Stage 2 Spanish Continuers

Assessment Type 2: In-depth Study

Reflective Response in English

Write a reflection about your experience in undertaking the In-depth Study.

In your response you may consider the following:

* How your research has increased your understanding of your topic
* How the research experience was similar to or different from your preconceptions
* How cultures, values and beliefs are represented in texts studied
* How your learning may have changed your thinking
* How you may use this experience in the future

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| Theme | The Spanish-speaking Communities |
| Topic | Cultural Expression |
| Aspect/Focus | Gabriela Mistral’s Poetry |
| Context | Present Day |
| Audience | Teacher |
| Text Type | Reflective Essay |

Assessment Conditions

Task length: maximum 600 words in English

Task duration: 3 weeks

Task completion: homework, some class time will be allocated

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| Learning Requirements | Assessment Design Criteria |
| * analyse texts that are in [Language] to interpret meaning * examine relationships between language, culture, and identity, and reflect on the ways in which culture influences communication. | Expression  E2 Coherence in structure and sequence   * organisation of information and ideas   Interpretation and Reflection  IR1 Interpretation of meaning in texts, by identifying and explaining   * the content (general and specific information) * the context, purpose, and audience of the text * concepts, perspectives, and ideas represented in the text.   IR3 Reflection   * reflection on how cultures, values, beliefs, practices, and ideas are represented or expressed in texts * reflection on own values, beliefs, practices, and ideas in relation to those represented or expressed in the texts studied * reflection on own learning. |

The amount of ingenuity and imagination allowed for the in-depth study sets it apart from all other assignments I have undertaken throughout my years of learning Spanish. This assessment task has allowed me to learn more about my culture and the way in which the people of my country – Chile – are portrayed throughout the world. Prior to undertaking the in-depth study I was unaware of the immensity of Gabriela Mistral's success and had blindly neglected myself from seeing and analyzing the beauty and passion instilled within her art. This task has pushed me to challenge my own beliefs and the way in which I see the world.

Throughout the in-depth study I decided to focus my research on the messages portrayed in Mistral's poems, rather than simply focusing on her life story. I did however analyse numerous biographies to provide myself with the knowledge to make connections between her personal struggles, and her art. By dissecting her poems word for word and translating many of them into English I was able to find strong links between her life experiences and the opinions, morals, beliefs and values she conveyed through her work.

**Interpretation**

Conclusions are drawn about the purpose, audience, and message (argument) of the text, and justified with evidence from the text.

Concepts, perspectives, and ideas represented in texts are identified and explained with clarity and insight.

**Reflection**

Sophisticated recognition and explanation of connections between own values, beliefs, practices, and ideas, and those explored in texts.

Many of her poems on the theme of love are not written with the intention to describe love as a thing of beauty; rather as a cause of pain, suffering hurt and loss. Her poetry not only speaks of the dark side of love but also describes her social beliefs in great depth and her love for Chile; through her work she portrays the ideals of justice and equality. This is what makes Mistral such an important figure, not only for myself, but for all Latin American women throughout the world, having been the first Latin-American woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize in Literature in 1945.

**Interpretation**

Detailed and appropriate use of evidence from texts to support arguments/ conclusions.

**Depth of Treatment**

Ideas are elaborated, opinions and arguments are supported and justified, and complex ideas are communicated effectively with originality and creativity

In her poem Piececitos' (Little Feet) she describes the suffering endured by a young child living in poverty. It is in poems like this that we see the way in which Mistral retained her life-long commitment for the common good and the importance she bestowed on publicizing messages of harmony and cooperation. In the line "how can they see you and not cover you" Mistral is speaking of our ignorant society and the way in which many of us turn our heads and ignore those most in need.

**Reflection**

Critical reflection on how cultures, values, beliefs, practices, and ideas are represented or expressed in texts.

As well as expressing her social beliefs Mistral describes her love and passion for Chile with abundant artistic flair in poems such as; Viento Norte (North Wind), Chillan, Reparto de Tierras (distribution of land), Patagonia, La Hierba (grass), Luz de Chile (light of Chile) and Emigracion de Pajaros (migration of birds).

