AP Spanish Language and Culture

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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- ☑ Task 2 Persuasive Essay
- ☑ Scoring Guideline
- **☑** Student Samples
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AP® SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 2017 SCORING GUIDELINES

Identical to Scoring Guidelines used for French, German, and Italian Language and Culture Exams

Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay (Task 2)

5: STRONG performance in Presentational Writing

- Effective treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates a high degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints, with very few minor inaccuracies
- Integrates content from all three sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic with a high degree of clarity; develops a persuasive argument with coherence and detail
- Organized essay; effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression; occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility
- Varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Accuracy and variety in grammar, syntax, and usage, with few errors
- Develops paragraph-length discourse with a variety of simple and compound sentences, and some complex sentences

4: GOOD performance in Presentational Writing

- Generally effective treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; may include a few inaccuracies
- Summarizes, with limited integration, content from all three sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic with clarity; develops a persuasive argument with coherence
- Organized essay; some effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Fully understandable, with some errors that do not impede comprehensibility
- Varied and generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
- General control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Develops mostly paragraph-length discourse with simple, compound, and a few complex sentences

3: FAIR performance in Presentational Writing

- Suitable treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates a moderate degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes some inaccuracies
- Summarizes content from at least two sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic; develops a somewhat persuasive argument with some coherence
- Some organization; limited use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Generally understandable, with errors that may impede comprehensibility
- Appropriate but basic vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Some control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Uses strings of mostly simple sentences, with a few compound sentences

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2: WEAK performance in Presentational Writing

- Unsuitable treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates a low degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; information may be limited or inaccurate
- Summarizes content from one or two sources; may not support the essay
- Presents, or at least suggests, the student's own viewpoint on the topic; develops an unpersuasive argument somewhat incoherently
- Limited organization; ineffective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Partially understandable, with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion for the reader
- Limited vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Limited control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Uses strings of simple sentences and phrases

1: POOR performance in Presentational Writing

- Almost no treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates poor comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes frequent and significant inaccuracies
- Mostly repeats statements from sources or may not refer to any sources
- Minimally suggests the student's own viewpoint on the topic; argument is undeveloped or incoherent
- · Little or no organization; absence of transitional elements and cohesive devices
- Barely understandable, with frequent or significant errors that impede comprehensibility
- Very few vocabulary resources
- Little or no control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Very simple sentences or fragments

0: UNACCEPTABLE performance in Presentational Writing

- Mere restatement of language from the prompt
- Clearly does not respond to the prompt; completely irrelevant to the topic
- "I don't know," "I don't understand," or equivalent in any language
- Not in the language of the exam
- (hyphen): BLANK (no response)

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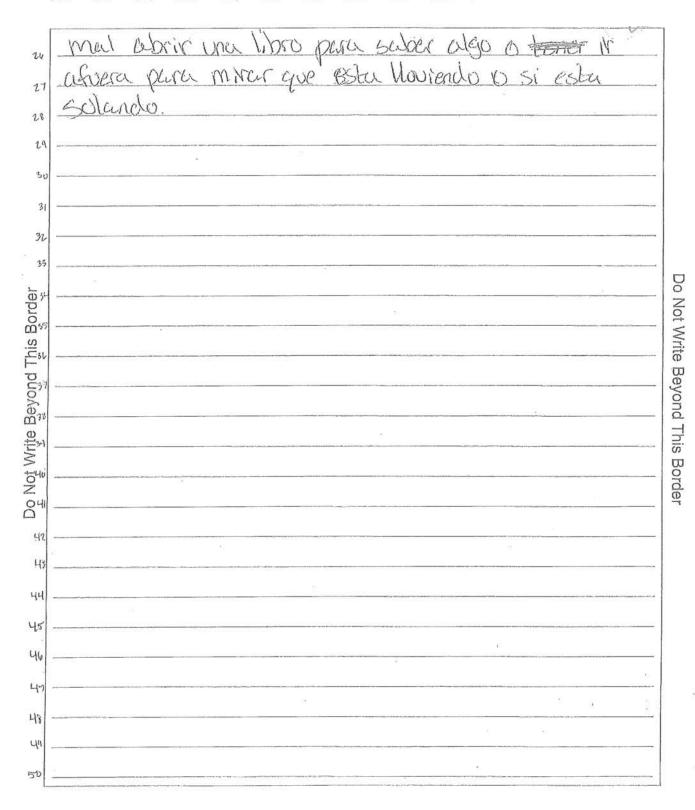
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Task 2: Persuasive Essay

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain grammatical errors.

Overview

This task assessed writing in the presentational communicative mode by having the student write a persuasive essay on a given topic while referencing three sources of information about the topic. Students were first allotted 6 minutes to read the essay topic and the two printed sources. Then they listened to the one audio source twice. Afterward they had 40 minutes to write the essay. The response received a single, holistic score based on how well it accomplished the assigned task. Students needed to be able, first, to comprehend the three sources, and then to present their different viewpoints. They also had to present their own viewpoint and defend it thoroughly, using information from all of the sources to support the essay. As they referred to the sources, they had to identify them appropriately. Furthermore the essay had to be organized into clear paragraphs.

