



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

Leaving Certificate 2026

Marking Scheme

Spanish

Higher Level

Note to teachers and students on the use of published marking schemes

Marking schemes published by the State Examinations Commission are not intended to be standalone documents. They are an essential resource for examiners who receive training in the correct interpretation and application of the scheme. This training involves, among other things, marking samples of student work and discussing the marks awarded, so as to clarify the correct application of the scheme. The work of examiners is subsequently monitored by Advising Examiners to ensure consistent and accurate application of the marking scheme. This process is overseen by the Chief Examiner, usually assisted by a Chief Advising Examiner. The Chief Examiner is the final authority regarding whether or not the marking scheme has been correctly applied to any piece of candidate work.

Marking schemes are working documents. While a draft marking scheme is prepared in advance of the examination, the scheme is not finalised until examiners have applied it to candidates' work and the feedback from all examiners has been collated and considered in light of the full range of responses of candidates, the overall level of difficulty of the examination and the need to maintain consistency in standards from year to year. This published document contains the finalised scheme, as it was applied to all candidates' work.

In the case of marking schemes that include model solutions or answers, it should be noted that these are not intended to be exhaustive. Variations and alternatives may also be acceptable. Examiners must consider all answers on their merits, and will have consulted with their Advising Examiners when in doubt.

Future Marking Schemes

Assumptions about future marking schemes on the basis of past schemes should be avoided. While the underlying assessment principles remain the same, the details of the marking of a particular type of question may change in the context of the contribution of that question to the overall examination in a given year. The Chief Examiner in any given year has the responsibility to determine how best to ensure the fair and accurate assessment of candidates' work and to ensure consistency in the standard of the assessment from year to year. Accordingly, aspects of the structure, detail and application of the marking scheme for a particular examination are subject to change from one year to the next without notice.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE HIGHER LEVEL

MARKING SCHEME

SPANISH 2026

PLEASE NOTE:

In reading this marking scheme, the following points should be noted:

A forward slash / before an answer indicates that the answer is synonymous with that which preceded it or is an alternative answer. Answers separated by a forward slash cannot therefore be taken as different answers.

A dash - before an answer indicates that the answer is a separate answer, which may be considered as independent of any other suggested answers to the question.

Rounded brackets () indicate material which is not considered to be essential in order to gain full marks.

Square brackets [] show a breakdown of marks within the question or give further clarifications for marks to be awarded for certain answers to that question.

Underlined words show an essential element.

N. B. In all Sections of the examination the answers given on the marking scheme should not be considered as the only possible answers that may be accepted. Answers which are synonymous with or equivalent to those on the published marking scheme are also acceptable.

In developing the marking scheme, the following should be noted:

- *In many cases only key phrases are given which contain information and ideas that must appear in the candidate's answer in order to merit the assigned marks.*
- *The descriptions, methods and definitions in the scheme are not exhaustive and alternative valid answers are acceptable.*
- *The detail required in any answer is determined by the context and the manner in which the question is asked, and by the number of marks assigned to the answer in the examination paper. Requirements and mark allocations may, therefore, vary from year to year.*
- *Words, expressions or phrases must be correctly used in context and not contradicted, and where there is evidence of incorrect use or contradiction, the marks may not be awarded.*

Annotations used in the marking

Not all responses are annotated.

Annotation	Meaning
/	Identifying end of point
[	Beginning of discounted point
]	End of discounted point
-	Omitted point
✓	Material seen by examiner
⋈	Blank page
MMS	Modified Marking Scheme applied

Total Mark: 300

Grade	minimum mark
1	270
2	240
3	210
4	180
5	150
6	120
7	90
8	0

SECTION A (70 MARKS)

Questions must be answered in the language indicated on the examination paper for full marks.

