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# AP<sup>®</sup> Spanish Language and Culture

## Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

### **Inside:**

#### **Task 1—Email Reply**

- ☒ **Scoring Guidelines**
- ☒ **Student Samples**
- ☒ **Scoring Commentary**

## Question 1: Email Reply

**5 points**

### General Scoring Note

When applying the scoring guidelines, the response does not need to meet every single criterion in a column. You should award the score according to the preponderance of evidence.

| 1<br>Poor  | 2<br>Weak   | 3<br>Fair  | 4<br>Good   | 5<br>Strong   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unsuccessfully attempts to maintain the exchange by providing a response that is inappropriate within the context of the task</li> </ul>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partially maintains the exchange with a response that is minimally appropriate within the context of the task</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintains the exchange with a response that is somewhat appropriate but basic within the context of the task</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintains the exchange with a response that is generally appropriate within the context of the task</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintains the exchange with a response that is clearly appropriate within the context of the task</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides little required information (responses to questions, request for details)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides some required information (responses to questions, request for details)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides most required information (responses to questions, request for details)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides most required information (responses to questions, request for details) with some elaboration</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides required information (responses to questions, request for details) with frequent elaboration</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Barely understandable, with frequent or significant errors that impede comprehensibility</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partially understandable with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion for the reader</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally understandable, with errors that may impede comprehensibility</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully understandable, with some errors that do not impede comprehensibility</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression; occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very few vocabulary resources</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited vocabulary and idiomatic language</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate but basic vocabulary and idiomatic language</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varied and generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Little or no control of grammar, syntax, and usage</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited control of grammar, syntax, and usage</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some control of grammar, syntax, and usage</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General control of grammar, syntax, and usage</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accuracy and variety in grammar, syntax, and usage, with few errors</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimal or no attention to register; includes significantly inaccurate or no conventions for formal correspondence (e.g., greeting, closing)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of register is generally inappropriate for the situation; includes some conventions for formal correspondence (e.g., greeting, closing) with inaccuracies</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of register may be inappropriate for the situation with several shifts; partial control of conventions for formal correspondence (e.g., greeting, closing), although these may lack cultural appropriateness</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally consistent use of register appropriate for the situation, except for occasional shifts; basic control of cultural conventions appropriate for formal correspondence (e.g., greeting, closing)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly consistent use of register appropriate for the situation; control of cultural conventions appropriate for formal correspondence (e.g., greeting, closing), despite occasional errors</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very simple sentences or fragments</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple sentences and phrases</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple and a few compound sentences</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simple, compound, and a few complex sentences</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Variety of simple and compound sentences, and some complex sentences</li> </ul>  |

**Score of 0: UNACCEPTABLE**

- Mere restatement of language from the stimulus
- Completely irrelevant to the stimulus
- *"I don't know," "I don't understand,"* or equivalent in any language
- Not in the language of the exam

**NR: no response, pages are blank**

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**Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the task you are responding to on this page.

Task 1:  
Email Reply

Task 2:  
Argumentative Essay

Begin your response to each task at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

Estimada Señora, Clara Martínez

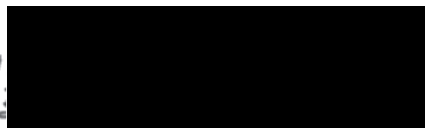
Espero y se encuentre muy bien. Para mi es un honor poder ser una de las Finalistas de este año.

El país que deseo poder estudiar seria Argentina. Siempre a sido un sueño para mi poder visitar el país Argentina y esto para mi seria una gran oportunidad de poder ser realidad mi sueño. También Me gusta mucho su cultura y su acento. Me gustaria poder seguir aprendiendo más sobre su cultura.

Mi mayor interés en disciplina académica es la arquitectura. Me gusta mucho ver los diseños que tienen los edificios, las casas, y me gustaria mas poder aprender sobre ese tema. Poder descubrir los diferentes tipos de diseño y me encantaria poder desarrollar esa disciplina académica en Argentina. Aprender sobre toda su arquitectura.

