

2017 VCE Portuguese written examination report

General comments

In general, students understood the questions on the 2017 Portuguese written examination and responded appropriately, although some were unable to finish all questions.

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

Students could improve their performance in the Listening and Responding section by:

- practising taking notes while listening to spoken texts
- listening to the Portuguese media and other text types if possible
- practising to select key words from the material and from the questions in order to further understand texts and formulate the correct responses
- practising to answer questions using full sentences.

Part A – Answer in English

In this section, students were required to listen to spoken texts, analyse them and answer the questions in English. The majority of students paid attention to the finer details of the texts and were able to obtain high scores.

Text 1

Question 1a.

- She asks for directions./She doesn't know where the museum is./She does not know where the information centre is.
- She is consulting a guidebook, so she is probably a tourist/visitor.
- She is at the station.

Question 1b.

- The guidebook provides inconclusive information.
- The man is only able to provide partial information/some information or redirects the lady to the information desk.

Text 2

Question 2a.

- The man needs to send the fresh (Portuguese) tarts to Italy/to his cousin.
- His cousin's birthday is the day after tomorrow/in two days' time and the tarts need to arrive on time.
- He made tarts to save money.
- He has to pay for the most expensive postage.

Question 2b.

The blue mail would not have arrived on time (because it takes three days).

Text 3

Question 3a.

- mountains in the hinterland/state interior
- deserted/beautiful beaches

Question 3b.

- climate
- history/historic vestiges of Arabic presence
- reduced prices for accommodation and dining

Part B – Answer in Portuguese

In this section students were required to listen to audio texts, analyse them and answer the questions in Portuguese. The majority of the students were able to process the information requested accurately and obtain full marks.

Text 4

Question 4a.

- *cortejo etnográfico* (ethnographic procession)
- *participação da associação de teatro e de outras artes 'ASTA'* (the participation of the association for theatre and other arts 'ASTA')

Question 4b.

Pessoas interessadas em (People interested in):

- *eventos folclóricos/etnográficos* (folkloric events/ethnography)
- *cozinha da região/cozinha regional/comida* (cuisine of the region/regional cuisine/food)
- *apoiar/impulsionar a economia local* (supporting/boosting the local economy).

Text 5

Question 5a.

Relevant answers could have included:

- *Ensina/pessoas podem aprender sobre aspectos incomuns/desconhecidos da língua* (Teaches/people can learn about unusual/unknown aspects of the language)
- *Considera o ponto de vista do património cultural das comunidades lusófonas* (Considers the point of view of the cultural heritage of the Portuguese-speaking communities)

Question 5b.

- *Visita Virtual* (virtual visit)
- *Museu Interativo* (interactive museum)
- *Apresenta exposições em que objetos, sons e imagens são projetados em telas grandes* (presents exhibits in which objects, sounds and images are projected on large screens)

Text 6

Question 6a.

- *Mergulho* (scuba diving)
- *Andar nas grutas/espeleologia* (walk in the caves/caving)

Question 6b.

- *Escolheu medicina, mas rejeitou porque não gostava de matemática* (chose medicine, but rejected it because he didn't like maths)
- *Estudou música no exterior* (studied music abroad)
- *Talento inato revelou-se naturalmente* (innate talent revealed itself naturally)

Section 2 – Reading and Responding

In the Reading and Responding section, students are required to understand general and/or specific aspects of texts, as well as convey the information appropriately.

Some students had difficulty selecting the correct information from the text when answering some questions.

To improve their performance in this section, students are advised to ensure that they understand the key words in the questions before answering them.

Part A – Answer in English

Text 7

Question 7

Students were required to weigh up their points of view and make a judgment about whether the author of the text viewed television as a positive or negative influence. Students needed to support their response with evidence from the text and conclude with a decision.

Text 8

Question 8

- surf tourism is not a mass market (i.e. being more central, tourists do not need to travel that far)
- environmentally sustainable
- the sport depends on a natural resource (waves)
- surfers value good environmental practices
- good environmental practices/keeping beaches free from pollution stimulates the ecological preservation of beaches

Part B – Answer in Portuguese

Text 9

Question 9

Points/responses students could have included were:

- mention of the week of 5–12 November
- email format
- peculiar requests accommodated
- choice of accommodation
- how and why the grandmother's needs will be met

Section 3 – Writing in Portuguese

Students could have chosen between two topics. The persuasive formal letter (Question 11) was the most popular, followed by the informative magazine article (Question 10).

Most students were able to express their opinions and ideas clearly in writing. However, more breadth and depth in content was needed for students to achieve excellent results.

When completing this section, students should proofread their work to ensure that it has continuity and makes sense and that there is agreement in tenses used.

Question 10

- Topic: the changing world – World of work
- Text type: magazine article
- Kind of writing: informative

Points that could have been included in student responses were:

- magazine article (correct features: title, date, author, content, introduction, middle, conclusion)
- informative writing
- trip back in time and meeting a great figure of world history
- year visited and reasons why
- person selected and reasons why this person was selected.

Question 11

- Topic: the individual – Education and aspirations
- Text type: formal letter
- Kind of writing: persuasive

Points that could have been included in student responses were:

- formal letter (includes: salutation, place, date, introductory lead-in; introduction, middle, conclusion, final greetings, etc.)
- reference to a Portuguese institution running the competition
- student wanting to specialise/has an interest in areas of one or more of: humanities, science, technology and the arts
- two or three reasons for speciality/interest
- reason for wanting to attend a Portuguese language course.