



ES.W8 Customs and Festivals in Spanish-Speaking Countries

AQA 8692 · Calculators not allowed · about 50 minutes

Total Marks

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Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Accents, the enye and inverted punctuation have been omitted in the printed Spanish prompts for technical reasons; write them correctly in your answers where required. Questions 10 and 11 must be full paragraphs in Spanish. Spend about 50 minutes on the whole pack.

- 1** Vocabulary gap-fill: complete each sentence about customs at Navidad, Día de los Muertos and Semana Santa. Context: common words used in these festivals.
- (a) En España, el 6 de enero los niños reciben regalos por el Día de los _____. (1)
- (b) En México, las familias decoran altares con flores y _____ para Día de los Muertos. (1)
- (c) Durante la Semana Santa hay procesiones con pasos y _____ que representan escenas religiosas. (1)
- (d) En Navidad muchas familias comen turrón y otros _____ típicos. (1)
- (e) En algunas regiones, los vecinos se visten con _____ tradicionales durante la fiesta. (1)
- (f) En las celebraciones, la música y los bailes fomentan la _____ comunitaria. (1)

(Total for Question 1 is 6 marks)

2 Grammar multiple choice: choose the best option to complete each sentence about festival customs. Context named in each item.

(a) Para la procesion, ellos _____ las velas la noche anterior. A: encendieron B: encienden C: encenderan D: encendian **(1)**

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

(b) Si vamos al festival manana, _____ fotos de los disfraces. A: tomaremos B: tomabamos C: tomaramos D: tomamos **(1)**

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

(c) Durante la fiesta, los jovenes _____ musica tradicional. A: escucharon B: escuchan C: escucharian D: escuchaban **(1)**

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

(d) Cuando era nino, siempre _____ a la cabalgata con mis primos. A: iba B: fui C: ire D: ido **(1)**

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

(e) Los altares se decoran con fotografias y _____ para recordar a los muertos. A: flores B: juguetes C: sombreros D: mesas **(1)**

- ☐ A
- ☐ B
- ☐ C
- ☐ D

(Total for Question 2 is 5 marks)

3 Photo caption task. Look at a photo showing a street parade with people in costume, music, and decorated floats. Escribe cuatro frases cortas en español que describan la escena. Menciona: los trajes, la música, la gente y un elemento decorativo. Each bullet is worth 2 marks for communication.

(a) Frase 1: Describe the costumes you see (los trajes). (2)

(b) Frase 2: Describe the music (la música). (2)

(c) Frase 3: Describe the people (la gente). (2)

(d) Frase 4: Mention one decorative element you see (un elemento decorativo). (2)

(Total for Question 3 is 8 marks)

4 Multiple choice: Which country or region is best known for this festival tradition? Choose A, B, C or D.

(a) Festival with decorated skull imagery and family altars to remember the dead. (1)

- ☐ A Mexico
- ☐ B Spain
- ☐ C Peru
- ☐ D Argentina

(b) Semana Santa processions with pasos and nazarenos are particularly famous in which country? (1)

- ☐ A Chile
- ☐ B Spain
- ☐ C Colombia
- ☐ D Guatemala

(c) Three Kings parades with gifts for children on 6 January are most associated with which country? (1)

- ☐ A Mexico
- ☐ B Cuba
- ☐ C Spain
- ☐ D Chile

(d) Festival where people make large parade floats and celebrate with samba style music is commonly associated with which country? (1)

- ☐ A Brazil
- ☐ B Mexico
- ☐ C Spain
- ☐ D Peru

(e) Festival famous for giant papier-mache figures called 'mojigangas' appears especially in which country? (1)

- ☐ A Mexico
- ☐ B Spain
- ☐ C Argentina
- ☐ D Ecuador

(Total for Question 4 is 5 marks)

5 Word families: give the missing noun or adjective that matches the prompt about festivals.
Context: words used when describing celebrations.

- (a) celebrar (verb) -> la acción de celebrar (noun): la _____ (1)
- (b) tradicional (adjective) -> lo que es típico de la tradición (noun): lo _____ (1)
- (c) decorar (verb) -> el resultado de decorar (noun): la _____ (1)
- (d) festivo (adjective) -> el día festivo (noun): el _____ (1)

(Total for Question 5 is 4 marks)

6 Fill the gaps in the short passage about Día de los Muertos using words from the box. Box: altares, calaveras, recuerdos, pan de muerto, ofrendas. Passage context: a Mexican family preparing for Día de los Muertos.

- (a) Gap 1: En casa de Ana preparan (1) _____ con fotografías y flores. (1)
- (b) Gap 2: Sobre los altares ponen (2) _____ como comida y fotos. (1)
- (c) Gap 3: También compran (3) _____, un pan tradicional. (1)
- (d) Gap 4: Las (4) _____ de azúcar son decorativas. (1)
- (e) Gap 5: La familia comparte (5) _____ de los seres queridos. (1)

(Total for Question 6 is 5 marks)

7 Short reading comprehension: Read this sentence about Navidad in Spain and answer in English. Context: a Spanish family on Christmas Eve.