Tengo unas preguntas por hacerle, me gustaria saber ¿Cuanto tiempo duraria en Argentina?, También Me gustaria saber a que ciudad seria a la que pudiera ir?, Muchas gracias por informarme, espero y tenga un gran día. Hasta luego.

Atentamente,



Page 2

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

**Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the task you are responding to on this page.

**Task 1:**  
**Email Reply**

**Task 2:**  
**Argumentative Essay**

Begin your response to each task at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

Estimado Señora Martínez:

Me alegra escuchar que estoy entre las personas finalistas de este año. Gracias muchas por esta oportunidad. Para contestar sus preguntas, ~~quisiera~~ desearía hacer mis estudios en España porque siempre quería ~~ir~~ visitar Madrid. He escuchado que la ciudad es muy bonita y quiero verla para ~~mi~~ mí. El arte es de mayor interés para mí. Me encanta los artes ~~en~~ y quiero mejorar mi capaz en él. Tengo dos preguntas. ¿Pagaré para los gastos de vida y ~~transportación~~ cómo iré allí? Otra vez, gracias mucha por esta oportunidad.

Atentamente;

[Redacted signature]

**Important:** Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the task you are responding to on this page.

**Task 1:**  
Email Reply

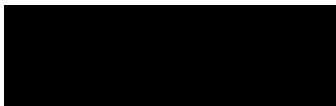
**Task 2:**  
Argumentative Essay

Begin your response to each task at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

Clara,

Gracias!!! No es problema yo estoy muy divertida para ayudar. Las personas que están las finalistas es muy trabajando y se resultan en la regla, quien es el finalista. También, Decíme cuando tu necesitas ayuda porque ~~yo~~ gusta yo decir, yo estoy muy divertida para ayudar y tú es familia para me. Usar el usted cuando tú deas con personas porque están es simpático y tu necesitas ser simpático también. Gracias y yo divertida para ayudar!

Atentamente,



Page 2

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

## Question 1

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

### Overview

This task assessed writing in the interpersonal communicative mode by having the student write a reply to an email message. Students were allotted 15 minutes to read, comprehend the message, and to write a reply. The responses received a single holistic score based on how the assigned task was accomplished. Students first needed to be able to comprehend the written message and then to write a reply using a formal register. The response is expected to address the questions in the message; elicit more information by asking a question; and it must include an appropriate greeting and closing.

The curricular theme for the email reply was “Beauty and Aesthetics.” The student was tasked with responding to Clara Martínez, director of *Fundación Arte y Vida*, a nonprofit organization that promotes the study of art, architecture, and history in Spanish-speaking countries. The student has been selected as a finalist for a research scholarship in a Spanish-speaking country and needs to reply by deciding in which discipline (art, architecture, or history) and where they would like to study.

The original email asks the student to respond these two questions:

1. If you could choose, in which Spanish-speaking country would you wish to do your research and why?
2. Which of the three academic disciplines mentioned previously interests you more? Explain providing details of your choice.

### Sample 1A

#### Score: 5

This response demonstrates a strong performance in Interpersonal Writing. The response maintains a clearly appropriate exchange of information within the context of the email reply task, as can be seen in the following examples: “*Estimada Señora*”; “*Espero y se encuentre muy bien*”; “*El país que deseo poder estudiar seria Argentina*”; “*espero y tenga un gran día.*” The response also provides all the required information, including responses to questions with frequent elaboration, e.g., “*El país que deseo poder estudiar seria Argentina*”; “*Siempre a sido un sueño*”; “*Me gusta mucho su cultura*”; “*Mi mayor interés en disciplina académica es la arquitectura. Me gusta ver los diseños que tienen los edificios.*” The response also includes a request for more information: “*¿Cuanto tiempo duraria en Argentina?*”

Regarding language use, the response is fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression: “*Seria una gran oportunidad de poder ser realidad mi sueño*”; “*poder desarrollar esa disciplican académica en Argentina.*” There are occasional errors; however, they do not impede comprehensibility: “*siempre a sido*”; “*de poder ser de realidad mi sueño*” and the vocabulary and idiomatic expression are varied and appropriate, e.g., “*es un honor*”; “*los diseños*”; “*poder desarrollar*”; “*espero y tenga un gran día.*” Additionally, there are few errors in grammar, syntax, and usage: “*a sido un sueño para mi*”; “*Tambien me gustaria saber a que ciudad seria a la que pudiera ir?*”

