

AQA

New specification mark schemes
(all skills)

First exams from 2026

4.2 Assessment objectives

Assessment objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all GCSE Spanish specifications and all exam boards.

The exams will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

- AO1: understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing
- AO2: understand and respond to written language in speaking and in writing
- AO3: demonstrate understanding and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification.

4.2.1 Assessment objective weightings for GCSE Spanish

Assessment objectives (AOs)	Component weightings (approx %)				Overall weighting (approx %)
	Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 4: Writing	
AO1	22.5	12.5			35
AO2		7.5	25	12.5	45
AO3	2.5	5		12.5	20
Overall weighting of components	25	25	25	25	100

4.3 Assessment weightings

The marks awarded on the papers will be scaled to meet the weighting of the components. Students' final marks will be calculated by adding together the scaled marks for each component. Grade boundaries will be set using this total scaled mark. The scaling and total scaled marks are shown in the table below.

4.3.1 Foundation tier

Component	Maximum raw mark	Scaling factor	Maximum scaled mark
Paper 1 (Listening)	40	x1.25	50
Paper 2 (Speaking)	50	x1	50
Paper 3 (Reading)	50	x1	50
Paper 4 (Writing)	50	x1	50
Total scaled mark:			200

4.3.2 Higher tier

Component	Maximum raw mark	Scaling factor	Maximum scaled mark
Paper 1 (Listening)	50	x1	50
Paper 2 (Speaking)	50	x1	50
Paper 3 (Reading)	50	x1	50
Paper 4 (Writing)	50	x1	50
Total scaled mark:			200

Section A: Listening comprehension

See the mark scheme published each year for details of how marks are awarded.

Section B: Dictation

The dictation is assessed for Communication of meaning (AO1) (4 marks) and Transcription and grammatical accuracy (AO3) (4 marks) as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark for Section B is 8. When awarding the marks for AO1 and AO3, the student's response across all the spoken extracts should be considered as a whole.

Level	Mark	AO1
4	4	The meaning of the spoken extracts is always or almost always communicated clearly.
3	3	The meaning of the spoken extracts is mostly communicated.
2	2	The meaning of the spoken extracts is sometimes communicated.
1	1	The meaning of the spoken extracts is rarely communicated.
0	0	The meaning of the spoken extracts communicated does not meet the standard for Level 1 at this tier.

Level	Mark	AO3
4	4	Words are frequently transcribed correctly with a good level of grammatical accuracy.
3	3	Words are generally transcribed correctly with a reasonable level of grammatical accuracy.
2	2	Words are occasionally transcribed correctly with a limited level of grammatical accuracy.

Level	Mark	AO3
1	1	Words are very rarely transcribed correctly with a very limited level of grammatical accuracy.
0	0	Transcription and grammatical accuracy do not meet the standard for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

A mark of zero for AO1 automatically results in a mark of zero for AO3, but apart from that, the AO1 mark does not limit the mark for AO3.

Please see the mark scheme for more guidance on application of the assessment criteria.

4.8.1.2 Higher tier

Section A: Listening comprehension

See the mark scheme published each year for details of how marks are awarded.

Section B: Dictation

The dictation is assessed for Communication of meaning (AO1) (5 marks) and Transcription and grammatical accuracy (AO3) (5 marks) as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark for Section B is 10. When awarding the marks for AO1 and AO3, the student's response across all the spoken extracts should be considered as a whole.

Level	Mark	AO1
5	5	The meaning of the spoken extracts is communicated very clearly throughout.
4	4	The meaning of the spoken extracts is almost always communicated clearly.
3	3	The meaning of the spoken extracts is mostly communicated.
2	2	The meaning of the spoken extracts is sometimes communicated.
1	1	The meaning of the spoken extracts is rarely communicated.
0	0	The meaning of the spoken extracts communicated does not meet the standard for Level 1 at this tier.