The in-depth study has encouraged me to continue pursuing my future endeavours. Many of the philosophies highlighted in Gabriela Mistral's work are similar to that of my own opinions. Her regard for humanity and equality for all emphasizes the importance of love for each other in caressing and poetic way. After completing my secondary education I intend to pursue a career in human rights. I am pleased to say that by undergoing this research task I have broadened my understanding of the psychological benefits poetry and they way in which poetry allows a person to express their feelings in times of happiness or sorrow. In my opinion Mistral is a leading light for all women around the globe; having endured many hardships and discrimination throughout her life she was able to overcome them and tell the world her story. The life and poems of Gabriela Mistral truly are awe inspiring, empowering and have strengthened my appreciation for having second language and being Latin-American.

**Reflection**

Critical reflection on own learning.

**Additional Comments**

This example is illustrative of an A grade.

**Expression**

Information and ideas are organized logically and coherently.

Performance Standards for Stage 2 Locally Assessed Languages at Continuers Level

|  | **Ideas** | **Expression** | | **Interpretation and Reflection** |
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| A | *Relevance*  Responses are consistently relevant to context, purpose, audience, and topic.  Responses consistently convey the appropriate detail, ideas, information, opinions.  Responses successfully create the desired impact and interest, and engage the audience.  *Depth of Treatment of Ideas, Information, or Opinions*  Depth and breadth in the treatment of the topic and content is very detailed and varied.  Ideas are elaborated, opinions and arguments are supported and justified, and complex ideas are communicated effectively with originality and creativity.  Comprehensive evidence of planning and preparation. | *Capacity to Convey Information Accurately and Appropriately*  Use of an extensive range of complex linguistic structures and features with a high degree of accuracy to achieve interest, flow, and cohesion.  A few errors may be evident when attempting to use more complex language, but errors do not impede meaning.  Effective use of a range of sophisticated cohesive devices to connect ideas.  Expression consistently appropriate to the cultural and social context.  Very effective communication with a high degree of fluency. Pronunciation is accurate, and there is little hesitation in the choice of linguistic resources. Intonation and stress are used effectively to enhance meaning.  *Coherence in Structure and Sequence*  Information and ideas are organised logically and coherently.  Conventions of the text type are observed. | *Capacity to Interact and Maintain a Conversation and Discussion*  Interaction is initiated, sustained, and spontaneous across a wide range of topics. Comments or opinions are adjusted or elaborated on in response to reactions and comments. Interest, enthusiasm, and passion for the topic of discussion are conveyed.  A variety of communication strategies are used with effect during interaction (e.g. using new vocabulary encountered during interaction, seeking clarification, using appropriate pause fillers).  Responses are quick, confident, and fluent. Topic shifts and unpredictable elements are handled well. | *Interpretation of Meaning in Texts*  Detailed and appropriate use of evidence from texts to support arguments/conclusions. Interpretations of text are enhanced by making connections within and/or between texts (e.g. comparing and contrasting information, ideas, and opinions).  Conclusions are drawn about the purpose, audience, and message (argument) of the text, and justified with evidence from the text.  Concepts, perspectives, and ideas represented in texts are identified and explained with clarity and insight.  *Analysis of the Language in Texts*  The functions of particular linguistic and cultural features in the text are explained with clarity and insight.  Detailed explanation of how stylistic features are used for effect in the text (e.g. register, tone, textual features/organisation).  *Reflection*  Critical reflection on how cultures, values, beliefs, practices, and ideas are represented or expressed in texts.  Sophisticated recognition and explanation of connections between own values, beliefs, practices, and ideas, and those explored in texts.  Critical reflection on own learning. |