**Question 1 (continued)**

The register in this response is mostly consistent with only occasional errors: *“Estimada Señora”*; *“Espero y se encuentre muy bien”*; *“Atentamente.”* Lastly, the response contains a variety of simple and compound sentences and some complex sentences and structures: *“Para mi es un honor poder ser una de las finalistas de este año”*; *“Me gusta mucho ver los diseños que tienen los edificios, las casas, y me gustaria mas poder aprender sobre ese tema.”*

**Sample: 1B****Score: 3**

This response demonstrates a fair performance in Interpersonal Writing. The response maintains an exchange that is somewhat appropriate but basic within the context of the task: *“Estimado Señora Martínez”*; *“Me alegro escuchar que estoy entre las personas finalistas”*; *“Para contestar sus preguntas”*; *“Atentamente.”* The response also provides most required information and responds to both questions: *“desearía hacer mis estudios en España porque siempre quería visitar Madrid”*; *“El arte es de mayor interés para mí. Me encanta los artes y quiero mejorar mi capaz en él.”* There is also a request for more information, i.e., *“¿Pagaré para los gastos de vida y Cómo iré allí?”*

In terms of language use, the response is generally understandable, e.g., *“desearia hacer mis estudios en España”*; *“He escuchado que la ciudad es muy bonita.”* There are some errors in structure that may impede comprehensibility, e.g., *“quiero verla para miyo”*; *“quiero mejorar mi capaz en él.”* Additionally, the response repeats the phrase *“Gracias mucho”* twice. The vocabulary and idiomatic language is mostly appropriate but can be considered basic, e.g., *“escuchar”*; *“visitiar”*; *“la ciudad es muy bonita”*; *“me encanta”*; *“Para contestar sus preguntas.”* The response demonstrates some control of grammar and syntax, e.g., *“siempre queria visitar Madrid”*; *“quiero mejorar”*; *“Tengo dos preguntas”*; *“Cómo iré allí?”* The use of register may be inappropriate for the situation at times; *“Estimado Señora Martínez”* as well as the following sentence: *“Para contestar sus preguntas”*; and the closing *“Atentamente.”* The response consists of some simple sentences and a few compound sentences: *“He escuchado que la ciudad es muy bonita y quiero verla para miyo.”*

**Sample: 1C****Score: 1**

This response demonstrates a poor performance in Interpersonal Writing. The response is inappropriate within the context of the task because it unsuccessfully attempts to maintain the exchange but fails to address the questions asked by the Director, i.e., *“No es problema yo estoy muy divertido para ayudé.”* The content that can be interpreted is not totally irrelevant because it mentions the finalists for the scholarship, e.g., *“Las personas que estan los finalistas es muy trabajando,”* but that is the only intelligible reference to the topic of the task. The response contains an informal greeting *“Clara”* and a closing; *“Atentamente”* but doesn’t respond to the questions. The request for more information is irrelevant: *“Tambien, Decirme cuando tu necesitas ayuda.”*

### Question 1 (continued)

In terms of language use, the response is barely understandable, e.g., “*Yo estoy muy divertido para ayude*”; “*gusta yo deci, yo estoy muy divertido*”; “*y tú es familia para me*.” The response has few vocabulary resources (“*gracias*”; “*problema*”; “*tambien*”; “*familia*”; “*usar*”), some words are repeated (“*necesitas*”; “*ayude*”; “*personas*”), and there is little or no control of grammar, e.g., “*se resultan en la regla*”; “*quien es el finales*”; “*yo deci*”; “*tu decir con pesonas*.” There is also no attention to register, e.g., “*Decirme cuando tu necesitas ayuda*”; “*tú es familia para me*”; “*tu decir con personas*.” Lastly, the response consists of very few simple sentences, e.g., “*No es problema yo estoy*”; “*Las personas que estan los finalistas*”; “*Tambien decirme cuando tu necesitas*”; “*Gracias y yo divertido para ayudar!*”