

2018 VCE Korean First Language written examination report

General comments

Most students achieved moderate results in the 2018 Korean First Language written examination.

Students were generally able to manage their time well. It is essential that students are aware that they may consult their dictionaries during the reading time and during the examination.

Students with high-scoring responses demonstrated:

- excellent skills in language application
- highly relevant and significant information, integrating ideas in a sophisticated way
- highly effective structuring and sequencing of information and ideas appropriate to the audience and purpose
- a broad range of sophisticated vocabulary and complex and accurate grammatical structures.

Students with low-scoring responses demonstrated:

- minimal information and ideas that were largely irrelevant or unrelated to the question
- insufficient characteristics of the kind of writing in the required format
- inconsistent structuring and sequencing of information and ideas
- poor range of vocabulary and grammatical structures
- very little awareness of the requirements of the 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

Many students answered the questions in Section 1 correctly, but some were inaccurate in their responses and simply rewrote what they had heard in the text. Students are reminded to ensure that their answers are coherent within the context of the question. Where the questions asked students to describe (서술하시오) or explain (설명하시오), some students responded in simple sentences rather than responding with a description or explanation as required.

Some students did not utilise the note-taking space. Notes are not assessed, but note-taking can be helpful to students when listening to texts and then transferring their responses to the answer spaces. The answer spaces provided give students an idea of how much they should write in response to the question.

Text 1

Question 1a.

- 직지는 중국의 목판 인쇄술이 가진 자원낭비와 시간 소모의 한계를 극복하고 정보를 빠르게 대량 생산하여 정보의 대혁명을 가능하게 했다. (*Jikji* assisted in reducing the large waste of

resources of China's woodblock printing industry and made mass production of information efficient in a short period of time, which brought about the Industrial Revolution.)

- 이는 현재 한국이 IT 강대국으로 정보 기술력을 가진 나라로 발돋움하는데 밑거름의 역할을 하는 인과관계를 가지고 있다. (Based on this, it can be concluded that *Jikji* provided a foundation for Korea to become one of the leading IT nations with strong information technology.)

Overall, students did not perform well on this question. Students had difficulty giving an appropriate explanation of the relationship between *Jikji* and Korea's title as one of the leading IT nations.

Question 1b.

- 박병선 박사는 두 가지 고증 방법으로 직지의 가치를 발견해냈다. 첫째, 프랑스의 대장간을 돌며 인쇄술을 연구하여, 중국과 일본의 인쇄술과 비교 연구하는 방법으로 직지의 가치를 고증했다. (Dr Park practised two [historical investigation] methods to prove the value of *Jikji*. Firstly, she scrutinised the printing technologies of China and Japan and visited numerous blacksmiths' workshops in France to search more for metallic movable type printing technology.)
- 둘째, 직접 고구마, 지우개 등을 글자로 파서 점토로 활자를 빚어 오븐에 굽는 방법으로 고증했다. (Secondly, she engraved letters on potatoes, sweet potatoes and erasers, and baked letters she made with clay in an oven.)
- 그 과정에서 우리는 박 박사의 끈질긴 집념과 불굴의 의지, 그리고 애국심을 배울 수 있다. (Through this process, we can learn of Dr Park's persistent commitment, indomitable will and love of her country.)

Most students answered this question reasonably well. However, some students found it difficult to accurately identify why Dr Park visited numerous blacksmiths' workshops in France and scrutinised the printing technology of China and Japan. In addition, language accuracy was poor and responses lacked cohesion.

Question 1c.

- 어머니가 아이를 오랜 기간 품어서 세상에 탄생시키듯 박병선 박사는 처음으로 직지를 발견하였고 헌신적인 연구를 통하여 그 가치를 세상에 알렸다. (Dr Park was the first one to discover *Jikji* and continuously researched it to prove its worth to the world, just as a mother gives birth, raises and nurtures her baby.)
- 또한 자식을 기르듯이 직지의 가치를 성장시켜 유네스코에 세계기록유산으로 등재시키는데 큰 역할을 하였으며. (She also campaigned for the repatriation of *Jikji*, leading it to be registered as a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Memory of the World Programme.)
- 생을 마감하면서도 직지 반환을 위해 후손들에게 유언을 남기며 한국의 문화유산에 대한 연구와 귀환을 위해 평생을 바쳐 보여준 희생적인 모습이 마치 어머니의 모습과 유사하여 '직지의 어머니'라고 불린다. (She also made a will that encourages her descendants to continuously advocate for the repatriation of *Jikji*, and since her dedication parallels that of mothers, she is often called 'the Mother of *Jikji*.')

To be awarded high marks for this question, students needed to explain logically and in full detail the meanings of the mother of *Jikji*. They also needed to include all relevant reasons in an integrated and descriptive way.

Question 1d.