Level	Mark	AO3
5	5	Words are always or nearly always transcribed correctly with a very high level of grammatical accuracy.
4	4	Words are frequently transcribed correctly with a good level of grammatical accuracy.
3	3	Words are generally transcribed correctly with a reasonable level of grammatical accuracy.
2	2	Words are occasionally transcribed correctly with a limited level of grammatical accuracy.
1	1	Words are very rarely transcribed correctly with a very limited level of grammatical accuracy.

Level	Mark	AO3
0	0	Transcription and grammatical accuracy do not meet the standard for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

A mark of zero for AO1 automatically results in a mark of zero for AO3, but apart from that, the AO1 mark does not limit the mark for AO3.

Please see the mark scheme for more guidance on application of the assessment criteria.

4.8.2 Paper 2: Speaking

Marks will be allocated in the following way at both Foundation and Higher tier:

	A01	A02	A03	Total
Role-play		10		10
Reading aloud task	10		5	15
Discussion of Photo card	15	5	5	25
Total	25	15	10	50

Part 1: Role-play (10 marks)

There are five tasks for the Role-play, each of which will be awarded up to 2 marks for AO2.

For each task:

Mark	AO2
2	The message is conveyed without ambiguity.
1	The message is partially conveyed or conveyed with some ambiguity.
0	No part of the message is conveyed.

Notes

- Where students are required to give two responses or details in one task, failure to convey an unambiguous message in reply to one of them means that the message is partially conveyed and one mark is awarded.
- The tasks on the Candidate's card and the notes in the Teacher's Booklet clearly explain how much detail the student is expected to give per task. However, some students may still go beyond the minimum requirement of the task. When this happens, as soon as the task is accomplished, any further incorrect information given by the student is ignored for assessment purposes.

Part 2: Reading aloud (15 marks)

This part of the test is divided into two sections:

- reading aloud of a text
- answering four compulsory questions specified in the Teacher's Booklet.

Reading aloud of the text (5 marks A03)

Reading aloud of the text is marked according to the following criteria.

Level	Mark	A03
5	5	There may be minor errors and a few major errors in pronunciation.
4	4	There are regular minor and some major errors in pronunciation.
3	3	There are frequent minor and frequent major errors in pronunciation.
2	2	Pronunciation is rarely accurate.
1	1	Pronunciation is very rarely accurate.
0	0	Does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- A major error is one which adversely affects communication.
- A minor error is one which does not affect communication.

Response to compulsory questions (10 marks A01)

Level	Mark	A01
5	9–10	• All questions are answered clearly. • At least two answers have an extended response and at least one other is developed well.
4	7–8	• At least three questions are answered clearly. • One answer has an extended response and at least one other is developed well.
3	5–6	• At least two questions are answered clearly. • One answer is developed well and at least one other is developed minimally.
2	3–4	• At least two questions are answered understandably. • One answer is developed minimally.
1	1–2	• At least one question is answered understandably. • The answer(s) may be a very limited response.
0	0	Does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Part 3: Discussion of Photo card (25 marks)

This part of the test is divided into two sections:

- response to the content of the photos on the card
- unprepared conversation.

Response to content of the photos (5 marks A02)

Level	Mark	A02
5	5	• Quite a lot of information is conveyed. • Information may lack clarity from time to time.
4	4	• Some information is conveyed. • Information lacks clarity from time to time.
3	3	• Some information is conveyed. • Information lacks clarity from time to time and occasionally messages break down.
2	2	• Little information is conveyed. • Messages regularly break down.
1	1	• Very little information is conveyed. • Messages regularly break down or the very little language produced is barely understandable.
0	0	Does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- A02 marks are awarded for the student's response to the content of the photos, in reply to the teacher's prompt 'Tell me about the photos'. Students must talk about both photos, but coverage need not be equal. The minimum requirement for each photo is for students to say one thing.
- If a student only speaks about one photo, there is a deduction of one mark. So, if according to the criteria three marks would have been awarded, this is reduced to two. However, if the mark would have been one, no deduction is made.

Unprepared conversation (15 marks A01 and 5 marks A03)

Marks for A01 and for A03 are awarded based on the conversation following the student's response to the content of the photos.

