

2016 VCE Auslan examination report

Interactive Sign examination

General comments

Students performed reasonably well in the 2016 VCE Auslan Interactive Sign examination. Students who scored highly were well prepared, and able to communicate with confidence and advance the exchange effectively with assessors. Students who did not score highly used a limited range of vocabulary and did not use good repair strategies when necessary.

It is important for students to know how to advance the conversation. Some students had little to say unless they were prompted by the assessors' questions.

It is imperative that students are familiar with all components of the examination, the examination criteria used for assessment, and the correct form of address to use when interacting with the assessor at the start of the examination and when taking leave at the end of the examination.

Students who chose topics that were relevant to them and their life experiences performed well.

The Interactive Sign Examination has two sections – Conversation and discussion, and Presentation and response.

Section 1 – Conversation and discussion

Generally, a variety of topics were covered in the Conversation and discussion section, including students' personal backgrounds, current studies, family structure, career aspirations, hobbies, travel/holiday plans, part-time employment and future plans. Students were well prepared for this section and performed well.

Section 2 – Presentation and response

In general, students were well prepared and had researched their chosen topic well. Students responded to assessors' follow-up questions well. However, some students chose to discuss their holidays for their topic. This can be an inappropriate topic, mainly due to a lack of detailed research and/or answers that lack breadth and depth.

Students must choose a topic that they are familiar with or interested in. They must feel comfortable with the topic they choose.

Sign Comprehension and Sign Production examination

General comments

Students performed well in the 2016 Auslan Sign Comprehension and Sign Production examination. During the year, students are advised to practise completing only **one** recording of their response and ensuring that the whole response has been recorded. Many students completed only one draft of their response.

Most students were able to answer the task, look into the camera and maintain eye contact; however, a few students did not check that their signing was in the frame on camera. Students need to practise focusing the camera correctly. They should be able to see themselves signing from head to waist and from one shoulder to the other.

There were times when students' signing was out of range, i.e. too low. They must sit upright while recording and not bend forward towards the camera. They also should not swivel on their chairs.

Some students did not clearly indicate which draft they wanted the assessors to look at. It is also important to indicate whether their draft is formal or informal.

Students' Auslan skills were generally well developed, with most students gaining high scores; however, there is still a need to remind students to ensure that they fully understand the task and they use the correct structure, which is of vital importance; for example:

1. Greeting/opening
2. Body of discussion
3. Closure of discussion

Students also need to understand what they are being assessed on. Students and teachers must refer to past examination reports and the *VCE Auslan Study Design*.

Specific information

Section 1: Watching and responding to informal signed texts

Task 1 – Informal

Possible answers

Lebanese restaurant

- The one at the end of High Street, on the left-hand side, about 150 metres from the bus stop.
- It's very friendly/welcoming.
- It has a large room, with lots of long tables in rows. Each table seats about 10 people.
- It is very private as you can see people at your table but can't really see people at other tables.
- There are lots of different courses on the menu.
- We started our meal with dips, Lebanese bread and salad.
- There's a choice of kebabs or grilled seafood.
- You can choose between chicken, lamb and goat.
- Lamb is the most popular meat in Lebanon. Beef is not eaten very much.
- The food is very fresh as it is cooked immediately.
- The food always has flavours of olive oil, garlic and lemons.
- The sweets are delicious. 'I had filo pastry filled with nuts and syrup.'

- My friend had shortbread filled with date paste and nuts served with black coffee.
- The food overall was very delicious.
- Waiters are so friendly.
- Easy to park right outside/plenty of spaces available.

Indian restaurant

- A little further down the road, on the opposite side of the road.
- A little like the Lebanese restaurant.
- Lots of dishes to make up a meal and caters for every taste.
- Also in a large room but lots of little tables scattered around.
- We started with lots of different Indian savouries – some meat, some vegetables.
- For mains we ordered a selection of curries, vegetables, meat and fish.
- I liked the prawn curry best but they were all good.
- You can choose mild, medium or hot curry, so everyone is happy.
- There is a wide choice of vegetarian dishes, which is good for those who don't eat meat.
- And of course everything is eaten with lots of Indian bread and pickles.
- We had Indian sweets for dessert and finished with tea to drink.

Costs at the two restaurants

- Lebanese restaurant – The starters were \$10 per head, mains between \$15 and \$25 depending on the meat or fish, and desserts and coffee were another \$10. That doesn't include drinks, but you can bring your own.
- Indian restaurant was about the same.
 - A set two- or three-course menu at the Indian restaurant is cheaper. You are given a number of dishes. They are listed on the menu so you know what you will get.
 - They also do a special set menu for you if you order in advance.
 - Drinks have to be ordered from the bar, which makes it expensive.
 - It was also fairly crowded with tables very close, but the food was great and very authentic, with Indian chefs and waiters.

Section 2: Watching and responding to formal signed texts

Task 2 – Formal

Possible answers

Students needed to decide to either continue living at home or rent a place. Possible factors contributing to their decision included the following.

Reasons for renting

- To find a rental unit you need to:
 - look in papers or visit estate agents to see what is available
 - check that heating, lighting, cooking, hot water, etc. is organised
 - perhaps share because of the cost.
- You enter into a legal agreement with the landlord.
- You will be given an information booklet and also a copy of the tenancy agreement, which tells you what you have agreed to, and the original and copies of the condition report. The condition report is important because it says if things need to be repaired before you move in; you need to check it by looking carefully at the house.
- You pay one month's rent in advance and a bond, which is used to pay for any damage when you move out.

- Rental properties can be very hard to find in some areas and are often expensive – \$200 to \$1000 per week.
- Because it's not your building, you are unable to make any major improvements or renovations to the property without your landlord's permission. When the lease runs out, the landlord can simply ask you to leave.
- Your landlord or real estate agent may inspect the property to ensure it is being well cared for. This inspection may check the following:
 - the property is being maintained in a clean and tidy condition
 - the grounds are being maintained in a clean and tidy condition
 - the property has not been damaged in any way
 - only the number of people specified on the tenancy agreement are living at the property.

Reasons for living at home

- It is usually much cheaper, even if you pay your parents board to live at home.
- You don't have to worry about separate gas and electricity bills and wi-fi.
- You already have a space set up in the way you like.
- Parents are likely to help you with improvements you may need; for example, installing your own TV.
- Your room will probably be cleaned for free.
- Your food will be cooked for you.
- Your clothes will be washed for you.
- The house will be warm.
- You will not need to find people to share with you. It can be very difficult to find good people to share with you.
- It really depends on how independent you want to be and your finances.