

**2011 CAPE SPANISH**

**Unit 1 Paper 03 Section B Essay**

**Write an essay, in ENGLISH, of 350–400 words on ONE of the following themes. You MUST refer in detail to ONE named text. This text must NOT be the same one on which you answered in Section A. All quotations MUST be cited in SPANISH.**

**Question 7: The experiences of adolescence can cause much emotional turmoil. Discuss.**

In the novel, Felices Días Tío Sergio, adolescent characters go through a series of trials and rigors that though common to ~~a~~ most adolescents still cause much pain and sorrow. The main character, Lidia, exemplifies this the most as she goes through her adolescent stage. ~~The description~~ <sup>vivid descriptions</sup> she gives of the ~~heaviness~~ <sup>weight</sup> of heart and trouble in spirit she faces when puberty reaches ~~when puberty reaches~~ <sup>gets</sup> a feel of how cold the world can be ~~no one to confide in~~ and when she is utterly disappointed by an adult she loved and respected. These are experiences common to most adolescents but as with Lidia, one will recognize the <sup>deep emotional</sup> ~~term~~ that they can cause.

Lidia's family described it as "... de pronto salimos 'off'..." They were referring to puberty in this statement. Puberty is a time in which many adolescents faced a myriad of problems, physical and emotional. Bodies begin to change and minds begin to wonder. ~~At this time~~ Lidia relates her experience as "yo empecé a <sup>en</sup>gordar. Se un daño la cara... se puso muy ríida y pegajosa..." Her body began to change rapidly and ~~she was~~ <sup>this is common</sup> to most other adolescent girls. However, this ~~was~~ troubled Lidia deeply. In referring to the <sup>year</sup> ~~period~~ in which all this took place she said "Ese año no pudo ser más horrible..." This troubled her to the extent that she said ~~yo~~ "...yo no me quise mirar más a un espejo." She not wanting to look in a mirror indicates that she did not want to see herself.

she did not like how <sup>writing</sup> she looked. ~~Similarly, Lidia~~  
~~and entire year as such~~ This is indication of emotional  
turmoil.

Similarly, it is a common experience for adolescents to want someone to confide in yet see no one available. When rocking experiences come along, adolescents seek someone who can relate to them. For example, when

Similarly, when adolescents come to realize how cold the world can be, <sup>sometimes</sup> they become hateful, resentful and bitter. For example <sup>after</sup> ~~when~~ Lidia and Andres fought with the bullies at their school, Lidia said "Como tantas otras que nos ~~estaban~~ sucediendo... un sabemos vulnerados... era hostil..." She realized that she was vulnerable to the world and that she could be hurt. She said "no quería bandas de muchachos atacando a mi hermano..."

Reality was setting in and this is common to other adolescents, as they leave the protective care of home to see what the world holds. This experience caused <sup>deep</sup> turmoil in Lidia as she decided to not be apart of any group. <sup>She said</sup> ~~She said~~ "no quería saber de grupo alguno... ~~las~~ las personas... se ponían malvadas." This is evidence that she was resentful and bitter towards people and indication of emotional turmoil.

Thirdly, a common experience of disappointment



in a trusted adult can caused emotional turmoil. Lidia greatly loved and respect her uncle Sergio. He had found his way in<sup>to</sup> her tender heart. However, when she found him in bed with Micaela she was devastated. She ~~to~~ said " Aunque no lloré nada, era como si hubiera llorado toda la tarde y toda la noche." She ~~to~~ said " sentí que le odiaba intensamente." ~~She~~ could ~~even do her homework~~ She was so disturbed and disappointed that "she could even do her homework..." Yo no ~~se~~ pude escribir ninguna composición. Worst of all she felt she had no one to confide in. " Uno nunca está tan solo como cuando se es adolescente... se está rompiendo." ~~It~~ ~~is~~ It is common to adolescents to somehow be disappointed by a trusted adult but as seen with Lidia, it can be quite devastating emotionally.

In conclusion, experiences of adolescence can cause much emotional turmoil. ~~Adolescent~~ Experiences such as puberty, realizing how cold the world is and disappointment ~~in~~ <sup>from</sup> respected adults are common to most. However, as seen with Lidia, they can be disastrous. Lidia didn't want to look at herself in the mirror, be apart of a group ~~to~~ ~~to~~ was ~~to~~ torn up inside, ~~the~~ results of emotional turmoil.

### Example of a very good answer

This essay is a very good example of how this question should be answered. The answer showed profundity of thought and an in-depth knowledge of the text *Felices días, Tío Sergio*. The essay was well structured. The introduction outlined the candidate's interpretation of how emotional turmoil was demonstrated in the text and then these points were further developed in the body of the essay with appropriate quotations and textual references. The conclusion re-stated the thesis statement of the essay.

#### Specific comments

In the introduction, the candidate made the scope of the essay very clear — Tumultuous experiences of adolescents would be illustrated through the experiences of the main character, Lidia: uneasiness and insecurity with the changes of puberty, disappointment at the cynicism of the world and the disillusionment with the childlike idolization of an adult she respected.

The first paragraph attempted to discuss the changes of puberty and how these caused turmoil for the adolescent. This was a mature and insightful point, albeit not well introduced by a quotation and a weak explanation: "They were referring to puberty in this statement". However, an excellent use of quotations followed as the candidate explained the gradual self loathing of Lidia as her body changed until she could no longer look at herself in the mirror. This was an excellent example of the emotional turmoil of adolescence and it was well expressed.

This candidate once more demonstrated great familiarity with the text in the second paragraph in which was discussed the vulnerability of the adolescent coming into his own and having to face the indifference of the world. The candidate further developed this point by explaining not only the experience of Lidia but also her reaction of withdrawal. The candidate used appropriate quotations to prove this point.

The third paragraph discussed the third strong point of the candidate, that is, the fact that disappointment with an adult revered as a child led to emotional turmoil in the adolescent. The use of quotations once more was noteworthy. These were cleverly interwoven with the candidate's words and not merely illustrations or repetitions of points. Instead, they helped the flow of the paragraph.

The candidate re-stated the thesis in the conclusion in a convincing manner. This essay was strong and well thought out. The candidate discussed three very strong points and demonstrated an admirable familiarity with the text. Quotations were aptly chosen. At times, more careful attention needed to be paid to spelling in the introduction and the structuring of the essay in the first paragraph.