A01 (15 marks)

Level	Mark	A01
5	13–15	• Quite a lot of information is conveyed. • Regular good development of responses. • Information may lack clarity from time to time.

Level	Mark	A01
4	10–12	• Some information is conveyed. • Some good development and regular minimal development of responses. • Information lacks clarity from time to time.
3	7–9	• Some information is conveyed. • Regular minimal development of responses. • Information lacks clarity from time to time and occasionally messages break down.
2	4–6	• Little information is conveyed. • Limited responses with occasional minimal development. • Messages regularly break down.
1	1–3	• Very little information is conveyed. • Limited responses. • Messages regularly break down or hardly anything is said.
0	0	Does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

A03 (5 marks)

Level	Mark	A03
5	5	• Good variety of vocabulary and structures, but with some repetition. • There may be frequent minor errors. Some major errors may occur even in basic language.
4	4	• Some variety of vocabulary and structures, but with regular repetition. • Frequent minor errors and some major errors in most responses to questions.
3	3	• Limited variety of vocabulary and structures with regular repetition. • Very frequent minor and frequent major errors in most responses to questions.
2	2	• Very limited variety of vocabulary and structures with regular repetition. • Very frequent minor and very frequent major errors in nearly all responses to questions.
1	1	• Hardly any variety of vocabulary and structures. • Minor and major errors in all responses to questions.
0	0	The language does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- A mark of zero for A01 automatically results in a mark of zero for A03, but, apart from that, the A01 mark does not limit the mark for A03.
- A major error is one which adversely affects communication.
- A minor error is one which does not affect communication.

More guidance on application of the assessment criteria can be found in the mark scheme for Paper 2.

4.8.2.2 Higher tier

Part 1: Role-play (10 marks)

There are five tasks for the Role-play, each of which will be awarded up to 2 marks for AO2.

For each task:

Mark	AO2
2	The message is conveyed without ambiguity.
1	The message is partially conveyed or conveyed with some ambiguity.
0	No part of the message is conveyed.

Notes

- Where students are required to give two responses or details in one task, failure to convey an unambiguous message in reply to one of them means that the message is partially conveyed and one mark is awarded.
- The tasks on the Candidate's card and the notes in the Teacher's Booklet clearly explain how much detail the student is expected to give per task. However, some students may still go beyond the minimum requirement of the task. When this happens, as soon as the task is accomplished, any further incorrect information given by the student is ignored for assessment purposes.

Part 2: Reading aloud task (15 marks)

This part of the test is divided into two sections:

- reading aloud of a text
- answering four compulsory questions specified in the Teacher's role.

Reading aloud of the text (5 marks A03)

Reading aloud of the text is marked according to the following criteria.

Level	Mark	A03
5	5	Pronunciation is always or nearly always accurate but there may be an occasional minor error.
4	4	There are a few minor errors in pronunciation.
3	3	There are some minor errors and very occasional major errors in pronunciation.
2	2	There are minor errors and a few major errors in pronunciation.

Level	Mark	A03
1	1	There are regular minor and some major errors in pronunciation.
0	0	Does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- A major error is one which adversely affects communication.
- A minor error is one which does not affect communication.

Response to compulsory questions (10 marks A01)

Level	Mark	A01
5	9–10	• All questions are answered clearly. • At least two answers have an extended response and at least one other is developed well.
4	7–8	• At least three questions are answered clearly. • One answer has an extended response and at least one other is developed well.
3	5–6	• At least two questions are answered clearly. • One answer is developed well and at least one other is developed minimally.
2	3–4	• At least two questions are answered understandably. • One answer is developed minimally.
1	1–2	• At least one question is answered understandably. • The answer(s) may be a very limited response.
0	0	Does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Part 3: Discussion of Photo card (25 marks)

This part of the test is divided into two sections:

- response to the content of the photos on the card
- unprepared conversation.

