

# GCE Examiners' Report

Spanish

GCE

Summer 2025

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## Introduction

Our Principal Examiners' report provides valuable feedback on the recent assessment series. It has been written by our Principal Examiners and Principal Moderators after the completion of marking and moderation, and details how candidates have performed in each unit.

This report opens with a summary of candidates' performance, including the assessment objectives/skills/topics/themes being tested, and highlights the characteristics of successful performance and where performance could be improved. It then looks in detail at each unit, pinpointing aspects that proved challenging to some candidates and suggesting some reasons as to why that might be.<sup>1</sup>

The information found in this report provides valuable insight for practitioners to support their teaching and learning activity. We would also encourage practitioners to share this document – in its entirety or in part – with their learners to help with exam preparation, to understand how to avoid pitfalls and to add to their revision toolbox.

## Further support

Document	Description	Link
Professional Learning / CPD	WJEC offers an extensive programme of online and face-to-face Professional Learning events. Access interactive feedback, review example candidate responses, gain practical ideas for the classroom and put questions to our dedicated team by registering for one of our events here.	<a href="https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/professional-learning/">https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/professional-learning/</a>
Past papers	Access the bank of past papers for this qualification, including the most recent assessments. Please note that we do not make past papers available on the public website until 12 months after the examination.	<a href="#">Portal by WJEC</a> or on the WJEC subject page
Grade boundary information	<p>Grade boundaries are the minimum number of marks needed to achieve each grade.</p> <p>For unitted specifications grade boundaries are expressed on a Uniform Mark Scale (UMS). UMS grade boundaries remain the same every year as the range of UMS mark percentages allocated to a particular grade does not change. UMS grade boundaries are published at overall subject and unit level.</p> <p>For linear specifications, a single grade is awarded for the subject, rather than for each unit that contributes towards the overall grade. Grade boundaries are published on results day.</p>	For unitted specifications click here: <a href="#">Results, Grade Boundaries and PRS (wjec.co.uk)</a>

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

Exam Results Analysis	WJEC provides information to examination centres via the WJEC Portal. This is restricted to centre staff only. Access is granted to centre staff by the Examinations Officer at the centre.	<a href="#">Portal by WJEC</a>
Classroom Resources	Access our extensive range of FREE classroom resources, including blended learning materials, exam walk-throughs and knowledge organisers to support teaching and learning.	<a href="https://resources.wjec.co.uk/">https://resources.wjec.co.uk/</a>
Bank of Professional Learning materials	Access our bank of Professional Learning materials from previous events from our secure website and additional pre-recorded materials available in the public domain.	<a href="#">Portal by WJEC</a> or on the WJEC subject page.
Become an examiner with WJEC.	We are always looking to recruit new examiners or moderators. These opportunities can provide you with valuable insight into the assessment process, enhance your skill set, increase your understanding of your subject and inform your teaching.	<a href="#">Become an Examiner   WJEC</a>

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## Executive Summary

Overall, candidates were well prepared for the 2025 suite of examinations.

Unit 1 and 3 assessments in Wales are in the third year of being teacher-examiner conducted. There is useful guidance for centres available on the website to aid in conducting assessments, as well as a training resource from spring 2024 to further support centres. The Principal Examiner offers the following key observations and recommendations for improvement in the conduct of the assessment; candidates should be encouraged to engage in interactive dialogue rather than monologues to demonstrate their ability to sustain interaction throughout the conversation and candidates should be steered away from generic discussions which are not related to the Spanish speaking world. From an administrative perspective, centres are advised to use timers to ensure that the timings of the tests are accurate.

Accuracy has been cited as an area requiring improvement across all units. Principal Examiners have stated that increased accuracy, by way of competence in basic grammar, and knowledge of theme specific vocabulary are essential. Centres could use exemplar work to demonstrate the importance of accuracy and the impact it can have on overall marks by reviewing materials listed as classroom resources below.

In Unit 2, sections A & B, the listening and reading comprehensions were completed well on the whole. An improvement has been seen in the way the translation task has been dealt with; to further improve, candidates are strongly urged to read over their completed translations to ensure that it reads well in English/Welsh. Most candidates produced critical responses demonstrating clear planning and extensive knowledge, but a lack of accuracy impacted the quality of the response as a whole, as mentioned in previous reports. The best essays were within the word limit, addressed the question in the title and made good use of the *puntos de partida*.

Overall, candidates did well on the listening and reading sections of Unit 4. However, there continue to be issues around candidates lifting entire segments rather than successfully manipulating an element for their responses. Translation continued to be a challenge and increased knowledge of theme-based vocabulary and grammatical structures are cited as being important in facilitating improvement in this area. It is worth noting that candidates have become more confident in tweaking their translation or finding alternatives to unknown words.

In Unit 5, the paper functioned as planned and there were no emerging trends this series. The main points of guidance and advice from earlier reports remain valid. Candidate performance was in line with earlier series. Questions about all texts were answered and *La casa de Bernarda Alba* continues to be the most studied text, followed by *Como agua para chocolate*.

Areas for improvement	Classroom resources	Brief description of resource
Questioning techniques for Unit 1 and Unit 3 assessments.	Guidance for conducting speaking assessments. <a href="#">OER (Online Exam Review)</a> CPD material  On demand course from Spring 2024	Documents with administrative information on conducting the test and guidance on questioning technique for Units 1 & 3 ( <a href="#">NEA section of the website</a> )  Exemplar material.  In the on-demand courses section of the <a href="#">Training tab of the website</a>
Accuracy when producing Spanish.  Translation support.	<a href="#">Past Papers</a> <a href="#">Mark Schemes</a>  OER (Online Exam Review) CPD material Exam Walkthroughs	Previous responses from candidates / mark schemes.  Show the benefits of using the text as context for the translation task.

## Supporting you

### Useful contacts and links

Our friendly subject team is on hand to support you between 8.30am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Tel: 02922404296

Email: [languages@wjec.co.uk](mailto:languages@wjec.co.uk)

Qualification webpage: [AS/A Level Spanish](#)

See other useful contacts here: [Useful Contacts | WJEC](#)

### CPD Training / Professional Learning

Access our popular, free online CPD/PL courses to receive exam feedback and put questions to our subject team, and attend one of our face-to-face events, focused on enhancing teaching and learning, providing practical classroom ideas and developing understanding of marking and assessment.

Please find details for all our courses here: <https://www.wjec.co.uk/home/professional-learning/>

### WJEC Qualifications

As Wales' largest awarding body, WJEC supports its education community by providing trusted bilingual qualifications, specialist support, and reliable assessment to schools and colleges across the country. This allows our learners to reach their full potential.

With more than 70 years' experience, we are also amongst the leading providers in both England and Northern Ireland.



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