1. (a) Prescribed literature – *El medallón perdido* (50 marks)

Q. 1 3 × 3m = 9 marks

[No marks awarded if extra words are added or omitted. Exact transcription required]

- (a) *regresado* (3m)
- (b) *seguramente* (3m)
- (c) *se quedó* (3m)

Q. 2 3 × 3m = 9 marks

[Correct tense required for full marks]

- (a) ...only his clothes had been divided out among some of the men of the village (3m)
- (b) ... without knowing very well what the whole ritual means ... (3m)
- (c) ... it was going to be my room during my stay in Gabon ... (3m)

Q. 3 4 + 3 + 3m = 10 marks

[First correct answer=4m]

Three of:

- photos of his father's childhood with his uncle and grandparents
- a large photo of his father with the famous leopard
- a photo of his father's wedding to his mother
- a photo of him as a baby in his father's arms (throwing him into the air)
- a photo of his First Communion (4+3+3m)

Q. 4 4 + 3 + 3m = 10 marks

[First correct answer=4m]

Three of:

- they were almost empty
- only a few/dispersed papers remained
- letters from his mother
- a letter from Benjamin with childhood writing
- a drawing that he had done in school for Father's Day (4+3+3m)

Q. 5 4 + 4 + 4m = 12 marks

Discussion on any **three** relevant points.

[No marks awarded for answers supported by reference to the extract] (12m)

1. (b) Journalistic Text: SUPER MARIO: EL REY DE LOS CRUCEROS

(50 marks)

Q. 1 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4m = 20 marks

(a) He has been living on cruise ships for (more than) 25 years and he has no intention of changing his life(style) **(4m)**

(b) He (decided that he) was fed up of suits/ties/airports and he left it all to create his own business **(4m)**

(c) Two of:

- going for walks on the ship
- tasting (quality) food
- looking at the shows
- chatting with the other passengers

(2+2m)

(d) He doesn't (have to) do (household) chores **[2m]** like **two of: [1+1m]**

- taking out the rubbish
- sweeping the floors
- cutting the grass

(2+1+1m)

(e) Two of:

- loss of balance
- lack of concentration
- tiredness
- anxiety

(2+2m)

Q. 2 4 + 4+ 4m = 12 marks

[No marks awarded if words are added or omitted. Exact transcription required]

(a) *hace a las personas felices* **(4m)**

(b) *en torno a* **(4m)**

(c) *la tripulación* **(4m)**

Q. 3 4 + 4+ 4m = 12 marks

[Correct tense required for full marks]

(a) ... in a finance company situated in ... **(4m)**

(b) ... while he continues with his job and runs his business... **(4m)**

(c) ... they treat me like royalty **(4m)**

Q.4 (6 marks)

[Any mark from 0 to 6 may be awarded for this question. No marks for answers in English]

2. (a) AND (b) = 20 marks

(a) LA TORTILLA DE PATATA, ¿CON CEBOLLA O SIN CEBOLLA? (10 marks)

(i) Whether the Spanish/potato omelette should contain onion or not (3m)

(ii) **Four of:**

- hot
 - cold
 - (as a) *tapa*
 - (a) main dish
 - (in a) sandwich
- (1+1+1+1m)

(iii) In the 18th century when it was a nutritious food for workers (in the fields) (3m)

(b) ISABEL ALLENDE YA TIENE SU PROPIA BARBIE (10 marks)

(i) **Two of:**

[First correct answer = 2m]

- a red dress
 - gold earrings
 - black/high-heeled shoes
- (2+1m)

(ii) She is the first Mexican woman to travel into space (3m)

(iii) **One of:**

- We learn how to connect with others
 - (We learn) lessons about life
- (4m)

SECTION B (100 MARKS)

Questions must be answered in the language indicated on the examination paper for full marks.

¿VALE LA PENA ESTUDIAR UN SEGUNDO IDIOMA?

