

# 2020 VCE Karen written examination report

## General comments

Most students performed well and were well prepared for the VCE Karen written examination

Some students made very simple mistakes. It is important that students read the questions carefully and answer using information in the text only. They will not receive marks for extra information that does not appear in the text.

Spelling and grammar were the major issues requiring improvement. Using spelling and grammar correctly requires broader reading and writing practice. Students are encouraged to practise their reading and writing skills by increasing their vocabulary and through wider reading of appropriate resources.

## 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

This part was assessed according to how well students understood general and specific aspects of texts by identifying and analysing information and conveying the information accurately and appropriately.

When students listen to the texts, they should try to get the main information and key points, taking notes if necessary (there is space on the examination paper for this). When listening to the texts the second time, students should refer back to the questions to make sure that they have identified the key information and edit their notes if necessary. To improve listening skills, students can listen to texts from past exam papers, which are on the [Karen study page](#).

### Question 1

The criteria included:

- being 18 years or over
- having a Working with Children Check
- being able to work Monday to Friday 5 am–7 pm
- enjoying the company of children.



## Question 5a.

Correct responses included:

- fleeing due to war and oppression
- seeking employment for a better life
- family reunification.

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## Question 5b.

Correct responses were:

- being optimistic and enthusiastic
- working hard
- studying hard
- socialising with locals and others.

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## Question 6a.

Correct responses were:

- Fish and frogs have declined because their habitats were destroyed.
- Water resources are diminishing because forests near the rivers were cleared.
- The climate is hotter.

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## Question 6b.

Correct responses were:

- joining environmental organisations to know how to sustain the environment
- planting more trees and bamboo
- conserving habitats for fish and frogs to live and breed.

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## Section 2: Reading and responding

This section gave students the opportunity to demonstrate their reading and comprehension skills, and how well they could convey the information correctly and accurately.

Students are reminded to read the questions carefully and answer with only the relevant information. Some questions might need to be answered using bullet points and some using full sentences. It is very important to include all the required information and key points when answering the questions.

### Part A

#### Question 7a.

Correct answers were:

- Women were judged by their physical strength.
- Women were viewed as domestic workers.
- There was limited acceptance of the changing role of women in society.

#### Question 7b.

Correct answers were:

- modern technology
- contraception.

#### Question 8a.

Correct answers were that they:

- grew their own food
- rotated crops
- used natural fertiliser/compost
- let animals wander / feed on non-chemically treated grass
- ate fresh food and meat full of nutrients.

#### Question 8b.

Correct answers were:

- They are willing to pay more for safe food.
- They shop in local markets rather than supermarkets.

### Part B

In this part, students were assessed on how well they:

- demonstrated an understanding of the stimulus text
- wrote text appropriate and relevant to context, purpose and audience
- structured and sequenced information and ideas
- manipulated language structures and vocabulary in Karen.



## Question 11

Students were required to write an evaluative report for a magazine for teenagers. Students were expected to evaluate aspects of living away from home.

Many students who chose this topic did very well. They could identify the advantages and disadvantages of being away from home. Students are encouraged to provide relevant evidence to back up their views in an evaluative piece of writing. Students should be reminded to take care with their spelling and to check their work.