

2020 VCE Persian written examination report

General comments

Overall, students performed well in the 2020 VCE Persian written examination. They were familiar with the format and structure of the examination and wrote effectively and with confidence. However, some students had difficulty answering questions that required an answer in English. Students should remember to read questions carefully and fully comprehend what is being asked before answering. Answers given in the wrong language did not receive credit.

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

In Section 1, Part A, students listened to three texts in Persian and were required to answer all questions in English. Many students performed well in this section. They were assessed according to their understanding of the general and specific aspects of the texts by identifying and analysing information and conveying the information accurately and appropriately.

Students are encouraged to use the note-taking space and refer to their notes when writing their responses.

Text 1

Question 1a.

- Leila will decorate the ceremony table.
- Leila will help to serve the refreshments / take care of the guests.
- Leila will arrange/decorate the drinks and fruits for refreshments.

Question 1b.

- She says that she cannot wait until Leila gets home (which is why she is leaving the message now).
- She tells Leila that she is very stressed.

Text 2

Question 2a.

- Maryam points out that sour cherries are not sold in shops (so it is good to pick them) / are available for a limited time.
- Maryam says that it will be possible to buy the sour cherries at a cheaper price (as well as picking them and eating some).
- Maryam says that cherry picking will be an enjoyable experience for Amir (since he hasn't done it before).
- She says that they will be able to go for a picnic.
- She adds that he will be able to surprise his mother by cooking sour cherry rice for her (with the sour cherries that they pick).

Text 3

Question 3a.

- His trips to Iran always bring back memories from his childhood.
- Example 1: Playing with his cousins.
- Example 2: Going on trips to visit historical places.

Question 3b.

- When you are buying something, they use the phrase, 'I don't expect you to pay'.
- They insist that you eat more and try every type of food when invited into their homes for a meal.

Part B – Answer in Persian

In Section 1, Part B, students listened to three spoken texts in Persian and answered questions in Persian. Many students performed very well in Part B, but some responses were presented as notes rather than sentences. Students should remember to write their responses in full sentences and to use their notes as an aid to write detailed responses.

Text 4

Question 4a.

- بازسازی و حفظ این ساختمان ها
- حل مشکل کمبود محل اقامت برای گردشگردان
- رونق بیشتر صنعت گردشگری

- It helps with the renovation and maintenance of these buildings.
- It also resolves a shortage of accommodation for travellers.
- It encourages increased tourism.

Question 4b.

- محیطی آرامش بخش در این مناطق
- تفاوت های ساختار و معماری سنتی این ساختمان ها برای گردشگردان جذاب تر از هتل های چند ستاره است
- These places have a relaxing environment.
- The structure of the traditional buildings is more appealing to foreign tourists because they are different from 5-star hotels.

Text 5

Question 5a.

- چند ماه است که دارم دنبال خانه می گردم ولی موفق نشدم
- می دونم! شما هم نمی توانید کمکی به من بکنید!
- همه همین رو می گن
- He says: I have been looking for a few months but have been unsuccessful.
- He says: I knew it! You can't help me either!
- He says: Everyone says the same thing!

Question 5b.

- وقتی ایرج می گوید که گاراژ برای دو ماشین هم علاوه بر بقیه موارد می خواهد، مشاور املاکی بسیار بد خلق می شود
- مشاور املاکی می گوید که من اطلاعات دو آژانس دیگر را به شما می دهم و می توانید با آنها تماس بگیرید
- مشاور املاکی از ایرج قطع امید می کند/ نمی تواند به او کمکی کند
- When Iraj Yavari says that he wants a double garage as well as all the other things, the agent gets very frustrated.
- So, the agent says: I'll give you the contact information of two other agents and you can call them!
- The agent gives up on Iraj. / She cannot help him.

Text 6

Question 6a.

- او همیشه دوست داشت کاری داشته باشد که بتواند به فارسی زبانان در استرالیا کمک کند
- تجربه شخصی که در بچگی داشته است / ترجمه ای که برای پدر بیمارش کرده بود تاثیر زیادی بر او گذاشته بود
- He always liked to have a job that would enable him to assist Persian-speaking people in Australia.
- A personal experience in his youth that had a big impact on him. Interpreting for his sick father.

Question 6b.

- یک مترجم شفاهی باید بتواند در موقعیت های پر استرس خوب تمرکز کند
- مترجم شفاهی باید حافظه خوبی داشته باشد
- مترجم شفاهی باید با واژگان خاص مربوط به موضوعات مختلف مانند پزشکی و حقوقی آشنا باشد
- An interpreter should be able to concentrate well under stressful situations.
- An interpreter should have a good memory.
- An interpreter should know the terminology/language of various topics such as health terms and legal terms.

Section 2: Reading and responding

Part A – Answer in English

In Part A, students were presented with two written texts in Persian and were required to answer a number of questions in English. Most students performed well, although some had difficulty selecting the correct information from the two texts and using it to respond appropriately. Students should remember to read each text carefully and look up unfamiliar or difficult words in their dictionary.

Text 7

Question 7a.

- The gardens were built along water streams.
- The gardens were enclosed within/surrounded by high walls.
- The gardens had a water pool or a building in them.

Question 7b.

- The plants/flowers needed to smell nice/be fragrant.
- The plants/flowers could be used in cooking.
- The plants/flowers had medicinal importance/qualities.

Text 8

Question 8a.

- Water was purified through this system/by this method.
- The qanats prevented water evaporation and wastage.

Question 8b.

- UNESCO recognised that the qanats were an exceptional testimony to the tradition of providing water to arid regions and the desert to support settlements.
- UNESCO recognised that the qanats were an outstanding example of technological advancement that enabled humans to live in arid or semi-arid areas.
- The qanat system turned deserts into paradise/gardens.
- The qanat system was good for the environment.

Part B – Answer in Persian

Text 9

Question 9

In Section 2, Part B, students were asked to write an email to the management of a reception centre, in which they evaluate the problems they had when they attended festivities at the venue and make suggestions for improvements. The issues needed to be identified from the information given in the text.

Most responses were well written and addressed most of the main points. Students who scored highly used the information with a degree of creativity and some interesting input. Some responses lacked the correct convention and style of the email text type.

Section 3 – Writing in Persian

In this section, students had to choose one of three questions and demonstrate their writing skills by creating an original text of 200–250 words in Persian. Most students attempted this section and some produced excellent pieces of writing. However, some responses did not comply with the required kind of writing and text type. Students are encouraged to practise using the correct structure of the different types of writing. Question 10 was the most popular choice in this section, followed by Questions 11 and 12.

Student responses were assessed against the following criteria:

- demonstrate depth of treatment of information, ideas and/or opinions
- write text appropriate and relevant to context, purpose and audience
- structure and sequence of information and ideas
- manipulate language structures and vocabulary in Persian.

Question 10

Students were required to write a script for an informative speech to present to students in their school about the ways in which riding a bicycle will benefit people.

Question 11

More than a year after leaving secondary school, students were required to write a diary entry reflecting on the positive impact of their study at this school and the direction that they have taken in life.

Question 12

Students were required to write an imaginative story for a writing competition at school, ending with the sentence 'At the end of night, the dawn will break'.