Q. 1 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3m = 15 marks

[No marks awarded if words are added or omitted. Exact transcription required]

- (a) *cifra* (3m)
- (b) *destreza necesaria* (3m)
- (c) *a menudo* (3m)
- (d) *abandonar la ambición* (3m)
- (e) *poco convencional* (3m)

Q. 2 5 + 5 + 5m = 15 marks

[Correct tense required for full marks]

- (a) Even though I tried to avoid it ... (5m)
- (b) ...he didn't mind making a fool of himself (5m)
- (c) Later by way of his job as a journalist (5m)

Q. 3 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1m = 5 marks

[No marks awarded if words are added or omitted. Exact transcription required]

- (a) *en cambio* (1m)
- (b) *oportunidad* (1m)
- (c) *lograr* (1m)
- (d) *fallos* (1m)
- (e) *simpatía* (1m)

Q. 4 (2+2+2) + (2+2+2) + (1+1+1) = 15 marks

- (a)
 - they have an obstacle learning another language
 - they find it hard to motivate themselves
 - (they tend to) be lazy (2+2+2m)
- (b)
 - it improves academic performance
 - it avoids future memory problems
 - it is like having a gym for the brain (2+2+2m)
- (c)
 - he didn't attend any classes
 - he watched cartoons
 - he went out to parties (1+1+1m)

Section B: Question 5**TOTAL MARKS: 50**

Guidelines for Marking Q.5 (Linked Question)

1. CONTENT/COMMUNICATION**25 marks****TOP**

High level of coherence
Clear argumentation
Communicative intention fulfilled
Little or no irrelevant material

18 – 25 marks**MIDDLE**

Reasonable level of coherence
Comprehensible to Spanish speaker
Communicative intention more or less fulfilled
Some irrelevant material

9 – 17 marks**BOTTOM**

Lack of coherence
Spanish speaker would have difficulty understanding
Communicative intention not fulfilled
A lot of irrelevant material

0 – 8 marks**2. LANGUAGE****25 marks****TOP**

Idiomatic Spanish
Good level of vocabulary
Few grammatical/spelling mistakes
Correct usage of tenses

18 – 25 marks**MIDDLE**

Vocabulary quite good - generally adequate and appropriate
Verbs generally correct
Not too many spelling/grammatical mistakes

9 – 17 marks**BOTTOM**

Problems with vocabulary – limited range of vocabulary
Most verbs incorrect
Many spelling mistakes

0 – 8 marks**Note:**

Where no marks are awarded for Content 1, (i.e. effort totally irrelevant), no marks will be awarded for Language 2.

No marks will be awarded for phrases taken directly from the text.

SECTION C**TOTAL MARKS: 50**

Candidates are required to attempt either Q1 (a) or 1 (b) AND either Q2 (a) or 2 (b)

Guidelines for Section C

- Should a candidate answer parts (a) **and** (b) of Question 1 **or** Question 2, **both** must be marked and marks will be awarded **only** for the higher scoring of the two.
- Minor inaccuracies (i.e. which do not distort 'message') should be ignored.
- Verbs must be correct for full marks.

N.B.: In any part of written production the same mistake will not be penalised twice.

Question 1: When marking this question – either (a) or (b) – the priorities indicated for Content and Language in Section B, Q.5. should be broadly adhered to.

Question 1 (a)**DIALOGUE CONSTRUCTION****30 marks**

Allow a maximum of **6** marks each.

(5 x 6m = 30 marks)**OR****Question 1 (b)****LETTER / EMAIL****30 marks**

- There are **five** points to be made.
- Allow a maximum of **6** marks each.
- Note that each point should be developed and expanded.
- Letter/email can be **loosely** based on the suggestions given.
- Candidates can make their own relevant points and need not use the prompts given.

