



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

2012 HSC Spanish Extension 'Sample Answers'

When examination committees develop questions for the examination, they may write 'sample answers' or, in the case of some questions, 'answers could include'. The committees do this to ensure that the questions will effectively assess students' knowledge and skills.

This material is also provided to the Supervisor of Marking, to give some guidance about the nature and scope of the responses the committee expected students would produce. How sample answers are used at marking centres varies. Sample answers may be used extensively and even modified at the marking centre OR they may be considered only briefly at the beginning of marking. In a few cases, the sample answers may not be used at all at marking.

The Board publishes this information to assist in understanding how the marking guidelines were implemented.

The 'sample answers' or similar advice contained in this document are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee's 'working document', they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.

Section I — Response to Prescribed Text

Part A

Question 1 (a)

Sample answer:

Ernesto is trying to tease Alberto by suggesting that he is weaker than him and cannot stand the hard circumstances. With this he hopes to encourage him to continue the trip to the mine with him.

Question 1 (b)

Sample answer:

The statement '*Viajar por viajar*' meaning 'we travel for the sake of it', indicates that Ernesto has a privileged background and therefore more options/choice in life. He comes from a middle-class family and had the financial support to receive an education and access to a social network of 'professionals'.

Question 1 (c)

Sample answer:

The issue of social justice is seen through Alberto's and Ernesto's exchanges with the couple. When confronted with the reality of the couple's unjust situation and suffering, they realise that there are many people less fortunate than themselves. This young couple had suffered political persecution for being communists. They had to flee their land, leaving their family behind. On the other hand, Alberto and Ernesto have been able to make choices. They travel because they want to, as opposed to the couple who had no choice and had to do it for survival. The fact that this exchange is made with simple words, short sentences and in such a restrained way makes the issue of social justice more powerful.

Question 1 (d)***Sample answer:***

The purpose of this scene is to show how this encounter makes Ernesto more aware of the social reality of this country. The scene takes place on a cold night in the desert. Ernesto, Alberto and the couple are all gathered around a camp fire. The light provided by the fire in the scene creates an intimate surrounding and allows the characters' facial expressions to be seen clearly. The couple convey a sense of despair and sadness. The woman avoids eye contact and remains close to her husband as a means of security. When she learns Ernesto and Alberto are travelling by choice, we then see her surprised expression as she has just realised that they have chosen to be there. On the other hand, Ernesto and Alberto look at each other, communicating their complicity and realisation of their privileged situation. A sense of embarrassment, almost guilt, is evident in Alberto's body language which conveys a sense of discomfort when asked why were they travelling. The sharing of the *mate* and the blanket symbolises the solidarity and unity of the four characters on that night despite their different realities. It is a visually powerful scene as by the end of it all four characters look united and as one, symbolising the disappearance of social differences.