

# 2017 VCE Spanish written examination report

## General comments

Most students understood the requirements of the 2017 VCE Spanish written examination and were well prepared. Some sections of the examination required a response in English and others required a response in Spanish; it was very important that students answered in the correct language, as responses in the wrong language were considered incorrect and were not awarded marks. Students should read the questions thoroughly, follow the instructions carefully and make use of the space provided for taking notes.

Students need to read the question carefully to identify where questions require an answer in full sentences. Marks were awarded for sentence structure as well as language expression.

## Specific information

**Note: Student responses reproduced in this report have not been corrected for grammar, spelling or factual information.**

This report provides sample answers or an indication of what answers may have included. Unless otherwise stated, these are not intended to be exemplary or complete responses.

### Section 1 – Listening and responding Part A – Answer in English

Most students answered the questions in this section correctly. Students are advised to listen carefully and to take notes during both playings of the text as this will assist them in completing their answers.

#### Text 1

##### Question 1a.

All of:

- bachelor or hen party
- wedding or marriage celebration
- baptisms or christenings.

##### Question 1b.

- large and beautiful room with a stage
- restaurant service
- they can plan events on your behalf

The last point is evidenced by 'you will be able to have a marvellous party organised by the club' or 'Free yourself from the planning a celebration. We will do it for you with great pleasure.'

## Text 2

### Question 2a.

- simple life/living without any luxury/no complexity
- being always surrounded by family
- positive attitude to life
- valued simple things
- gratitude for what life offers
- looking after her garden/taking care of nature

### Question 2b.

- She says it is a mutual relationship.
- She cares for her plants.

The first point is evidenced by ‘they are alive and they respond to my care’ or ‘We respond to each other/we interact with each other.’

### Question 2c.

- What Anita can teach people has not been written in books.
- People have much to learn from Anita even though she only completed primary school.
- Anita’s values are based on her life experience, not on what she has read in books.
- Anita is self-aware and doesn’t allow modern life changes to affect her values and beliefs.

## Part B – Answer in Spanish

### Text 3

#### Question 3a.

*las ventajas y desventajas del turismo en Machu Picchu* (advantages and disadvantages of tourism in Machu Picchu)

#### Question 3b.

*Antonio tiene una postura negativa hacia la llegada de tantos turistas porque* (Antonio has a negative view about the arrival of so many tourists because):

- *podría colapsar el Camino del Inca* (the Inca Trail could collapse)
- *hay un aumento de la basura* (rubbish is increasing)
- *Machu Picchu podría ser destruido* (Machu Picchu could be destroyed)
- *demasiada gente no permite apreciar la belleza del lugar* (with so many people it is impossible to appreciate the beauty of the place)
- *quiere conservar y proteger el lugar* (he wants to preserve and protect the place).

#### Question 3c.

- *Antonio es guía de turismo.* (Antonio is a tourist guide.)
- *Maribel teje gorros andinos. Vende artesanías/es artesana /es vendedora.* (Maribel knits Andean caps/sells handicrafts/is a craftsperson/is a seller.)

#### Question 3d.

- *No, porque Maribel argumenta que los turistas son una fuente de ingreso y Antonio sostiene que van a destruir el lugar.* (No, because Maribel argues that tourists are a source of income and Antonio argues that tourists will destroy the place.)
- *No, porque al final Maribel dice que es una discusión sin fin.* (No, because at the end Maribel says, ‘This is an endless discussion’, meaning there is no answer to the issue.)

## Section 2 – Reading and responding

### Part A – Answer in English

#### Text 4

##### Question 4a.

- to promote, persuade, explain or inform the reader about traditional Chilean food
- to describe and show two Chilean dishes

##### Question 4b.

People could think the text is about a crazy person on the loose instead of seafood. The title is misleading because the word *loco* has another meaning; it is a shellfish and it also means ‘crazy’.

##### Question 4c.

- Fishing is prohibited; they only live in the waters of southern Peru.
- It is almost extinct.