(5 x 6m = 30 marks)**Criteria for Question 1 (a) DIALOGUE and (b) LETTER****TOTAL MARKS: 30 MARKS (Mark each 'turn' individually)**

6 marks:	Communicative intention fulfilled. Verbs must be correct for full marks.
4 - 5 marks:	Communicative intention more or less fulfilled. Verbs generally correct.
2 - 3 marks:	Some communicative intention fulfilled. Quite a few grammatical errors and spelling mistakes. Incorrect verb usage/ tenses wrong.
1 mark:	Very small part of communicative intention fulfilled.
0 marks:	No communication of message.

Question 2 (a)**DIARY ENTRY****20 marks**

There are **four** points to be communicated. Allow maximum of **5** marks each. **(4 x 5m = 20 marks)**
Development of points not necessarily essential.

OR

Question 2 (b)**NOTE****20 marks**

There are **four** points to be communicated. Allow maximum of **5** marks each. **(4 x 5m = 20 marks)**
Development of points not necessarily essential.

Criteria for Question 2 (a) DIARY and (b) NOTE

TOTAL MARKS:	20 MARKS	(Mark each point individually)
5 marks	Communicative intention fulfilled. Verbs correct.	
4 marks	Communicative intention more or less fulfilled. Verbs generally correct.	
3 marks	Communicative intention more or less fulfilled. There may be a few grammatical errors & spelling mistakes.	
2 marks	Some communicative intention fulfilled. Quite a few grammatical errors & spelling mistakes.	
1 mark	Very small amount of message conveyed.	
0 marks	Message not communicated.	

LISTENING COMPREHENSION (80 MARKS)

All answers must be in English.

If the entire test/section is answered in Spanish: mark as per Marking Scheme and award half of the marks gained.

1. UNA NUEVA ASIGNATURA SOBRE LAS EMERGENCIAS

3 + 3 + 3 marks = 9 marks

- (a) It will help to avoid worry and stress (3m)
- (b) Two of: floods/fires/earthquakes (2+1m)
[First correct answer=2m]
- (c) We must follow the advice of the authorities (3m)

2. ENTREVISTA CON LA BAILARINA MARIANELA NUÑEZ

3 + 3 + 2 + 4 marks = 12 marks

- (a) She hurt her left ankle (3m)
- (b) To bring her to dance classes instead of to football (matches) (3m)
- (c) One of:
- find/rent a house
- getting used to the fog (2m)
- (d) One of:
- she forgets about her life
- she thinks about the character (4m)

3. HABLANDO CON LUIS GARCÍA, ORGANIZADOR DE LA FÓRMULA 1

3 + 3 + 3 + (2+2) marks = 13 marks

- (a) In 2017 when he attended one of the Italian races (3m)
- (b) One of:
- it will host the Formula 1
- it is (the biggest) event centre in Spain
- (situated to the) Northeast of Madrid (3m)
- (c) They will arrive by metro/bus and (they will cause) less traffic (jams) (3m)
- (d) 450 million euro; 8,200 jobs (2+2m)

4. 25 AÑOS DEL PERIÓDICO '20 MINUTOS'
3 + 4 + 2 + (1+1+1+1) marks = 13 marks

- (a) **One of:**
- (it is a) free (newspaper)
- (it is) on the street (at rush hour) **(3m)**
- (b) **One of:**
- (the use of) mobile phones in class
- the cost of mortgages **(4m)**
- (c) The digital editions (came out) for Colombia/Mexico/USA **(2m)**
- (d) Everyday topics; science; sport; social equality **(1+1+1+1m)**

5. UN EVENTO CULTURAL
2 + 3 + 4 + (2+2) marks = 13 marks

- (a) Raise awareness/appreciate the culture **(2m)**
- (b) (There are) visits to museums/ churches/libraries (for just one night) **(3m)**
- (c) **One of:**
- craft workshop
- observation of the sky **(4m)**
- (d) **Two of:**
- (garlic) soup
- (roast) meat
- (seasonal) vegetables **(2+2m)**