Response to the content of the photos (5 marks A02)

Level	Mark	A02
5	5	• A lot of information is conveyed. • Information is always conveyed clearly.
4	4	• A lot of information is conveyed. • Information is nearly always conveyed clearly.
3	3	• Quite a lot of information is conveyed. • Information is nearly always conveyed clearly.
Level	Mark	A02
2	2	• Quite a lot of information is conveyed. • Information may lack clarity from time to time.
1	1	• Some information is conveyed. • Information lacks clarity from time to time.
0	0	Does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- A02 marks are awarded for the student's response to the content of the photos, in reply to the teacher's prompt 'Tell me about the photos'. Students must talk about both photos, but coverage need not be equal. The minimum requirement for each photo is for students to say one thing.
- If a student only speaks about one photo, there is a deduction of one mark. So, if according to the criteria three marks would have been awarded, this is reduced to two. However, if the mark would have been one, no deduction is made.

Unprepared conversation (15 marks A01 and 5 marks A03)

Marks for A01 and A03 are awarded based on the conversation following the student's response to the content of the photos.

A01 (15 marks)

Level	Mark	A01
5	13–15	• A lot of information is conveyed. • Consistent good development with regular extended responses. • Information is always or nearly always conveyed clearly.
4	10–12	• A lot of information is conveyed. • Consistent good development with some extended responses. • Information is conveyed clearly, but with occasional lapses.
3	7–9	• Quite a lot of information is conveyed. • Consistent good development with occasional extended responses. • Information is generally conveyed clearly.
2	4–6	• Quite a lot of information is conveyed. • Regular good development of responses. • Information may lack clarity from time to time.
1	1–3	• Some information is conveyed. • Some good development and regular minimal development of responses. • Information lacks clarity from time to time.
0	0	Does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

A03 (5 marks)

Level	Mark	A03
5	5	• Wide variety of vocabulary and structures. • There may be a few minor errors. Few or no major errors when more complex language is attempted.
4	4	• Very good variety of vocabulary and structures. • Some minor errors. Some major errors when more complex language is attempted.
3	3	• Good variety of vocabulary and structures, but with occasional repetition. • Quite a lot of minor errors. Occasional major errors, not only in attempts at more complex language.
2	2	• Good variety of vocabulary and structures, but with some repetition. • Frequent minor errors. Some major errors which occur even in basic language.
1	1	• Some variety of vocabulary and structures, but with regular repetition. • Frequent minor errors and some major errors in most responses to questions.
0	0	The language does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- A mark of zero for A01 automatically results in a mark of zero for A03, but, apart from that, the A01 mark does not limit the mark for A03.
- A major error is one which adversely affects communication.
- A minor error is one which does not affect communication.

More guidance on application of the assessment criteria can be found in the mark scheme for Paper 2.

4.8.3 Paper 3: Reading

See the mark scheme published each year for details of how marks are awarded for this question paper.

4.8.4 Paper 4: Writing

4.8.4.1 Foundation tier

Marks will be allocated in the following way at Foundation tier:

	A02: Understand and respond to written language in writing	A03: Demonstrate knowledge and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary	Total
Question 1	10		10
Question 2	5	5	10
Question 3		5	5
Question 4		10	10
Question 5	10	5	15
Total	25	25	50

In all questions, vocabulary and grammar which are not on the defined list will be given equal credit to items which are on it.

Question 1 (10 marks)

Students are required to write five sentences. Each sentence is marked separately for AO2 and is worth a maximum of two marks (10 marks in total), according to the following criteria. The whole sentence should be considered when awarding the mark.

Mark	AO2
2	The relevant message is clearly communicated.
1	The message is relevant but has some ambiguity and causes a delay in communication.
0	The message is irrelevant or cannot be understood.

Question 2 (10 marks)

There are five compulsory bullet points assessed for AO2 (5 marks) and AO3 (5 marks), as specified in the criteria below. The student is expected to produce approximately 50 words over the whole question. The number of words is approximate – demonstration of the mark descriptors is more important than the word count. Examiners will mark all work produced by the student, even if it is well beyond the suggested number of words.