인쇄 기술의 명칭 (printing technology term)	특징 (characteristics)
금속가공술 (metal processing technology)	나무 대신 구리라는 금속을 활자 틀에 녹여 부어서 가공했다. (Copper was used instead of wood as its main material.)
활자주조술 (casting moveable metal type technology)	밀랍주조법을 사용하여 벌집의 찌꺼기를 가열해 얻은 밀랍에 글자본을 붙여 글자를 새긴 후, 흙으로 감싸 주형틀을 만들고 밀랍을 녹여 낸 공간에 쇠물을 부어 활자를 주조하여 (오랜 기간 보존이 가능했다.) (They used wax casting where the letters are engraved on wax obtained by heating honeycomb. The letters are held in place by a rigid outer mould made of clay, with a gap between the letters and the mould. Then, molten bronze is poured down into the gap between the mould and the letters [which made the long-term preservation of <i>Jikji</i> possible]).
먹 제조술(기술) (ink-making technology)	식물성 기름을 태운 그을음에 야교를 섞어 숙성시킨 유연먹을 제조하여 먹물이 번지는 것을 방지했다. (Animal bone or leather, tendon, etc., were boiled and mixed with vegetable oil soot, which was matured to become an ink. This prevented ink from spreading on paper.)
제지술 (paper-making technology)	닥나무 가공 후 도침질로 종이의 밀도와 섬유질 형성으로 단단해지고 질겨지며 광택까지 나는 고품질의 부드러운 종이를 사용하여 인쇄기 없이 사용했다. (Paper was also made by drying boiled mulberry tree bark and patting it to make a flat and smooth surface. The patting process called ' <i>Dochimjil</i> ' allows paper to be glossy and tough since the density of paper and the formation of fibre are increased.)

Generally, students did not perform well in this question. They found it difficult to correctly identify the terminology of printing technology and its characteristics. Many students did not take note of appropriate information in the note-taking space to then be able to transfer their notes to the answer space. Students' responses that matched the printing technology with the correct characteristics were accepted, even though some of their explanations were simple.

Question 1e.

- 직지심체요절은 독일 구텐베르크의 성서보다 78년 앞선 것이 판명되어 현존하는 세계 최초의 금속활자 인쇄본으로 세계에서 공식적으로 인정되었다. (*Jikji* is recognised as the world's oldest existing book printed with movable metal type, published 78 years before the Gutenberg Bible.)
- 또한, 고려 인쇄기술의 우수성을 전 세계에 알림으로써 세계사적 가치를 인정받은 동시에 세계사에서 금속활자가 서양의 발명품으로 알려져 온 오류를 바로 잡았다. (Moreover, it showcased to the world Goryeo's advanced printing technology, gaining worldwide attention as well as amending the incorrect acknowledgment of the metal movable-type printing press as a Western invention.)

Students generally answered this question well; however, some students missed out on marks due to inaccurate responses.

Section 2 – Reading and responding

Texts 2 and 3 Question 2

Students were required to demonstrate their comprehension of two texts provided and write a persuasive article for the school newspaper based on the main ideas and information from the texts.

The key information provided in each text was as follows:

Text 2 셋다운제 폐지 주장 (to abolish the Shutdown Law)

- 과도한 규제를 없애고 미래 산업을 육성해야 성 (Focusing on further developing future industry with high potential instead of retraining it.)
- 실효성 없는 정책 (It's an ineffective regulation.)
- 법리적 관점에서 문제가 많은 제도 (This law does not meet many principles from a judicial point of view.)

Text 3 셋다운제 유지 주장 (to maintain the Shutdown Law)

- 청소년의 건강권과 수면권 보장을 위해 (It protects teenagers' rights to health and sleep [i.e. welfare].)
- 청소년 보호를 위한 최소한의 안전 장치 (The Shutdown Law is a minimal protection to safeguard teenagers.)
- 셋다운제 폐지에 앞장 서는 곳은 게임 업계. 사회적 책임 기업의 역할을 고민해야 함 (It is the gaming industry that advocates for the law to be abolished when their role as a socially responsible company must be remembered.)

High-scoring students demonstrated excellent control of the language. They combined, blended and integrated the relevant information and main ideas from the two texts effectively and logically to successfully create a new, single text. High-scoring students sequenced information appropriately and had a good flow of ideas that conveyed messages clearly, with extremely well-organised paragraphs and a wide range of appropriate vocabulary and expressions.

Section 3 – Writing in Korean

In this section, students were required to choose one of five questions. Students generally wrote on-topic; however, in many cases there was a lack of depth and breadth of ideas, which affected the overall marks achieved for this section.

Students should take careful note of the kind of writing required for the chosen question and include appropriate language in the finished piece. Some students did not address the question asked and instead wrote off-topic, focusing on the strengths and weaknesses where the positive and negative influences were required. The importance of reading each question carefully is to be emphasised.

The highest-scoring responses were from students who appeared to carefully read the question, plan their response, and knew and utilised the correct and appropriate writing conventions according to the text type prescribed. They were able to demonstrate integration of their ideas in a very logical, relevant and comprehensive manner and showed a reasonably wide vocabulary and refined language skills.

Question 6 and Question 7 were the most popular questions.

Question 3

Students were asked to write an imaginative diary entry that included two unusual events based on some emoticons and speech bubbles shown on a mobile phone screen. The journal text type required a date and could have included the day and the weather, as well as a lesson learnt from the events of the day.

Question 4

Students were asked to write an evaluative script of speech for an intercultural broadcasting system on the topic of 'The positive and negative aspects of submitting assessments online'. The speech script text type required greetings, a title/topic and to be in an appropriate register.

Question 5

Students were required to write an imaginative story inspired by Sa-un Yang's three-line Korean ode. The structure needed to be clear, including the setting, plot development and how the situation was resolved or concluded.

Question 6

Students were asked to write an evaluative article for a monthly youth magazine on the positive and negative aspects of busking in foreign cities. Some students described both the positive and negative aspects of busking in general rather than in foreign cities. The article text type required a title as well as the author (fictional name).

Question 7

Students were asked to write an evaluative letter to the Minister of Education on the topic of 'The positive and negative influences of the ban on paper tests in primary school'. The (formal) letter needed to have a salutation, body, farewell, signing off, date, register, style and layout.