6. EL TIEMPO
3 + (1+1+1) + 2 marks = 8 marks

- (a) Showers, possibility of hail **(3m)**
- (b) **Three of:**
- stable
- weak winds
- winds from the west
- no great temperature changes
- max 27 degrees
- min 18 degrees **(1+1+1m)**
- (c) The first heatwave **(2m)**

7. LOS EFECTOS DE ATRASAR LA HORA
4 + (1+1+1) + 3 + 2 marks = 12 marks

- (a) Take (more) advantage of daylight and save energy (4m)
- (b) Sleep; appetite; wellbeing (1+1+1m)
- (c) Going to bed earlier (the days before the change) (3m)
- (d) One of:
- spend time outside
- (at least) be near a window (2m)

9+12+13+13+13+8+12 = 80 marks

APPENDIX ONE

REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS & MODIFIED MARKING SCHEME

A modified marking scheme is applied to the work submitted by candidates who have been granted one or a combination of the following arrangements:

- *A recorded version of written work.*
- *Use of a computer with the spell-check facility enabled.*
- *Use of a scribe.*
- *Waiver in relation to spelling and grammar*

For those candidates who are granted a spelling and grammar waiver, errors in certain grammatical areas are not penalised. In assessing the work of these candidates, a modified marking scheme will apply.

Aural

As this part of the examination is answered in English/Irish there is no special consideration given, as incorrect spelling and grammar are not penalised in the standard marking scheme.

Sections A and B

For questions that are answered in Spanish, incorrect spelling and certain elements of grammar such as verb endings and agreement of adjectives will not be penalised.

Section B Question 5

Content and communication will be marked as standard, but incorrect spelling, such as missing or incorrect accents, and elements of grammar, such as verb endings and agreement of adjectives will not be penalised.

Section C

Content and communication will be marked as standard, but incorrect spelling, such as missing or incorrect accents, and elements of grammar, such as verb endings and agreement of adjectives will not be penalised.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE SPANISH 2026 AURAL TRANSCRIPT

1. ANUNCIO: UNA NUEVA ASIGNATURA SOBRE LAS EMERGENCIAS

Los colegios españoles tendrán una nueva asignatura. Además de estudiar asignaturas tradicionales como Matemáticas, Inglés o Geografía, los alumnos también estudiarán cómo actuar en las situaciones de emergencia. Los profesores están contentos de enseñar esta asignatura porque ayudará a evitar la preocupación y el estrés.

La asignatura explica cómo reaccionar ante emergencias como inundaciones, incendios y terremotos.

En las escuelas primarias habrá dos horas de clase a la semana con vídeos y juegos.

Ayer, el presidente del gobierno, Pedro Sánchez, visitó un colegio nuevo en Málaga. Dijo que durante las emergencias hay que seguir los consejos de las autoridades.

2. DIÁLOGO: ENTREVISTA CON LA BAILARINA MARIANELA NUÑEZ

Hola Marianela, ¿cómo estás?

Bueno, a decir verdad, ¡no estoy muy bien hoy! Anoche, me hice daño en el tobillo izquierdo en el escenario.

¡Qué pena! Háblanos más de ti.

Nací en Argentina y soy una de las bailarinas principales en el Royal Ballet de Londres. Tengo tres hermanos mayores y estoy muy mimada. A mi madre le hacía ilusión llevarme a clases de baile en vez de a partidos de fútbol.

PAUSA

¿Desde cuándo vives en Londres?

Hace 28 años que vivo en Londres. Al principio fue muy difícil encontrar una casa para alquilar y acostumbrarme a la niebla. Ahora me gusta la vida inglesa.

¿Qué haces en tu tiempo libre?

Me encanta salir cuando puedo, pero lo que más me gusta es leer porque me olvido de mi vida y pienso en el personaje.

3. DIÁLOGO: HABLANDO CON LUIS GARCÍA, ORGANIZADOR DE LA FÓRMULA 1

Luis, ¡cuéntanos todo!