Level	Mark	A02
5	5	• All five bullet points are covered. • Communication is clear.
4	4	• At least four bullet points are covered. • Communication is mostly clear. There are occasional lapses in clarity.
3	3	• At least three bullet points are covered. • Communication is generally clear. There are several lapses in clarity.

Level	Mark	A02
2	2	• At least two bullet points are covered. • Communication is sometimes clear. There are regular lapses in clarity.
1	1	• At least one bullet point is covered. • Communication is often not clear. There are many lapses in clarity.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

Notes

- All bullet points are compulsory and must be covered, but there is no need for equal coverage of the bullet points.
- When awarding a mark, all aspects of the descriptors must be considered and not only the number of bullet points covered.

Level	Mark	A03
5	5	• There is a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures. • There may be some errors, but these are minor.
4	4	• There is some variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures. • There are frequent minor errors but with an occasional major error.
3	3	• There is some attempt at a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures. • There are frequent minor errors, together with some major errors.
2	2	• There is use of limited or repetitive vocabulary and grammatical structures. • There are frequent minor errors and a number of major errors.
1	1	• There is little awareness of appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures. • There are errors in the vast majority of sentences.
0	0	The language does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- A mark of zero for AO2 automatically results in a mark of zero for AO3, but, apart from that, the AO2 mark does not limit the mark for AO3.
- A major error is one which adversely affects communication.
- A minor error is one which does not affect communication.

Question 3 (5 marks)

Students are required to complete five sentences by writing the correct word to complete the short sentence, using their knowledge of grammar. There are three words to choose from for each of the five sentences. There are 5 marks for AO3.

Please see the published mark scheme for each series for this question.

Question 4 (10 marks)

The translation is assessed for AO3 (10 marks) as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark for Question 4 is 10.

When awarding the mark for Grid one out of a maximum of five, the translation is divided into 15 elements as shown in the mark scheme for each exam series. A tick will be awarded for each element that is communicated, despite any minor inaccuracies. The number of ticks out of 15 in column 2 of Grid one below equates to a mark out of five in column 3.

Grid one: Rendering of the original meaning

Level	Number of ticks credited	Mark	A03
5	13–15	5	The meanings of all or nearly all elements of the original language are sufficiently rendered.
4	10–12	4	The meanings of most elements of the original language are sufficiently rendered.
3	7–9	3	The meanings of some elements of the original language are sufficiently rendered.
2	4–6	2	The meanings of few elements of the original language are sufficiently rendered.
1	1–3	1	The meanings of very few elements of the original language are sufficiently rendered.
0	0	0	No elements of the meanings of the original language are conveyed.

Once the mark for Grid one is awarded, a mark out of five is awarded for Grid two. This mark is based on the student's response across all five sentences as a whole.

Grid two: Knowledge of vocabulary and grammar

Level	Mark	A03
5	5	• Very good knowledge of the required vocabulary. Few if any inappropriate or omitted items. • Grammar is highly accurate and any errors that occur are only minor.
4	4	• Good knowledge of vocabulary. Some inappropriate or omitted items. • Grammar is generally accurate with regular minor errors.

Level	Mark	A03
3	3	• Satisfactory knowledge of vocabulary. Regular inappropriate or omitted items. • Grammar is more accurate than inaccurate. Regular major and minor errors.
2	2	• Limited knowledge of vocabulary. Many inappropriate or omitted items. • Grammar is generally inaccurate. Many major and minor errors.
1	1	• Very limited knowledge of vocabulary. Few appropriate items. • Grammar is highly inaccurate. Major and minor errors in all or almost all sentences.
0	0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- A mark of zero in Grid one automatically results in a mark of zero in Grid two, but apart from that, the 'Rendering of the original meaning' mark does not limit the mark for 'Knowledge of vocabulary and grammar'.
- A major error is one which adversely affects communication.
- A minor error is one which does not affect communication.

