

3.1 Unit description

This unit requires students to demonstrate the effectiveness of their Spanish-language skills by presenting and taking a clear stance on **any** issue of their choice. They will be expected to interact effectively with the teacher/examiner, defend their views and sustain discussion as the teacher/examiner moves the conversation away from their chosen issue.

They will be expected to use the language of debate and argument to discuss the issue and will also be assessed for understanding as well as communication and quality of spoken language.

3.2 Assessment information

Format

This section attracts a maximum of **50 marks**.

Students will first need to outline their chosen issue for about **one** minute, adopting a definite stance towards the issue. They should then defend and justify their opinions for up to **four** minutes. The teacher/examiner* will then initiate a spontaneous discussion in which a minimum of two further unpredictable areas of discussion will be covered. These issues may or may not relate to the chosen issue but will not require specialised factual knowledge or relate to Spanish-language culture. This unit therefore assesses advanced-level understanding as well as speaking skills.

Students will be required to take into the examination a brief written statement on an *Oral chosen issue form* and may refer to this in the test. More details are available in the *GCE oral training guide*. For more information on this please visit the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com). The chosen issue does not have to relate to any of the general topic areas for this specification.

Centres will need to record the full assessment of all students and submit the recording(s) on CD or memory stick.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

*It is usual for teachers to conduct this assessment with their students during a timetabled assessment window in April/May, although Edexcel offers a visiting examiner facility for centres that have a minimum of ten AS and/or A2 students. For timetable and fee information, please consult the Edexcel website: www.edexcel.com.

Preparation

To prepare for this assessment, students should undertake research into their chosen issue. Students have a completely free choice of issue; it does not need to relate to the culture and/or society of a Spanish-language country or community nor to any of the Edexcel general topic areas.

In order to prepare for this unit, it is expected that students will refer to and study a range of different written and spoken Spanish language materials (recordings, press articles etc).

A statement of the chosen issue must be provided to the teacher/examiner in advance of the examination and this must accompany the recording when submitted to Edexcel. Students will be required to complete an *Oral chosen issue form* to facilitate this, available on the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com).

Time allocation

This is a qualitative assessment activity but should take no less than 11 minutes and no more than 13 minutes.

3.3 Content

Each student decides on the issue that they wish to present and defend. The issue does **not** have to relate to the Edexcel general topic areas or refer to the culture and/or society of a Spanish-language country or community.

This task should appeal to those who like to express their ideas and points of view as well as those who enjoy undertaking research.