Vale. La Fórmula 1 se celebrará en IFEMA en Madrid a mediados de septiembre del año que viene. Se me ocurrió la idea de traerla a Madrid en 2017 cuando asistí a una de las carreras italianas.

¿Qué es IFEMA?

IFEMA es el mayor centro de eventos de España, situado al noreste de Madrid. Estoy muy orgulloso de poder traer la Fórmula 1 a la capital de nuevo.

PAUSA

El transporte público es fundamental, ¿no?

Por supuesto, será la Fórmula 1 mejor conectada del campeonato gracias a su proximidad con el aeropuerto y su acceso a una amplia red de transporte público. Se cree que el 90% de los aficionados llegarán en metro o en autobús y así, causarán menos atascos.

¿Cómo beneficiará a Madrid económicamente?

Bueno, económicamente, se estima que el evento generará 450 millones de euros con la creación de 8.200 empleos. Todos tenemos ganas de empezar ya.

4. DESCRIPTIVO: 25 AÑOS DEL PERIÓDICO '20 MINUTOS'

El periódico '20 minutos' celebra su primer cuarto de siglo. Es un diario que se lee muy rápido, de hecho, ¡en veinte minutos! La idea es muy sencilla porque es un periódico gratuito, en la calle, a la hora punta. En el año 2000, el mundo no era tan diferente. En su primer día los titulares del periódico hablaron sobre el uso del móvil en clase y el precio de las hipotecas.

PAUSA

El periódico ha sido todo un éxito siendo el diario más leído del país con casi tres millones de lectores al día. También tiene presencia en Internet. En 2012, aparecieron las ediciones digitales para Colombia, México y Estados Unidos.

Los artículos en forma de blog son muy populares. Los blogueros escriben sobre temas cotidianos como la ciencia, el deporte y la igualdad social.

5. DESCRIPTIVO: UN EVENTO CULTURAL

Cada otoño, se celebra un evento cultural de forma simultánea en las quince ciudades Patrimonio de la Humanidad de España. El objetivo principal es concienciar sobre la cultura que debemos apreciar. Durante el evento, en los cascos históricos, por una sola noche hay visitas a museos, iglesias, y bibliotecas. Según la Ministra de Cultura será una cita inolvidable.

PAUSA

Hay actividades gratuitas para todas las edades, por ejemplo, conciertos, poesía y teatro. En Úbeda la programación incluye un taller de artesanía y una observación del cielo. En Cáceres, hay una exposición de artistas locales. Mientras, en Ávila hay una ruta gastronómica con especialidades como la sopa de ajo, la carne asada y las verduras de temporada.

6. EL TIEMPO

Pronóstico para hoy, viernes, 19 de junio.
En Cantabria se esperan chubascos con la posibilidad de granizo.
En el País Vasco, estará nublado durante todo el día.
En la costa mediterránea se prevé tiempo estable con vientos flojos del oeste.
Las temperaturas para el fin de semana no experimentarán grandes cambios, con máximas de 27 grados y mínimas de 18 grados.
La pregunta clave es, ¿cómo será este verano? A finales de mes, se espera la primera ola de calor.

7. UNA NOTICIA: LOS EFECTOS DE ATRASAR LA HORA

Cada vez que llega la última semana de octubre las personas que viven en España repiten la misma operación. Atrasan la hora del reloj para aprovechar mejor la luz del día y ahorrar energía. Entre las personas más afectadas están incluidos los niños, los ancianos y las personas con enfermedades, ya que este ajuste puede alterar nuestro 'reloj biológico' afectando el sueño, el apetito y el bienestar.

PAUSA

Para reducir el impacto, hay algunos consejos. Primero, se debe comer más fruta como plátanos, naranjas, uvas y manzanas. Los expertos recomiendan acostarse más temprano los días previos al cambio. Según un estudio reciente, para los adolescentes en particular, es importante pasar tiempo al aire libre o por lo menos, acercarse a una ventana.

