

Candidate commentary

The evidence for these candidates has achieved the following marks for this course assessment component.

Candidate 1

The candidate was awarded **20 marks**.

Context: Society

Assignment - writing title: Young people spend too much time in front of a screen nowadays. Discuss. You could mention time watching TV, on the internet and on mobile phones. You could also discuss advantages and disadvantages of these and the role parents should play in managing screen time.

Content

The candidate addresses the title in a full and balanced way. All content used is relevant and includes a wide range of ideas, opinions and reasons. The candidate presents a range of arguments and viewpoints, *“hoy en día los jóvenes dedican una media de (...)”, “una vez dicho esto...”*, *“hay muchas ventajas de internet si se usa de manera correcta”*; *“Internet te abre un mundo de posibilidades. Es la manera (...)”*, *“desde luego hay mucho material nocivo que circula por la red”*; *“los psicólogos advierten”*. The writing flows well and is presented in a very structured, organised way and comes to a conclusion: *“Para finalizar, los aspectos de internet (...)”*.

Accuracy

The candidate demonstrates a very good degree of grammatical accuracy corresponding to the level although there are a few errors, for example, *“..puedes volverse..”*, but they do not detract from the overall impression. Throughout the writing, accuracy in spelling and word order is very good.

Language resource

The candidate uses detailed and complex language throughout, including a wide range of structures, for example *“no solo... sino...”*; *“..nos domina la vida...”*; *“..los más comunes...”*. There is a wide range of verbs, verb forms and tenses, for example *“..he explicado”*; *“..lo que hace que la vida sea..”*. Singular and plural forms of various verbs are used throughout and there are good examples of use of the perfect tense, the gerund and the subjunctive.

Candidate 2

The candidate was awarded **12 marks**.

Context: Society

Assignment - writing title: Young people are too often pressured into smoking and drinking. Do you agree?'

Content

The title allows the candidate to take a discursive stance, for example “*..es un hecho bien sabido que..*”, “*Piensan esto porque según una encuesta..*”. The candidate addresses the title competently and uses content which is relevant, for example “*..la presión de grupo..*”, “*...parece que los jóvenes quieren olvidar sus problemas*”.

Some ideas and opinions are expressed with reasons, although some of these ideas and arguments are used more than once, such as group pressure. The candidate attempts to give the writing structure with phrases such as, “*para empezar*”, “*sin embargo*” and the candidate provides a conclusion.

Accuracy

The candidate demonstrates an adequate degree of grammatical accuracy corresponding to the level although some errors detract from the overall impression such as, “*es mucha gente van*”, “*...están siendo la presión ...*”, “ *fueron forzada..*”, “*..esto resultado era..*” “*..siendo un joven es muy difícil*”. There is an adequate degree of accuracy in spelling and the candidate produces more correct language than incorrect.

Language resource

The candidate attempts to use a range of structures and some detailed and complex language. The candidate copes well with the first and third person in the present tense but there are not many examples of different tenses. The candidate attempts to use a range of structures for example, “*...algunos dicen que creen*”, “*.no se puede negar..*” “*.a mi parecer..*”.

Candidate 3

The candidate was awarded **8 marks**.

Context: Learning

Assignment - writing title: 'School uniform? There is no need for it anymore' Discuss.

Content

With regards to content, overall this is an adequate piece of writing and the candidate expresses some ideas and opinions. The arguments presented are personal and the candidate has difficulty incorporating other viewpoints or drawing a conclusion. Some of the content is very basic such as *'mi uniforme consiste en una camisa blanca, una corbata azul y unos pantalones negros. Pero no me gusta llevar corbata. No me gustan los colores porque prefiero los colores brillantes'*. Content such as this does not allow the candidate to demonstrate use of detailed and complex language or develop their argument in a discursive way.

Accuracy

In terms of accuracy, the candidate demonstrates an adequate degree of grammatical accuracy however there are simple errors such as *'prefiero lleva; no tienen llevar uniforme; desde mi punto de vista el uniforme es una bastante buena idea'*. The candidate does produce a lot of correct language but it lacks the detail or complexity required at this level..

Language resource

The candidate uses a very limited amount of detailed and complex language. There is a limited range of structures, verbs and verb forms for example, *"Para empezar me gusta mi colegio y me llevo bien con todos los profesores; Sin embargo lo que no me gusta ...; Sin embargo la verdad es que hay muchas ventajas y desventajas" ... no me gusta llevar una corbata; creo que el uniforme; pienso que el uniforme no es muy elegante y cómodo'*. With one exception – *"sería"* – the essay is written entirely in the present tense. Overall, the level of language does not fully correspond to the level expected at Higher.

Candidate 4

The candidate was awarded **16 marks**.

Context: Society

Assignment - writing title: 'Are lifestyle choices important?'

Content

The candidate addresses the title competently and expresses a range of ideas, reasons and opinions. All content is structured, organised and relevant to the title. The candidate attempts to present different viewpoints with phrases such as 'se dice que'.

Accuracy

In terms of accuracy, the candidate demonstrates a good degree of grammatical accuracy although there are various errors, including spelling and word order, for example, '*he tomado yo nunca*'; '*A veces ¡me falta de motivación!*'

Language resource

The candidate mostly uses detailed and complex language with some very good structures including the subjunctive, such as, '*el consumo de drogas hace que los jóvenes sean....*' and there is use of a range of structures including questions.

Candidate 5

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

Context: Society

Assignment - writing title: Technology plays an essential part in adolescent life.

Discuss. You could mention to what extent is technology important as well as the advantages, disadvantages or possible dangers of mobile phones including the use of social media.

Content

The content is generally relevant to the title although the candidate expresses very limited ideas, opinions and reasons. Paragraph two expresses the idea of keeping in touch with family and friends through technology and paragraph three tries to express the idea of addiction and the difficulty of hiding things from parents. However, these latter two ideas are not clearly expressed and might not be understood by a speaker of the language. The candidate attempts to draw a conclusion despite a lack of arguments or viewpoints.

Accuracy

There are serious grammatical inaccuracies throughout which impede communication. The candidate does not demonstrate a sufficient degree of accuracy in spelling or even basic grammar, for example, *'la technology, mi familia ese viven legos, una móvil'*.

Language resource

There is a very limited amount of detailed and complex language and it is clear that there is other language interference. Because of language structures, ideas expressed in the third paragraph are difficult to follow. Overall, the language is repetitive and does not flow well.

Candidate 6

The candidate was awarded **20 marks**.

Context: Employability

Assignment - writing title: The advantages of taking a gap year outweigh the disadvantages. Do you agree?

Content

The candidate addresses the title in a full and balanced way. All the content that the candidate uses is relevant to the stimulus. He/she expresses a wide range of opinions and different arguments are put forward about what makes a gap year attractive to people versus the problems that may arise. There is depth of opinions and all the different arguments are articulated clearly. The candidate uses an organised structure throughout, the two sides of the argument are clearly explained and a conclusion is drawn.

Accuracy

The candidate demonstrates a very good degree of grammatical accuracy corresponding to the level. The candidate does make a few errors such as “*cada día cosas; pajar; opicion*”, however these do not detract from the overall impression. The candidate demonstrates a very good control of the present tense and makes good use of the conditional.

Language resource

The candidate uses a wide variety of verbs, tenses and verb forms with both the first person and the third person singular and plural used, for example ‘*te permite...*’, ‘*te daría...*’, ‘*cuesta un montón de dinero*’... ‘*superan las desventajas*’