| B | *Relevance*  Responses are mostly relevant to context, purpose, audience, and topic.  Responses mostly convey the appropriate detail, ideas, information, and opinions.  Responses generally create the desired impact and interest, and engage the audience.  *Depth of Treatment of Ideas, Information, or Opinions*  Breadth and some depth in the treatment of the topic.  Ideas are elaborated by offering additional details, and opinions are supported with examples. When dealing with unfamiliar topics, ideas are presented as a series of statements rather than as an argued position.  Sound planning and preparation. | *Capacity to Convey Information Accurately and Appropriately*  Use of a range of linguistic structures and features with good control to convey meaning.  Mostly accurate use of high-frequency vocabulary and sentence structures. Attempts are made to use some complex language, and errors sometimes impede meaning.  A range of cohesive devices are used to connect ideas.  Expression is mostly appropriate to the cultural and social context.  Effective communication with some degree of fluency. Reasonably accurate pronunciation and intonation.  *Coherence in Structure and Sequence*  Mostly coherent organisation of information and ideas.  Most conventions of the text type are observed. | *Capacity to Interact and Maintain a Conversation and Discussion*  Interaction is maintained on a range of familiar topics. Some clarification or repetition is required to comprehend topic shifts into unfamiliar areas or when complex sentence constructions are used. Interest in the topic is conveyed effectively.  A number of communication strategies are used to maintain interaction (e.g. self-correcting, responding to correction by the interlocutor, seeking support and clarification).  Occasional pauses to process questions and to search for linguistic resources. | *Interpretation of Meaning in Texts*  Key ideas represented in texts are identified and explained. Interpretations of meaning are supported with some appropriate examples from the text.  Some conclusions are drawn about the purpose, audience, and message (argument) of the text and supported with some relevant examples from the text.  Concepts, perspectives, and ideas represented in texts are generally identified and explained with some clarity.  *Analysis of the Language in Texts*  The functions of particular linguistic and cultural features in the text are described.  Some detail in explaining stylistic features in the text (e.g. register, tone, textual features/organisation).  *Reflection*  Some depth in reflection on how cultures, values, beliefs, practices, and ideas are represented or expressed in texts.  Some depth in reflection on own values, beliefs, ideas, and practices in relation to those represented in texts.  Thoughtful reflection on own learning. |
| C | *Relevance*  Responses are generally relevant to topic and purpose, with some relevance to context and audience.  Responses generally convey simple ideas and opinions with generally appropriate information.  Responses generally create some interest, and partly engage the audience.  *Depth of Treatment of Ideas, Information, or Opinions*  Some variety in the treatment of information and simple ideas or opinions on mostly familiar topics.  Short simple sentences usually containing one idea are used to convey meaning with some effectiveness and support an opinion.  Competent planning and preparation. | *Capacity to Convey Information Accurately and Appropriately*  Use of a range of linguistic structures and features to convey meaning. Reliance on rehearsed patterns.  Accuracy tends to be variable, with some basic errors. Generally accurate when using formulaic expressions and rehearsed patterns.  Cohesive devices are simple and repetitive. Reliance on a limited range of cohesive devices to connect ideas at sentence, paragraph, and whole text level.  Expression is generally appropriate to the cultural and social context.  Some hesitancy in responding. Pronunciation and intonation are understandable.  *Coherence in Structure and Sequence*  Generally coherent organisation of information and ideas.  Responses generally conform to the conventions of the text type. | *Capacity to Interact and Maintain a Conversation and Discussion*  Use of well-rehearsed language to maintain an interaction by responding to questions on familiar topics. Some reliance on the interlocutor to take the lead. Some interest in the topic is conveyed.  Use of prepared phrases to indicate lack of comprehension and ask for support. Often relies on the interlocutor’s sentence patterns to respond.  Occasional silences because of lack of comprehension and time required to process more complex language and to search for words. Responses may be repetitive. Some hesitation in communication when dealing with unfamiliar contexts. | *Interpretation of Meaning in Texts*  Identifies and explains some relevant information from texts on familiar topics containing predictable and familiar language structures.  Competent understanding of context, purpose, and audience, supported with isolated examples from the text.  Main concepts, ideas, and one or more perspectives in texts are identified, with some explanation.  *Analysis of the Language in Texts*  Particular linguistic and cultural features of the text are identified.  Identification of stylistic features in texts (e.g. idioms, rhetoric, expressions).  *Reflection*  Some reflection on cultures, values, beliefs, practices, and ideas represented or expressed in texts.  Some reflection on, with mostly description of, own values, beliefs, ideas, and practices in relation to those represented in texts.  Some reflection on own learning. |
