

Unit 4: SECTION C

THE RESEARCH BASED ESSAY

Research Based Essay

Section C: essay in Spanish of 240 - 270 words (45 marks)

- Research constituted by in-depth Spanish language study.
- Effective preparation will include study of Spanish spoken, printed and ICT derived resources.
- Research must relate to the culture and / or society of a Spanish-language country, countries or community.

Research Based Essay

A successful RBE:

- reflects candidates' views and opinions
- has an analytical or evaluate dimension
- answers the essay question as fully as possible
- does not rely too heavily in English sources
- shows evidence of individual research and reflection
- conveys candidate's genuine enthusiasm for and interest in their subject
- is carefully planned and structured and at all times relevant.

Research Based Essay

- Research needs to be credited eg by footnotes or a simple bibliography.
- Stick to the word count - don't tell the story but keep the title of the essay in mind.
- Depth knowledge may require examples, facts, statistics and expert opinions.

REMEMBER THAT PROPER NOUNS, QUOTATIONS IN INVERTED COMMAS, BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND FOOTNOTES THAT ARE NOT EXTENSIONS OF THE ESSAY ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THE WORD COUNT.

Section C

Mark	Reading, research and understanding (AO2)
0	No rewardable material presented.
1-6	Minimal understanding; almost no evidence of reading and research.
7-12	Limited understanding; little evidence of reading and research.
13-18	Adequate understanding; some evidence of reading and research.
19-24	Good to very good understanding; clear evidence of in-depth reading and research.
25-30	Very good to excellent understanding; clear evidence of extensive and in-depth reading and research.

Examiners are looking for thorough understanding of the implications of the title of the essay, relevance and clear evidence of in-depth reading and research.

Mark	Organisation and development (AO2)
0	No rewardable organisation and development.
1-2	Limited organisation and development; structure almost wholly lacking in coherence.
3-4	Some organisation and development; may be rambling and/or repetitive.
5-6	Adequate organisation and development of material; development patchy and/or ambiguous.
7-8	Good organisation and development; material well planned and sequenced with minor lapses.
9	Very good organisation and development; material very effectively marshalled and developed within a carefully planned framework.

This rewards the candidate's ability to plan and structure the essay in such a way that it answers the question fully and provides a logical development of ideas leading to an informed conclusion.

Mark	Quality of language (AO3)
0	No rewardable language.
1	Very basic level of communication; language often breaks down because of lack of linguistic knowledge and/or ability to use structures; very inaccurate.
2	Some communication achieved on a basic level but often lacks comprehensibility; limited linguistic range; basic sentence construction; register often inappropriate.
3-4	Satisfactory communication; inaccurate language occasionally impedes comprehensibility; fair range of appropriate lexis; structures often well handled.
5	Good communication; errors rarely impede comprehensibility; language mainly accurate and appropriate; good range of lexis and structures; good handling of complex structures and use of idioms.
6	Very good communication; language almost always fluent, varied and appropriate; wide range of lexis and structures; high level of accuracy.

This credits the candidate's accuracy and fluency in the target language so that communication is maintained throughout using a wide variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures.

Research Based Essay


EXAMPLE

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Escribe sobre las principales costumbres y tradiciones y su importancia para la región o ciudad que has estudiado.

Research Based Essay

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA


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International General Certificate of Secondary Education

RESEARCH-BASED ESSAY : EXAMPLE 1 : 3(a)

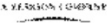
Cada región, ciudad o país tienen diferentes costumbres y tradiciones que contribuyen en la formación, estabilidad y felicidad de la sociedad. Yo he estudiado la ciudad de Quito que queda en Ecuador. Quito es la capital de Ecuador y tiene un número alto de habitantes.

Quito es una ciudad con muchas costumbres y tradiciones, una de las más importantes tradiciones es la quema de los viejos que ocurre a media noche cada fin de año. Durante las últimas semanas del fin de cada año, gente de todas edades, pobres, ricos, familias y amigos se una para crear figuras grandes o pequeñas, llenas de papel. Estas figuras son símbolos de el año que está a punto de acabar y el encendimiento es símbolo de todo lo malo quemándose y celebrando un año nuevo. La tradición es importante por que une a la gente y trae felicidad a los ciudadanos de Quito.

He aprendido que el país y en particular la ciudad es muy religiosa y es costumbre de ir a misa cada domingo. Esto trae a gente de diferentes barrios juntos y forma una sociedad unida por que se unen en la iglesia.

Como en muchas sociedades, familia es importante entonces es costumbre que en días feriados toda la familia se una.

De lo que he estudiado aprendí que la sociedad es muy unida y esta es la base de las tradiciones y costumbres de Quito. Además de la tradición mencionada hay muchas más que igual promueven unidad en la gente Quiteña.


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Examiner Comments

This candidate has chosen to write about Quito and describes the end of year tradition of burning figures made from paper that symbolize the old year and the purging of evil. Apart from this, the remainder of the essay simply describes the regular attendance at Sunday Mass and the importance of festive occasions when the family can get together to celebrate. Clearly some reading and research had been carried out in the detailed description of the end of year rituals but the rest is far too general and can be applied to any catholic society, not especially that of Ecuador. The language is adequate and communication is maintained despite inaccuracies and there is a fair range of vocabulary. The essay has been planned but we learn little from the second half which becomes far too general and rather rambling and repetitive.


The breakdown of marks is:

Total Score: 23

Organisation and development 5

Quality of language 4

Reading, research and understanding 14



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Examiner Tip

It is important to focus on traditions and customs that demonstrate in-depth reading and research rather than to describe general habits that could be ascribed to several different societies. Sometimes an explanation of the origins of the customs and traditions can be of interest and it is essential to address the second half of the question and show how they are of importance to the city or region studied.

