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Group 2: Spanish

Trabajo escrito nivel superior: sugerencias

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- Using literature in class is a good way of acquiring a foreign language — not only linguistic, but also cultural, intercultural and social.
- Through the written work, literature is the departure point for expressing ideas, opinions etc. on the work(s) studied.
- It is essential to perceive literature in class as an open and positive activity and this will help you to enjoy this rich and powerful tool as you learn Spanish.

Preparing the written assignment

The choice of one or two literary works

- Important to choose work(s) you like. If not, planning your assignment will be difficult.
- Consult your teacher about the work(s) you choose as he/she is the best person to guide you.
- Essential that it's your choice and not what most of your classmates choose.

Formulation of the task

- Always keep in mind that it's a creative piece of writing — what's required is that you take a creative approach.
- Familiarise yourself with the evaluation criteria so you know exactly what's required and you can work efficiently.
- The kind of text you choose must connect with the task you choose, e.g. if you want to reflect the feelings of a character, an informative article isn't the right kind of text.
- Remember that although you may feel more secure writing certain kinds of text, it can be more interesting to risk other kinds of text, which may allow you to express yourself more convincingly.
- Write a rough draft to plan your assignment. This will allow you to organise your ideas, set out what you're going to do, and analyse the kind of text and consequences with respect to language, register, style, tone.
- Plan your time efficiently.
- Edit your work. Remember that your teacher can advise you once you have done your first draft and it is important to follow this advice, but above all keep in mind that the assignment is your responsibility and part of independent learning.

Doing the work

- Once you have consulted the teacher you can start to write. This consists of two parts: the rationale (150–250 words) and the task (500–600 words). Keep to this word limit — not more or less, but a balance.
- The rationale should place the work(s) in context and describe what aspects and specific details you have used to undertake the assignment. You should also mention the objective(s) and how you are thinking of achieving them, i.e. it must include the kind of text you have chosen, the reader it is aimed at, register, tone, style etc.
- The assignment must obviously reflect the work(s) in the way you have laid out in your rationale. As it's a creative piece of work, the options are wide ranging. The important thing is that everything you do is set out in the rationale and developed in the assignment.
- Remember that a formal essay isn't an adequate text for this task.
- Clearly, the rationale and task are interconnected and both should be used efficiently to complete the assignment.
- Your ideas must always be well organised and developed effectively. Use paragraphing to indicate changes of idea. Create connections and relations to form the work. Use connective to achieve the necessary cohesion.
- Language used must be appropriate, e.g. if you've chosen to write a diary, one of the conventions is that the language of this kind of text should be emotional, with exclamations, personal language, first person pronouns etc.
- Use varied vocabulary and structures. At this level the lexical content as well as the grammar should be complex to achieve clarity. The rhetorical resources referred to in the criteria refer to the adequacy of the language with respect to style, register, tone, used for the text and context you have chosen.
- If you use extracts, cite them following the conventions for references or simply mention the biography at the end.
- Don't forget that presentation is important and even if you write with a word processor, paragraph breaks, headings, subheadings must be clearly marked. You can include illustrations but you won't be rewarded for artworks.

Conclusions

- The written assignment is worth 20% of the marks for Spanish B, so it is vital that you are aware of the formal guidelines as well as the evaluation criteria.
- The three parts mentioned above should be considered before planning your assignment in order to focus and maximise your use of time.
- Finally, enjoy doing the assignment and use your creative capacity given that in order to appreciate literature and language learning there are no limits.

Most popular works

The teacher is free to choose the work that he or she wants to use in the Spanish B course. The only requirement is that it should have been written in the original language.

Suggestions to teachers for preparing the written assignment

While pupils choose the work(s) studied in class to write their assignments, the teacher must guide them and the whole process as is stipulated in the language B guide.

It is vital that as well as knowing the evaluation criteria of this component, pupils should practise what they are going to do in the written assignment from the beginning of the course. One relevant point is that students should know exactly what they are required to write in their rationale. One interesting activity is to be able to show them an effective rationale, and that they discover, together with the criteria, the points they should take into account. Once they are familiar with what a good rationale should contain, you could suggest that they correct the rationales of previous assignments.

As a subsequent task, you could ask pupils to use different coloured pens to mark everything that is in the rationale and is reflected explicitly in the task. In other words, if in the rationale a pupil said that he/she was going to demonstrate the feelings of guilt and repentance of a character through a personal diary, this should be exactly what is in the task and should be marked or highlighted in the same colour. These are only suggestions for simple activities which can be done in class with the aim that students understand and interpret what they have to write in the rationale and that it will be directly related to criterion A of the component.