| D | *Relevance*  Responses partially relevant to the topic and purpose.  Responses convey some basic information that may be appropriate.  Responses include one or more elements of interest that may engage the audience.  *Depth of Treatment of Ideas, Information, or Opinions*  Some basic treatment of information or ideas relating to simple aspects of familiar topics.  Short and generally incomplete sentences are used with partial effectiveness to convey an idea or opinion.  Some planning and preparation. | *Capacity to Convey Information Accurately and Appropriately*  Use of simple vocabulary, short sentences, formulaic expressions, and rehearsed patterns to convey meaning. When attempts are made to elaborate, the structure is often based on word order derived from English.  Frequent errors and incorrect selection of words from the dictionary impede meaning.  A cohesive device may be used with some effectiveness.  Expression occasionally appropriate to cultural and social context.  Frequent hesitancy in responding. Pronunciation may impede meaning.  *Coherence in Structure and Sequence*  Some basic organisation of information and/or ideas.  Some use of very basic conventions of the text type. | *Capacity to Interact and Maintain a Conversation and Discussion*  Routine courtesy phrases and basic structures are used to respond to simple questions on familiar topics. Reliance on the interlocutor to take the lead and maintain interaction. Some interest in the topic may be conveyed.  Reliance on repetition and rephrasing of questions. Partial understanding of questions may lead to a response that is not relevant.  Frequent silences may occur because of lack of comprehension and time required to search for words and construct answers. | *Interpretation of Meaning in Texts*  Keywords and some supporting detail are identified in texts dealing with familiar situations.  Some basic understanding of context, purpose, and/or audience.  Identification of one or more concepts or ideas, with specific information in texts transcribed rather than interpreted.  *Analysis of the Language in Texts*  One or more basic linguistic structures and/or cultural features of the text are identified.  One or more stylistic features are identified.  *Reflection*  One or more familiar aspects of cultures, values, beliefs, practices, or ideas represented or expressed in texts are identified.  One or more of the student’s own values, beliefs, practices, or ideas in relation to those represented in texts are described.  Learning experiences are recounted. |
| E | *Relevance*  Responses have limited relevance to the topic and purpose.  Responses attempt to convey some basic information, with limited appropriateness.  Responses attempt to include an element of interest.  *Depth of Treatment of Ideas, Information, or Opinions*  Attempted treatment of simple information relating to one or more aspects of familiar topics.  Responses are brief and often rely on a keyword to convey basic meaning.  Attempted planning or preparation. | *Capacity to Convey Information Accurately and Appropriately*  Relies heavily on the dictionary. Use of a very limited range of vocabulary and sentence structures, with single words and set formulaic expressions to convey basic information. Reliance on anglicisms to convey meaning.  Frequent errors impede meaning.  Limited appropriateness of expression.  Attempted use of a cohesive device, with limited effectiveness.  Always or mostly hesitant in responding. Pronunciation impedes meaning.  *Coherence in Structure and Sequence*  Limited organisation of information or ideas.  Limited evidence of conventions of text type. | Capacity to Interact and Maintain a Conversation and Discussion  Reliance on interlocutor to assist with communication breakdowns to complete sentences or to interpret intended meanings.  Repetition, rephrasing of questions, and a slowed rate of speech are required for comprehension. Utterances rarely consist of more than two or three words. Frequent misunderstandings of simple questions.  Frequent long pauses to process questions and to search for words. May resort to using English to convey meaning. | *Interpretation of Meaning in Texts*  Isolated items of information are identified in short texts on familiar topics containing simple language.  Identification of a context, purpose, or audience.  Understanding of information is limited to occasional isolated words (e.g. borrowed words, high-frequency social conventions).  *Analysis of the Language in Texts*  Attempted identification of a basic linguistic structure of the text.  Attempted identification of a stylistic feature.  *Reflection*  One or more formulaic cultural expressions are identified.  One or more of the student’s own values, beliefs, practices, or ideas are identified.  Learning experiences are listed. |