

CSEC Spanish

Paper 02

Section II – Letter

Using the following as a guide, write in SPANISH a letter of NO MORE THAN 130–150 words. Use the tense or tenses appropriate to the topic which you have chosen.

You were left to take care of your younger siblings while your parents went out for the day. Write a letter to your friend in Chile relating your experience. Be sure to include

- (i) when and why you were left in charge
- (ii) the responsibilities you undertook for the day
- (iii) how your siblings behaved
- (iv) how your parents will reward you for your good work.

Total 30 marks

Do not
write
in this
margin.

Do not
write
in this
margin.

Belice, 19 de mayo del 2011

Querida Marta,

Tuve que cuidar a mis hermanos pequeños hoy. Mis padres salieron a celebrar su aniversario y la niñera no pudo venir, por eso me dejaron a mi encargada de cuidarlos. Tuve que comprar comida con la vecina y también lave los platos. Fuimos al parque a divertirnos y al regresar vimos la televisión. También ordenamos pizza y comimos. La pizza estaba muy sabrosa. También tuve que barrer, pero mis hermanos me ayudaron. Mis hermanos se portaron muy bien, me ayudaron mucho. No se portaron mal. Me dijeron que soy la mejor hermana y también la mejor niñera. Mis hermanos me dijeron que quisieran que mis padres salieran más seguido y me me dejaran encargada de ellos a mi. Mis padres me darán una recompensa. Me llevarán a comprar ropa mañana por la tarde. Yo podré escoger vestidos, blusas, pantalones y muchas cosas más.

Cuidate amiga, besos y abrazos para tu familia. Que pases un buen día allí en Chile.
Con cariño
Paola.

Example of an excellent answer

In assessing the letter, the following aspects were considered: fluency of language, coherence, clarity and appropriateness to the situation; grammatical accuracy, range of vocabulary and idiom; and length.

The letter assigned required the candidate to:

- Provide information.
- Outline activities in the past tense.
- Report on one or more activities.
- Outline details in the future tense.

Content

In addition to addressing the cues through appropriate content, the letter required specific characteristics with regard to format. The candidate adhered to the format for letter writing by including place, date, a salutation, an appropriate letter opening and ending. The letter was clearly relevant, well developed and coherent. All the cues were addressed and the ideas were expressed in a linguistically sound manner.

Quality of Language

Generally, there was a very good demonstration of correctness of expression, excellent use of idiom and a range of appropriate vocabulary. The candidate managed to use some complex structures correctly, and displayed a level of competence not generally apparent in the work of candidates performing at the CSEC level. There was extremely good command of elements of grammar: the subjunctive mood, both present and imperfect (its formation and use), the preterite, the future tense, object pronouns and their positions, reflexive pronouns, use of the infinitive, the imperative, the personal *a*.

The range of structures, extensive vocabulary and overall proficiency in Spanish, were commendable.

Length

The candidate complied with the rubric and conformed to the acceptable length (For marking purposes, the acceptable length is 120 -170 words).

Measures for Improvement

The quality of this response could have been further enhanced by correct spelling and proper use of accents. There were some spelling errors (*recompesa*, *dijieron*) and omission of accents as well as the insertion of accents where they were not needed.

Also, the letter could have been more adequately structured with the use of paragraphing.