The course theme for the persuasive essay task was Science and Technology, and the prompt was "Should the use of cell phones be permitted in secondary schools?"

Source 1, printed article, gave five reasons in favor of using cell phones in schools:

- 1. It is a tool to prepare students for their professional careers.
- 2. Its use can be of financial help to schools that don't have funds to purchase technology.
- 3. It helps teach skills for the 21st Century and argues against those that think that cell phones are tools that help students cheat.
- 4. It is used by adults and administrators in schools all the time (double standard).
- 5. It is helpful to teach students to be responsible when using technology.

Source 2 was a graph, published in 2011 in the Dominican Republic, titled: "Purposes for the Use of Cell Phones" and included data in percentages from a survey about habits and uses of technology in 618 adolescents from 12 to 18 years old.

Source 3 was an audio presentation of approximately 3 minutes in duration about the same topic, titled: "Cell phones in class: yes or no?" published in 2011 in Argentina. This source mostly contained arguments against the use of cell phones in class, although it accepted the idea of allowing them on certain occasions, with the consent of the parents.

Sample: 2A Score: 5

This essay shows effective treatment of the topic within the context of the task, as the student answers the question very directly in lines 10–13: "El uso del celular en clase ... hagan trampa a la hora de tomar un exámen" and shows effective use of a counterargument in lines 46–54. There is also a rhetorically effective question at the end of the conclusion in lines 51–54: "¿si se permite el uso del teléfono en la clase, cómo prepararemos nuestros estudiantes para poner esfuerzo en lo que quieran lograr en el futuro?" The reader can see a high degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints, as they are fully integrated in the paragraph from lines 14 through 31:"Según la Funte número 3"; "De hecho, en cuanto el gráfico de la fuente número 2"; "Sin embargo, ciertas personas dicen ... será mayor' (Fuente número 1). En otras palabras." The student's

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Task 2: Persuasive Essay (continued)

viewpoint is clearly stated in lines 41–45: "Otros dirán que ... a cualquier respuesta." This personal viewpoint is clearly demonstrated by disagreeing with the argument stated in source 1.

There is evidence of good use of transitional devices: line 8 "sin embargo"; line 14 "Para empezar"; line 20 "Esto confirma"; line 26 "En otras palabras." They create a flow of ideas among and within paragraphs. The essay is fully understandable and occasional errors do not impede communication: line 2 "No hay menor duda." There is varied and appropriate vocabulary throughout: line 14 "utilizar." There are examples of a variety of verb tenses: line 18 "presten"; line 21 "podrán"; and line 47 "debería," although a few minor orthographic errors occur: line 6 "preparse" and line 32 "distraír." The student produces an essay written in paragraph-length discourse with examples of complex sentences: lines 20–22 "Esto confirma que los estudiantes ... con sus amigos."

Sample: 2B Score: 3

This is an example of an essay that demonstrates a fair performance in Presentational Writing. The student answers the question by writing a title that expresses a point of view, which begins in line zero and proceeds to elaborate on the student's own position with reference to the sources. Source 1 is cited in lines 12–20 and in lines 25–26. There is a misinterpretation of the statistic cited from the second source, "El segundo fuente dice que ... 58.90% del día." There seem to be a reference to the distraction in class, mentioned in source 3, in lines 21–25. Overall a moderate degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints including some inaccuracies is evident. There is some organization and paragraphing in that there is an introduction and the development of ideas arranged logically.

The essay, although generally understandable, contains some errors, such as problems with immediate future construction on various occasions: line 39 "también vas a levantar"; transfer from English in lines 14–15 "deben aprender como usar"; line 20 "empleyos"; line 22 "distractada"; line 39 "chancé." The repetition of words such as "también"; "niños"; and "deben" show a lack of vocabulary richness. While there is good use of an idiomatic expression in lines 42–44 "imaginen el problema que supone ... al internet," The essay shows some control of grammar with errors that may impede comprehensibility: line 57 "más peor." There are agreement issues in lines 3 "algunos razones"; line 25 "El segundo fuente." The entire essay is written in simple and a few compound sentences: lines 32–34 "Tambien, los chicos ... y mandarlo a todos por mensaje."

Sample: 2C Score: 1

This is a poor performance in Presentational Writing in that the student does not answer the question nor complete the task. There is a discussion about cell phones, but there is no relevance as to their use in school: "Los celulares estan quitando el cerebro o estan dando a el cerebro?" There is also no indication that the sources were read or understood. The student's opinion is that cell phones may have good qualities but they are overall bad. This is not the topic of the essay. There is little organization in that each paragraph begins with the same language: line 2 "Los celulares"; line 7 "Los celulares"; line 15 "En realidad el celular"; line 23 "Celulars." The rest is a series of thoughts or ideas related to cellular phones but out of the context of the task. Most of the language is understandable but with many errors: line 3 "Los celulares estaban nacidos," with some exceptions as in lines 13–14 "Cuales problemas ... pude hacer todo?"