Question 5 (15 marks)

There are three compulsory bullet points, assessed for AO2 (10 marks) and AO3 (5 marks), as specified in the criteria below. The student is expected to produce approximately 90 words over the whole question. The number of words is approximate and demonstration of the mark descriptors is more important than the word count. Examiners will mark all work produced by the student even if it is well beyond the suggested number of words.

Level	Mark	AO2
5	9–10	- All three bullet points are covered. - Communication is clear. - Ideas are regularly developed with a lot of relevant information being conveyed.
4	7–8	- All three bullet points are covered. - Communication is mostly clear but perhaps with occasional lapses in clarity. - Ideas are often developed with quite a lot of relevant information being conveyed.
3	5–6	- At least two bullet points are covered. - Communication is generally clear but there are likely to be lapses in clarity. - A few ideas may be developed and some relevant information is conveyed.

Level	Mark	AO2
2	3–4	- At least one bullet point is covered. - Communication is sometimes clear and there are regular lapses in clarity. - Little relevant information is conveyed.
1	1–2	- At least one bullet point is covered. - Communication is often not clear and there are very many lapses in clarity. - Very little relevant information is conveyed.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

Notes

There may be some imbalance in the coverage of the three compulsory bullet points but, provided at least some coverage of all bullet points is evident, students will have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.

When awarding a mark, all aspects of the descriptors must be considered and not only the number of bullet points covered.

Level	Mark	AO3
5	5	- A good variety of vocabulary is used. - There are regular attempts at complexity of language and structure. - There are references to all three time frames which are mainly successful. - Any errors are mainly minor but some major errors may occur, particularly in complex structures and sentences.
4	4	- A variety of vocabulary is used. - There are some attempts at complexity of language and structure. - There are references to at least two different time frames which are mainly successful. - Errors are mainly minor but some major errors may occur.
3	3	- Some variety of vocabulary is used. - There may be occasional attempts at complexity of language and structure. - There are references to at least two different time frames, although these may not always be successful. - There may be some major errors, and minor errors occur regularly but overall the response is more accurate than inaccurate.

Level	Mark	AO3
2	2	- A limited variety of vocabulary is used. - The language is mainly simple but there may be some attempts at longer sentences with appropriate linking words. - There may be no successful references to different time frames. - There may be frequent major and minor errors and overall the response is generally inaccurate.
1	1	- The range of vocabulary is narrow and/or repetitive. - The language is simple and sentences are short or may not be properly constructed. - There are no successful references to different time frames. - There may be frequent major and minor errors and overall the response is highly inaccurate.
0	0	The language does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- A mark of zero for AO2 automatically results in a mark of zero for AO3. Apart from that, the AO2 mark does not limit the mark for AO3.
- A major error is one which adversely affects communication.
- A minor error is one which does not affect communication.

4.8.4.2 Higher tier

Marks will be allocated in the following way at Higher tier:

	A02: Understand and respond to written language in writing	A03: Demonstrate knowledge and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary	Total
Question 1		10	10
Question 2	10	5	15
Question 3	15	10	25
Total	25	25	50

In all questions, vocabulary and grammar which are not on the defined list will be given equal credit to items which are on it.

Question 1 (10 marks)

The translation is assessed for AO3 (10 marks) as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark for Question 1 is 10.

When awarding the mark for Grid one out of a maximum of five, the translation is divided into 15 elements as shown in the mark scheme for each exam series. A tick will be awarded for each

element that is communicated, despite any minor inaccuracies. The number of ticks out of 15 in column 2 of Grid one below equates to a mark out of five in column 3.

Grid one: Rendering of the original meaning

Level	Number of ticks credited	Mark	A03
5	13–15	5	The meanings of all or nearly all elements of the original language are sufficiently rendered.
4	10–12	4	The meanings of most elements of the original language are sufficiently rendered.
3	7–9	3	The meanings of some elements of the original language are sufficiently rendered.
2	4–6	2	The meanings of few elements of the original language are sufficiently rendered.
1	1–3	1	The meanings of very few elements of the original language are sufficiently rendered.
0	0	0	No elements of the meanings of the original language are conveyed.

