range of vocabulary and grammatical structures. Occasional accuracy demonstrated.
0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response not worthy of credit or not attempted.

Guidance for Examiners

Where a candidate produces a response which is wholly irrelevant to the task set, 0 marks for both Communication and content and Linguistic knowledge and accuracy will be awarded.

Candidates are required to address the three compulsory bullet points and write approximately 50 words overall.

A simple range of vocabulary will include common and familiar words. A simple range of grammatical structures will include simple word order and short, simple sentences using common structures. Complex structures will include varied and more complex word order and extended sentences with a range of structures such as conjunctions, pronouns and adverbs.

Assessment Grid for Unit 4: Writing Question 3 Foundation Tier/ Question 1 Higher Tier
(20 marks)

Band	Marks	Communication and content	Marks	Linguistic knowledge and accuracy
5	9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A very good response. Relevant information presented to meet all requirements of the task. Facts, ideas and opinions (as appropriate to the task) expressed are clear. 	9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures used, including attempts at complex structures. A very good level of accuracy with mainly minor errors. References to past, present and future events are mainly successful. Style and register are appropriate with minor lapses.
4	7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A good response. Relevant information presented to meet almost all requirements of the task with minor omissions. Facts, ideas and opinions (as appropriate to the task) expressed are mostly clear. 	7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reasonable variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures used, including some attempts at complex structures. A good level of accuracy with occasional major errors and more frequent minor errors. References to past, present and future events are attempted but may not always be successful. Style and register are mostly appropriate.
3	5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reasonable response. Relevant information presented to meet most of the requirements of the task. Facts, ideas and opinions (as appropriate to the task) expressed are generally clear but lapses are likely. 	5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures used including occasional attempts at complex structures. A generally good level of accuracy with more frequent major errors and frequent minor errors. References to past, present and future events are attempted with limited success. Style and register may not always be appropriate.
2	3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A basic response. Relevant information presented to meet some of the requirements of the task. Some facts, ideas and opinions (as appropriate to the task) expressed are sometimes clear but the message breaks down occasionally. 	3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A simple range of vocabulary and grammatical structures used. Some accuracy when using simple structures, though errors are often present. Limited awareness of style and register.
1	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A limited response. Relevant information presented to meet some aspect of the requirements of the task. Facts, ideas and opinions (as appropriate to the task) expressed are often not clear and the message may break down frequently. 	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little variety of vocabulary, and very simple grammatical structures used. Limited accuracy demonstrated. Little or no awareness of style and register.
0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response not worthy of credit or not attempted. 	0	Response not worthy of credit or not attempted.

Where a candidate produces a response which is wholly irrelevant to the task set, 0 marks for Communication and content and Linguistic knowledge and accuracy will be awarded.

Guidance for examiners - Linguistic knowledge and accuracy

Candidates are required to address the three compulsory bullet points and write approximately 100 words overall. The candidate must provide some evidence of coverage of all bullet points in order to access the full mark range.

When assessing style and register, the following will be taken into account:

- the appropriateness of the piece for the intended audience (e.g. a friend, peers, tourists, teachers) and the appropriate register (formal or informal), including verbs and possessive adjectives, is used consistently throughout, as appropriate to the level.

Question 4 –Translation**(12 marks)**

Marks for translation will be awarded for conveying meaning and for application of grammatical knowledge and structures.

For each question (4a, 4b and 4c), marks of 0-1-2 will be awarded as follows:

2	Meaning fully conveyed. Grammatical structures correct with very minor errors (such as incorrect accents, genders, agreements, etc.).
1	Meaning partially conveyed but grammatical structures used are correct; or meaning conveyed but grammatical structures incorrect.
0	Inappropriate or no response. None of the required information is conveyed.

The maximum mark for conveying meaning and for application of grammatical knowledge and structures for this section is 6, as there are three sections to be translated.

For each question (4d and 4e), marks of 0-1-2-3 will be awarded as follows:

3	Meaning fully conveyed. Grammatical structures correct with very minor errors (such as incorrect accents, genders, agreements, etc.).
2	Meaning partially conveyed but grammatical structures used are correct; or meaning conveyed but grammatical structures incorrect.
1	Little meaning conveyed. Isolated words are communicated.
0	Inappropriate or no response. None of the required information is conveyed.

The maximum mark for conveying meaning and for application of grammatical knowledge and structures in this section is 6, as there are two sections to be translated.

The total number of marks available for the translation task as a whole is 12.

To aid examiners in awarding marks for conveying meaning and for application of grammatical knowledge and structures, possible alternative answers will be discussed and agreed at conference. Where candidates have adopted a different approach, examiners are advised to discuss this with their Principal Examiner or Team Leader.

English	3 Marks	2 marks	1 mark
I like Spanish food a lot.	N/A	Me gusta mucho la comida española.	Mi gusta comida espana
My favourite fruit is an orange.	N/A	Mi fruta favorita/preferida es una(la) naranja.	Favorito fruta (es) naranja
I went to a restaurant yesterday.	N/A	Fui a un restaurante ayer/Ayer fui a un restaurante.	(fue) restaurante ayer
It is very important to eat well.	Es muy importante comer bien/comer comida saludable.	Es muy importante como bien/comer buena comida.	Importante como bien
I would like to drink more water in the future.	Me gustaría beber más agua en el futuro.	Me gustaría bebo más agua/aqua en futuro.	beber mas agua/aqua futuro

*To be discussed at examiners' conference.