

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS

International General Certificate of Secondary Education

MARK SCHEME for the June 2005 question paper

0488 LITERATURE (SPANISH)

0488/03

Paper 3, maximum mark 20

These mark schemes are published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. They show the basis on which Examiners were initially instructed to award marks. They do not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began. Any substantial changes to the mark scheme that arose from these discussions will be recorded in the published *Report on the Examination*.

All Examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes must be read in conjunction with the question papers and the *Report on the Examination*.

- CIE will not enter into discussion or correspondence in connection with these mark schemes.

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Grade thresholds for Syllabus 0488 (Literature (Spanish)) in the June 2005 examination.

	maximum mark available	minimum mark required for grade:			
		A	C	E	F
Component 3	20	15	9	5	3

The threshold (minimum mark) for D is set halfway between those for Grades C and E.
The threshold (minimum mark) for G is set as many marks below the F threshold as the E threshold is above it.

Grade A* does not exist at the level of an individual component.

Page 1	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	IGCSE - JUNE 2005	0488	3

Answers will be marked according to the following general criteria:

18-20	Detailed, well-written, well-organised answer, paying close attention to author's use of language. Shows appreciation of structure and near-total comprehension of passage; has no significant omissions and conveys a sensitive personal response.
15-17	Detailed answer, paying close attention to author's use of language. Understands or convincingly interprets all essentials of passage; few omissions. Conveys clear personal response but may be a bit cut-and-dried.
12-14	Competent answer with some attention to language. May be some misunderstandings and significant omissions, but conveys some personal appreciation.
9-11	Attempts to respond and does pay attention to some details of language, but there are significant misunderstandings and substantial omissions. May distort passage by trying to apply some rigid preconception, or note use of literary devices without explaining their effect. Answer probably rather short.
6-8	Tries, but has not really grasped what passage is about. Offers a few ideas, some of them irrelevant or plainly wrong. A few glimmers are perceptible. Short, scrappy.
4-5	Short, scrappy, confused; little response to passage, but candidate has at least read it and tried to respond.
2-3	Scrawls a few lines; has attempted to read passage, but clearly doesn't understand it.
0-1	Nothing to reward.

This is a fairly straightforward passage and should present few difficulties of understanding so long as the candidate is able to detect the heavy irony. The first question is intended to help with and lead into the second: since Arturo is plainly meant to be a repulsive character, the author must want the reader to reject Arturo's point of view. On the other hand, plenty of respectable citizens would object to having squatters in their vicinity and we must be prepared for answers that take that line. Even if the candidate is personally inclined to share Arturo's viewpoint, however, a good answer will have to take account of the fact that the author pretty obviously does not. The best candidates are likely to be distinguished by their close attention to detail and ability to read between the lines.

(a) Arturo is evidently devoid of human sympathy – as far as the squatters are concerned, at least. He clearly has no personal knowledge of them; the fact that he follows the whole operation from a safe distance, through binoculars, strongly indicates (though it does not prove) that he has never been to the settlement himself. Note how the distancing makes the operation seem unreal: Arturo does not see people suffering, he only sees an 'espectáculo' put on for Arturo's benefit, as remote as a cinema documentary (though one would expect a less heartless spectator to be indignant at such scenes even when seeing them in a cinema). Arturo is (to put it clumsily) a regional racist, seeing people from the South as virtually subhuman (note 'covachas', 'como hongos', 'como las bestias'); even the fact that these people are out of work is something to be condemned, not commiserated with. He finds the prospect of their eviction 'enjoyable' and 'exciting'. When the actual eviction begins he seems to become more involved, feeling almost a personal vendetta against the unfortunate woman being turned out: 'inútil, amiga mía, inútil...'; he depreciates the politeness exercised by the *guardias*. The realisation of his evidently long-cherished dream of getting rid of the squatters comes to him not just as a 'spectacle' but as a sort of divine revelation that he can scarcely credit. And like many visionaries, he cannot wait to communicate his vision to someone else, even if the only person available is someone he dislikes (it is hard to imagine Arturo liking anybody!).

(b) Whatever the candidate's personal opinion on the squatter problem (which may of course be stated or implied, but should not be allowed to distort the response), the answer to question (a) should provide the guideline here. There is ample evidence throughout the text that the author sympathises with the squatters and, unlike Arturo, thinks they are decent people doing their best in adverse circumstances: note particularly the poignant details of their attempts to create the appearance of 'una vivienda modesta'. The fact that the victims are mainly defenceless women adds to the poignancy. The indications – clear even to the unsympathetic Arturo – that the *guardias* themselves plainly hate what they have to do, and try to mitigate its cruelty, should not be passed over. Nor, of course, should the savage irony of the background voice on the

Page 2	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	IGCSE - JUNE 2005	0488	3

radio proclaiming 'himnos de amor y de ternura' – although (double irony) the radio is the voice of an administration which takes the same view as Arturo does. Even more savagely ironic is the idea of Doña Cecilia saying an Ave María in thanks for this most unchristian of happenings.

Since the passage is not particularly difficult to understand, I think that we should expect a very large proportion of the above details to be noted before we award a mark of 18-20. For a mark of 12-14, the candidate should at least be aware of the narratorial irony, even if quite a lot of the detail is lacking. Any totally unexpected responses will, of course, be assessed on their merits.