Once the mark for Grid one is awarded, a mark out of five is awarded for Grid two. This mark is based on the student's response across all five sentences as a whole.

Grid two: Knowledge of vocabulary and grammar

Level	Mark	A03
5	5	• Very good knowledge of the required vocabulary. Few if any inappropriate or omitted items. • Grammar is highly accurate and any errors that occur are only minor.
4	4	• Good knowledge of vocabulary. Some inappropriate or omitted items. • Grammar is generally accurate with regular minor errors.
3	3	• Satisfactory knowledge of vocabulary. Regular inappropriate or omitted items. • Grammar is more accurate than inaccurate. Regular major and minor errors.
2	2	• Limited knowledge of vocabulary. Many inappropriate or omitted items. • Grammar is generally inaccurate. Many major and minor errors.

Level	Mark	A03
1	1	• Very limited knowledge of vocabulary. Few appropriate items. • Grammar is highly inaccurate. Major and minor errors in all or almost all sentences.
0	0	The language produced does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- A mark of zero in Grid one automatically results in a mark of zero in Grid two, but apart from that, the 'Rendering of the original meaning' mark does not limit the mark for Knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.
- A major error is one which adversely affects communication.
- A minor error is one which does not affect communication.

Question 2 (15 marks)

There are three compulsory bullet points assessed for AO2 (10 marks) and AO3 (5 marks), as specified in the criteria below. The student is expected to produce approximately 90 words over the whole question. The number of words is approximate – demonstration of the mark descriptors is more important than the word count. Examiners will mark all work produced by the student even if it is well beyond the suggested number of words.

All bullet points must be covered, but there is no need for equal coverage of the bullets.

Level	Mark	AO2
5	9–10	- All three bullet points are covered. - Communication is clear. - Ideas are regularly developed with a lot of relevant information being conveyed.
4	7–8	- All three bullet points are covered. - Communication is mostly clear but perhaps with occasional lapses in clarity. - Ideas are often developed with quite a lot of relevant information being conveyed.
3	5–6	- At least two bullet points are covered. - Communication is generally clear but there are likely to be lapses in clarity. - A few ideas may be developed and some relevant information is conveyed.
2	3–4	- At least one bullet point is covered. - Communication is sometimes clear and there are regular lapses in clarity. - Little relevant information is conveyed.

Level	Mark	AO2
1	1–2	- At least one bullet point is covered. - Communication is often not clear and there are very many lapses in clarity. - Very little relevant information is conveyed.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

Notes

There may be some imbalance in the coverage of the three compulsory bullet points but, provided at least some coverage of all bullet points is evident, students will have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.

When awarding a mark, all aspects of the descriptors must be considered and not only the number of bullet points covered.

Level	Mark	AO3
5	5	- A good variety of vocabulary is used. - There are regular attempts at complexity of language and structure. - There are references to all three time frames which are mainly successful. - Any errors are mainly minor but some major errors may occur, particularly in complex structures and sentences.
4	4	- A variety of vocabulary is used. - There are some attempts at complexity of language and structure. - There are references to at least two different time frames which are mainly successful. - Errors are mainly minor but some major errors may occur.
3	3	- Some variety of vocabulary is used. - There may be occasional attempts at complexity of language and structure. - There are references to at least two different time frames, although these may not always be successful. - There may be some major errors, and minor errors occur regularly but overall the response is more accurate than inaccurate.
2	2	- A limited variety of vocabulary is used. - The language is mainly simple but there may be some attempts at longer sentences with appropriate linking words. - There may be no successful references to different time frames. - There may be frequent major and minor errors and overall the response is generally inaccurate.

Level	Mark	AO3
1	1	- The range of vocabulary is narrow and/or repetitive. - The language is simple and sentences are short or may not be properly constructed. - There are no successful references to different time frames. - There may be frequent major and minor errors and overall the response is highly inaccurate.
0	0	The language does not meet the standard required for Level 1 at this tier.