- (a) Sentence: 'La Nochebuena es cuando la familia cena junta y canta villancicos antes de abrir algunos regalos.' What does 'La Nochebuena' refer to and what two activities are mentioned? Answer in English. (4)

(Total for Question 7 is 4 marks)

8 True or false: read the sentence and say whether it is true or false in English. Context: Semana Santa in Spain.

- (a) Sentence: 'En muchas ciudades de Espana, durante la Semana Santa las procesiones son silenciosas y no incluyen musica.' Is this statement true or false? Explain briefly in English. (4)

(Total for Question 8 is 4 marks)

9 Short translation into English. Translate the Spanish sentence about Three Kings Day into English. Context: a Spanish town's cabalgata.

- (a) Translate: 'Cada ano la cabalgata llega al centro de la ciudad y los Reyes tiran caramelos a los ninos.' (4)

(Total for Question 9 is 4 marks)

- 10** Structured writing task, 40-50 words. Describe how a specific festival in a Spanish-speaking country is celebrated in your chosen town or region. You must include present and past tenses and mention at least one food or decoration. Use about 40-50 words in Spanish.

(Total for Question 10 is 16 marks)

- 11** Extended writing task, 90-150 words. Compara una celebracion del Reino Unido que conoces con una celebracion de un pais de habla espanola. Da tu opinion y justifica por que prefieres una u otra. Usa presente, preterito y futuro, conecta ideas y incluye frases de opinion. Write about 90-150 words in Spanish.

(Total for Question 11 is 16 marks)

- 12** Translate into Spanish these short sentences about festivals. Each sentence is worth 2 marks.

- (a) 1) We sing carols on Christmas Eve. (2)
- (b) 2) Last year we ate traditional sweets. (2)
- (c) 3) Next year we will go to the procession together. (2)

(Total for Question 12 is 6 marks)

Mark scheme · ES.W8 Customs and Festivals in Spanish-Speaking Countries

Question 1

- (a) **B1** Reyes
- (a) **Answer: Reyes**
- (b) **B1** ofrendas
- (b) **Answer: ofrendas**
- (c) **B1** estatuas
- (c) **Answer: estatuas**
- (d) **B1** dulces
- (d) **Answer: dulces**
- (e) **B1** trajes
- (e) **Answer: trajes**
- (f) **B1** unidad
- (f) **Answer: unidad**

Question 2

- (a) **B1** A - encendieron, preterite for a completed action the night before
- (a) **Answer: A**
- (b) **B1** A - tomaremos, simple future for a planned future action
- (b) **Answer: A**
- (c) **B1** B - escuchan, present tense to describe habitual behaviour during the festival
- (c) **Answer: B**
- (d) **B1** A - iba, imperfect to describe a repeated past action
- (d) **Answer: A**
- (e) **B1** A - flores, flowers are a central decoration for altars on Dia de los Muertos
- (e) **Answer: A**

Question 3

- (a) **B1** Content: mentions costumes or clothing evident in the photo
- (a) **B1** Communicative clarity: a grammatically recognisable Spanish phrase that identifies costumes
- (a) **Answer: Hay personas con trajes coloridos y mascarar tradicionales.**
- (b) **B1** Content: refers to music being played or heard
- (b) **B1** Communicative clarity: a recognisable Spanish phrase about music
- (b) **Answer: Se oye musica en vivo con tambores y trompetas.**
- (c) **B1** Content: mentions people watching or participating
- (c) **B1** Communicative clarity: phrase communicates who the people are or what they do
- (c) **Answer: La gente celebra en la calle y muchas familias participan juntas.**
- (d) **B1** Content: names a visible decorative element such as flores, globos, pancartas, carrozas
- (d) **B1** Communicative clarity: phrase makes clear reference to the decorative item
- (d) **Answer: Hay carrozas decoradas con flores y luces.**

Question 4

- (a) **B1 A - Mexico**
- **(a) Answer: A Mexico**
- (b) **B1 B - Spain**
- **(b) Answer: B Spain**
- (c) **B1 C - Spain**
- **(c) Answer: C Spain**
- (d) **B1 A - Brazil**
- **(d) Answer: A Brazil**
- (e) **B1 A - Mexico**
- **(e) Answer: A Mexico**

Question 5

- (a) **B1 celebracion**
- **(a) Answer: celebracion**
- (b) **B1 tradicional**
- **(b) Answer: tradicional**
- (c) **B1 decoracion**
- **(c) Answer: decoracion**
- (d) **B1 festivo**
- **(d) Answer: festivo**

Question 6

- (a) **B1 altares**
- **(a) Answer: altares**
- (b) **B1 ofrendas**
- **(b) Answer: ofrendas**
- (c) **B1 pan de muerto**
- **(c) Answer: pan de muerto**
- (d) **B1 calaveras**
- **(d) Answer: calaveras**
- (e) **B1 recuerdos**
- **(e) Answer: recuerdos**