##### Question 4d.

Any three of the following:

Technique and its purpose	Example from the text
Use of rhetorical question to get the reader to reflect	‘but how is this so?’
Humour/frivolity to link with the reader/humour and interesting facts	‘don’t be alarmed, reader’ ‘don’t get confused’ ‘this food will make you go mad’
Talks directly to the reader to keep the reader’s attention	‘don’t be alarmed, reader’ ‘don’t get confused’
Use of adjectives to lighten the tone of the text	‘greedy gourmets’
Use of exclamation marks to show enthusiasm or to demonstrate emphasis	‘a crazy mayo!’ ‘Don’t be alarmed! Don’t worry!’
Descriptive language to make the text attractive	‘delicious seafood’
Bold statement to emphasise	‘people who try it go crazy’
Use of metaphors, using the same word for two different meanings to add more interest	‘crazy seafood. And go crazy after trying it’

##### Question 4e.

- food-loving tourists who want to go to Chile or the Chilean people who like seafood
- cooks/people interested in food/gourmets or people who enjoy traditional Chilean cooking

##### Question 4f.

- It is prepared in a similar way to that done by the women of the south coast of Angelmo.
- It is cooked in a hole made in soil with hot stones inside.

### Question 4g.

- 'Crazies' are a type of tasty seafood; delicious cooked 'crazies'.
- They have exquisite meat and flavour.
- They are two sea delicacies 'in search of sweet/greedy gourmets'
- Many famous people praise the delicious seafood

### Text 5

#### Question 5

The text tells readers:

- not to be discouraged by the long queues because the wait is worthwhile
- not to order too much (food).

Text 5 is associated with Text 4.

## Section 2 – Reading and responding

### Part B – Answer in Spanish

### Text 6

#### Question 6

Possible points could have included the following.

*La Expresion 'se ve la senda que nunca se ha de volver a pisar'.* (The expression 'we can see the path that never will be stepped on'):

- *Que no podemos recrear el pasado* (We cannot recreate the past.)
- *Que tenemos que aprender de las experiencias del pasado que aunque veamos hacia atrás el pasado no va a volver.* (We need to learn from past experiences even though we look back and the past is gone.)

*Hacernos reflexionar sobre* (make us to reflect on):

- *La vida/nuestro propio destino/nuestro propio camino* (Life/our own destiny/our own journey)
- *Sobre la importancia de disfrutar cada momento al recorrerlo aun con la incertidumbre de no saber que pasara en ese recorrido.* (The importance of rejoicing in each moment, to experience it with the uncertainty of not knowing what the path will bring.)
- *El camino formado por las huellas que dejaron nuestros pasos. El camino es nuestra vida y esta la hacemos nosotros.* (The path has the footprints of our own steps. The path is our life and we are responsible for it.)

*Sentimientos que el poema evoca* (Feelings that the poems evokes):

- *Nostalgia/reflexión/meditación/melancolía* (Nostalgia/reflection/meditation/melancholy)

The following is a high-scoring response to Question 6.

*Hola Luca! Como estas?*

*Acabo de leer el poema y me parece que el texto está lleno de numerosos mensajes profundos. Quizás Antonio Machado tiene una pasión para pensar en la importancia de la vida, ya que el poema en general es una descripción de los muchos caminos que tomamos como seres humanos y trabajadores. Según Machado, es probable que escriba para difundir la idea de que todas las personas crean su propio destino y por eso las líneas "se ve la senda que nunca se ha de volver a pisar" sirven para educar a los lectores que la vida es un viaje que tiene solo una trayectoria, el futuro delante de nosotros. El poema es hermoso, maravilloso. Machado transmite este sentido de nostalgia y esperanza que no puedo expresar. De todos modos, espero que te haya ayudado a comprender este poema. Adiós*

## Section 3 – Writing in Spanish

### Question 7

Topic(s): the changing world; social issues

Text type: journal entry

Type of writing: personal

Suggested content:

- journal entry: date, place, time, structure (sequence of thought), opening, content, conclusion, register, style, layout
- use of stylistic features, such as interjections, suspension points, etc.
- personal writing style – that is, the author has a ‘conversation’ with himself or herself
- reference to the past 12 months the group has been volunteering at a Spanish restaurant in a retirement village for the elderly
- why this was a rewarding experience
- reflection on personal experiences related to the time.