Notes

- A mark of zero for AO2 automatically results in a mark of zero for AO3. Apart from that, the AO2 mark does not limit the mark for AO3.
- A major error is one which adversely affects communication.
- A minor error is one which does not affect communication.

For this question there are two compulsory bullet points, which are assessed for AO2 (15 marks), and AO3 (10 marks), as specified in the criteria below. The maximum mark for Question 3 is 25.

The student is expected to produce approximately 150 words over the whole question. The number of words is approximate – demonstration of the mark descriptors is more important than the word count. Examiners will mark all work produced by the student even if it is well beyond the suggested number of words.

Both bullet points must be covered, but there is no need for equal coverage of the bullets.

AO2

Level	Mark	AO2
5	13–15	- A lot of information is conveyed in relation to the task. - Regular successful development of ideas, accounts and/or description. - Communication is clear with very few or no lapses in clarity.
4	10–12	- Quite a lot of information is conveyed in relation to the task. - Regular attempts at development of ideas, accounts and/or description which are mostly successful. - Communication is mostly clear but there are a few lapses in clarity.
3	7–9	- An adequate amount of information is conveyed in relation to the task. - Some successful development of ideas, accounts and/or description. - Communication is usually clear but there are some lapses in clarity.

Level	Mark	AO2
2	4–6	- Some information is conveyed in relation to the task. - A little development of ideas, accounts and/or description. - Communication is sometimes unclear and there are regular lapses in clarity.
1	1–3	- A limited amount of information is conveyed in relation to the task. - Very limited or no development of ideas, accounts and/or description. - Communication is often unclear and there are frequent lapses in clarity.
0	0	The content does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

Notes

- There may be some imbalance in the coverage of the two compulsory bullet points but, provided at least some coverage of both bullet points is evident, students will have access to full marks where the other criteria are met.
- When awarding a mark, all aspects of the descriptors must be considered and not only the number of bullet points covered.
- A student who conveys information in relation to one bullet point can score a **maximum** of 12 marks for AO2.

AO3

In this question, the marks for AO3 are split between Range and use of language (Grid 1) and Accuracy (Grid 2). There is a maximum of five marks for each of these criteria, making a total of 10 marks for AO3 in this question.

The whole of the response must be assessed when awarding the marks for AO3, even if some of it is irrelevant to the bullet points.

Grid one: Range and use of language

Level	Mark	AO3 (Range and use of language)
5	5	- Very good variety of appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures. - Complex language is regularly attempted and is often successful.
4	4	- Good variety of appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures. - Complex language is regularly attempted and is generally successful.
3	3	- Some variety of appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures. - Complex language is occasionally attempted and is sometimes successful.

Level	Mark	AO3 (Range and use of language)
2	2	- Little variety of appropriate vocabulary and grammatical structures. - Short and simple structures are often used but there is also regular use of longer sentences, with linking words.
1	1	- Very little variety of appropriate vocabulary. - Structures used are mainly short and simple.
0	0	The range of language produced does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

Grid two: Accuracy

Level	Mark	AO3 (Accuracy)
5	5	- The response is usually accurate, although there may be occasional major and some minor errors, especially in attempts at more complex structures. - Verbs and tense formations are secure.
4	4	- The response is generally accurate with several major and minor errors, usually in attempts at more complex structures. - Verbs and tense formations are generally correct.
3	3	- The response is reasonably accurate. There are major and minor errors in both simple and complex structures. - Verb and tense formations are sometimes correct.
2	2	- The response is more inaccurate than accurate. There are frequent major and minor errors. - Verb and tense formations are often incorrect.
1	1	- The response is mostly inaccurate. There are major and minor errors in all sentences. - Verb and tense formations are nearly always incorrect.
0	0	The accuracy of language produced does not meet the standard required for a mark at this tier.

Notes

- A mark of zero for AO2 automatically results in a mark of zero for AO3. Apart from that, the AO2 mark does not limit the mark for AO3.
- A major error is one which adversely affects communication.
- A minor error is one which does not affect communication.

More guidance on application of the assessment criteria can be found in the mark scheme for Paper 4.