

2018 VCE Russian written examination report

General comments

In Section 1, students demonstrated the ability to understand general and specific aspects of the texts by identifying and analysing information and conveying the information reasonably well.

In Section 2, students responded to most of the information, ideas and opinions in the text. They organised information and ideas to meet the requirements of the task. However, the understanding of vocabulary and sentence structures was unsatisfactory and needs improvement.

In Section 3, students demonstrated some breadth and depth in the development of information, ideas and opinions and satisfactory knowledge of vocabulary, tense, mood and sentence structure, as well as knowledge of different genres.

Specific information

This report provides sample answers or an indication of what answers may have included. Unless otherwise stated, these are not intended to be exemplary or complete responses.

Section 1 – Listening and responding Part A – Answer in English

Text 1

Question 1

Blogging is a hobby.

- opportunity to meet lots of young people
- choice of topics/opportunity to openly express opinions
- writing from any location/freedom to move around

Blogging is a skilled occupation.

- knowledge of a discipline required (for example, marketing)
- need to be an authority on many topics/write expertly on many topics
- need to publish regularly, therefore, need to be a good planner

Text 2

Question 2

The paisley pattern is seen to represent the following symbolic shapes:

- stylised flames, symbolising life
- cashew nut, symbolising fertility.

Students who did not score well had difficulty identifying shapes and symbols. For example, a floral motif combined with the silhouette of a cypress was not an acceptable answer, as this is simply a description, and seeds of a mango tree do not symbolise anything.

Text 3

Question 3

According to Mr Dronov, drones are already being used in two agricultural sectors in the following ways:

- in animal farming, drones help monitor the herd
- in wine making, drones help monitor the harvest/prevent an outbreak of pests/improve irrigation/monitor the ripeness of grapes

'A robotic bee that pollinates plants' was not an acceptable answer as it is still under development, and neither was 'drones take photos of plants and animals'.

Part B – Answer in Russian

Text 4

Question 4

Traditional Russian foods may provide the greatest protection against the common cold in winter because:

- *Кефир богат пробиотиками (которые защищают от простудных заболеваний).* (Okroshka with kefir [yoghurt] is rich in probiotics [probiotics strengthen the immune system].)
- *В гречневой каше много белка (белок способствует крепкому здоровью).* (Buckwheat kasha is abundant in protein [it strengthens the immune system].)
- *В квашеной капусте большое количество витамина С (защищает организм).* (Sauerkraut [sour cabbage] contains a great amount of vitamin C [which helps to fight viruses].)

'Porridge' or 'morning kasha' were not acceptable answers. The text said that kasha contains vitamins in a small quantity and did not mention vitamin C explicitly.

Text 5

Question 5

Во время правления Петра Первого (Великого)/300 лет назад дома к Новому Году украшали хвойными ветками, но эта традиция не прижилась.

В начале 19 века императрица Александра Фёдоровна ввела традицию украшения рождественской ёлки.

Столетием позже/в Советской России рождественская ёлка была запрещена, но позже/через десять лет вернулась как новогодняя.

(In Peter the Great's time, 300 years ago, Russian houses were decorated with conifer branches for the New Year celebration, but the tradition did not survive.)

At the beginning of the 19th century, Empress Alexandra Fedorovna introduced the tradition of decorating a Christmas tree.

One hundred years later, Soviet Russia banned this tradition. Later/ten years later they introduced a tradition of decorating a New Year's tree.)

Most students demonstrated sufficient understanding of the text by conveying some of the relevant aspects.

Text 6

Question 6

В результате пыльных бурь перегревается Земля и наносится вред здоровью человека/повышается смертность до 1%

В ходе пожаров сокращается растительный покров Земли и происходит загрязнение воздуха пеплом, сажей и угарным газом.

(As a result of dust storms, Earth becomes overheated and dust storms are harmful for people's health.

Fires result in the decrease of vegetation and pollute the air with ash, soot and carbon particles.)

'Dust from outer space' was not an acceptable answer, because it will affect the air quality only if its amount increases. 'Seas and oceans' was not an acceptable answer, because they pollute the air in an insignificant manner.

Section 2 – Reading and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 7

Question 7

The advantages of the bus as a mode of transport are:

- In a bus, unlike in the metro, one can enjoy the view out of the window.
- Unlike a trolleybus and a tram, a bus doesn't have overhead wiring or rails; therefore, it is easier/cheaper to change routes if necessary.
- Unlike a trolleybus, a bus looks more aesthetically pleasing/doesn't spoil the view of a city.
- A bus moves faster than a trolleybus or tram.

The students had some difficulty in comparing, as well as retrieving, the required information.

Text 8

Question 8a.

The evidence that the wolf didn't come to make peace is:

- The wolf came at night.
- The wolf thought he was climbing into a sheepfold (with the intention of killing the sheep).
- The wolf looked like he wanted to eat everyone.

Question 8b.

The reasons the wolf's negotiation with the huntsmen was unsuccessful are:

- because the man is grey-headed/wise
- the man knows that the wolf is not going to change its nature

- the man will only make peace with a dead wolf (the negotiation is doomed because men will not make peace with a wolf)
- the huntsmen released dogs onto the wolf.

Limited knowledge and understanding of vocabulary and sentence structure prevented some students from meeting the requirement of the task. For example, *ceđ* (grey-headed) implies wisdom, therefore, the huntsman knew the wolf's nature.

Part B – Answer in Russian

Text 9

Question 9

In this question, students were required to write a letter to the editor as a response to the provided article, suggesting ideas for the elderly on how to overcome loneliness.

Suggested points to include:

- attend courses to learn how to use modern technologies
- join volunteer clubs, find a hobby – it will assist in meeting new friends
- actively participate in the life of the young, share their life experience and wisdom
- be psychologically prepared for the changes, stay positive, seek professional help

Some students did not comprehend the question. They included in their answers how society should help instead of elderly people helping themselves. Some students did not respond to all three challenges mentioned in the article and also copied sentences from the original text.

Section 3 – Writing in Russian

The majority of students chose Question 12. Some students could not identify text type and stylistic features of the required text. Few students chose Questions 10 and 11. However, those who did presented excellent work.

Question 10

Students were required to write the script of the opening scene for a play titled *One Day without a Mobile Phone*, in which they and a friend discussed what happened when they went to school to find that all mobile phones had disappeared.

Question 11

Students were required to write a review for a youth magazine, about a restaurant that recently opened in their local area.

Question 12

Students were required to write an article for a school newspaper, in which they persuaded high school students that having a part-time job is beneficial to their future.