Many students chose this question and there were many good pieces of writing.

### Question 8

Topic(s): the Spanish-speaking communities; social issues

Text type: television review

Type of writing: evaluative

Suggested content:

- television review: topic, structure, content, author, register, style, layout
- introduction, middle, conclusion
- approximately three positive points about reality shows and two negative points
- concluding statement
- evaluative writing.

### Question 9

Topic(s): the individual; my world in the past and the future

Text type: article

Type of writing: informative

Suggested content:

- article: title, content, author, register, style, layout
- introduction, middle, conclusion
- informative writing
- points about what to expect in Year 12
- unusual activities the former school has to offer
- concluding statement.

The following is a high-scoring response to Question 9.

*Como sobrevivir año 12 por un ex- estudiante*

*Bienvenido a la escuela. Siendo un nuevo estudiante, tendrás muchas preguntas acerca de la escuela y del año 12. Hace tres años, me encontré en la misma situación en la que estas tu ahora; confundido e incluso intimidado por el año 12. Ahora estudio en la universidad y puedo*

*decir con orgullo que sobreviví año 12. Este artículo servirá como una guía de lo que se puede esperar del año 12 y que se puede hacer para no solo sobrevivir, pero pasarlo bien.*

*Seguramente han escuchado que año 12 será el periodo más difícil y estresante de sus vidas. Esto es completamente falso. Año 12 no está diseñado para estresar a los estudiantes, como sugieren los mitos. La verdad es que la cantidad de trabajo en año 12 no es muy diferente a años anteriores y no es imposible balancear los estudios con una vida social u otras actividades extra-curriculares. Los estudiantes que más sufren en año 12 son los estudiantes más desorganizados, así que para sobrevivir esta etapa lo más importante es ser organizado y trabajar consistentemente durante el año escolar. No es necesario estudiar diez horas por día, basta con tener un horario razonable y seguirlo. Año 12 es difícil y tendrán que trabajar duro, pero si se mantienen motivados y organizados sobrevivirán sin problemas.*

*Ser organizado es importante, pero también es importante que se diviertan. Afortunadamente la escuela ofrece tres actividades poco usuales que son muy entretenidas. La primera es el club de películas. Se reúnen todas las semanas para ver todo tipo de películas y discutir acerca de sus películas favoritas.*

*La segunda es el club ninja. Suena extraño pero es muy divertido. Se juntan tres veces por semana y entrenan para ser ninjas. Es muy seguro y no hay peleas, solo juegos y rutinas que hay que seguir.*

*La tercera actividad es el club de magia. Es un club donde puedes ver trucos de magia de otros estudiantes y además te enseñan los mismos trucos.*

*Lo que tienen en común todos los grupos es que son una buena oportunidad para conocer a otros estudiantes con intereses similares. Es importante que sigan conociendo gente y siendo sociables porque año 12 puede ser difícil en ciertos momentos y es importante que tengan amigos para apoyarlos. Si desean unirse a un club, hablen con el director y él les dirá que hacer.*

*No se olviden de ser organizados y no sacrificar su vida social por los estudios. Año 12 será difícil, pero no imposible. Mucha suerte para el futuro.*

### **Question 10**

Topic(s): the Spanish-speaking communities; arts and entertainment

Text type: story

Type of writing: imaginative

Suggested content:

- format of a story suitable for students
- introduction, situation, complication, resolution, conclusion
- imaginative writing – engaging and relevant and appropriate for general public
- reference to reading a comic book and suddenly, magically, being able to immerse yourself in the story.

### **Question 11**

Topic(s): the changing world; environmental issues; Spanish-speaking communities; living in a Spanish-speaking community

Text type: formal letter

Type of writing: persuasive

Suggested content:

- form of a formal letter, containing personal details, title/heading, content (factual information), headings or subheadings, and suitable register, style and layout
- introduction, middle, conclusion
- persuasive language
- reference to being part of a volunteer group that runs a children's farm, and the city council wanting to take over the land to build apartments
- reference to trying to persuade the mayor to reconsider this decision, and reasons why he should suggest an alternative plan
- personal opinions; possibly examples of behaviour
- comparison of points that are positive and negative
- concluding judgment.