Question 7

- (a) **B1 Identifies La Nochebuena as Christmas Eve**
- (a) **B1 Mentions that the family have dinner together**
- (a) **B1 Mentions that they sing carols (villancicos)**
- (a) **B1 Mentions opening some presents afterwards**
- **(a) Answer: La Nochebuena is Christmas Eve; the family have dinner together, sing carols and open some presents.**

Question 8

- (a) **B1 States False**
- (a) **B1 Explains that many processions do include music such as drums or bands**
- (a) **B1 May state that some processions are solemn but many have music**
- (a) **B1 Communicates explanation in clear English**
- **(a) Answer: False. Many processions include music like drums or brass bands; although some are solemn, music is common.**

Question 9

- (a) **B1** Each year the parade arrives in the town centre (or city centre)
- (a) **B1** and the Kings throw sweets to the children
- (a) **B1** Communicates natural English word order
- (a) **B1** Uses correct meaning for cabalgata and caramelos
- (a) **Answer: Each year the parade arrives in the town centre and the Kings throw sweets to the children.**

Question 10

- **Content and communication (AO4, 10 marks)**
 - **Level 3** (8-10): The candidate describes how the festival is celebrated with relevant detail, uses both present and past tenses correctly in most sentences, and mentions a food or decoration.
 - **Level 2** (4-7): Description covers the festival but with limited development; present and past tenses are attempted though with errors; a food or decoration may be mentioned briefly.
 - **Level 1** (1-3): Only a basic description is given, little or no use of multiple time frames, and minimal reference to food or decoration.
 - **Level 0** (0): No creditable content or irrelevant material.
- **Range and accuracy of language (AO4, 6 marks)**
 - **Level 3** (5-6): Language is accurate and varied for the task; verbs in present and past are generally correct; vocabulary appropriate to festivals is used accurately.
 - **Level 2** (3-4): Some variety of vocabulary and structures; several verb forms are correct though there are noticeable errors.
 - **Level 1** (1-2): Limited vocabulary and frequent errors that sometimes obscure meaning.
 - **Level 0** (0): Language too limited or inaccurate to convey basic meaning.
- **Indicative content:**
 - Specific present-tense statements about what happens each year, for example 'En mi pueblo se celebra... cada año'.
 - A past-tense reference to something that happened last year or in the past, for example 'El año pasado hubo una procesion o comimos pan de muerto'.
 - Mention of a typical food or decoration, for example 'comimos turrón', 'decoramos altares con flores' or 'hay carrozas decoradas'.
 - Reference to who participates, for example 'las familias, los jóvenes, las bandas'.
 - Use of simple connectives such as 'y', 'pero', 'porque' to link ideas.

Question 11

- **Content and communication (AO4, 10 marks)**

- **Level 4** (8-10): All bullet points are fully addressed with developed comparison, clear opinion and justification. Ideas are well organised and relevant examples are given from both celebrations.
- **Level 3** (5-7): Comparison covers both celebrations with relevant detail; opinion is stated and a reason is given, though development may be uneven.
- **Level 2** (2-4): Some comparison is attempted but with limited development; opinion may be simple and justification brief.
- **Level 1** (1): Very basic comparison or one-sided description with minimal relevance.
- **Level 0** (0): No creditable content.

- **Range and accuracy of language (AO4, 6 marks)**

- **Level 4** (5-6): A wide range of vocabulary and verb tenses including present, preterite and future used accurately; connectives and opinion phrases are used effectively.
- **Level 3** (3-4): Some variety of tense and vocabulary; present and past are generally correct and future attempted; errors do not prevent communication.
- **Level 2** (1-2): Limited range of language; frequent tense errors; meaning sometimes unclear.
- **Level 0** (0): Language limited or inaccurate to the point of preventing communication.

- **Indicative content:**

- Comparison of two celebrations naming key features of each, for example family meals, processions, music, costumes, or altars.
- Use of the preterite to describe what happened at a recent celebration, for example 'El año pasado fui a...'.
◦ Use of the present to describe habitual features, for example 'En el Reino Unido celebramos...'.
◦ Use of the future to indicate plans or preferences, for example 'El año que viene ire a...'.
◦ Clear personal opinion with justification using porque or ya que, for example 'Prefiero X porque...'.
◦ Use of connectives to compare and contrast, for example 'sin embargo', 'aunque', 'mientras que', 'por otro lado'.

Question 12

- (a) **B1** Correct Spanish translation of 'We sing carols' eg 'Cantamos villancicos'
- (a) **B1** Correct expression of 'on Christmas Eve' eg 'en Nochebuena' or 'la Nochebuena'
- **(a) Answer: Cantamos villancicos en Nochebuena.**
- (b) **B1** Correct past tense 'Last year' eg 'El año pasado' or 'El año pasado' without accent
- (b) **B1** Correct preterite of comer and phrase 'dulces tradicionales' eg 'comimos dulces tradicionales'
- **(b) Answer: El año pasado comimos dulces tradicionales.**
- (c) **B1** Correct future tense eg 'El año que viene iremos' or 'El año que viene iremos' without accent
- (c) **B1** Mentions 'to the procession' and 'together' eg 'a la procesion juntos'
- **(c) Answer: El año que viene iremos a la procesion juntos.**