

2015 VCE Punjabi written examination report

General comments

In the 2015 Punjabi written examination, students' overall performance was good and they were well aware of the parameters of the various questions. Some students exhibited excellent understanding, analytical skills and sentence-structuring skills, and seemed to have good listening and note-taking skills.

Students are advised to practise using their bilingual dictionary to find appropriate meanings, as well as practise their writing skills regularly. During the examination, students should ensure that they answer all questions, identify the key words and respond to all aspects of the questions. Some students missed out on marks by not attempting 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 Part A – Answer in English

In this part of the examination, students were required to listen to three texts and answer the questions in English.

Text 1

Question 1a.

Activities for boys	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• organic gardening• wood craft
Mixed-group activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• debating competitions• cooking and cleaning

Students were required to answer this question in table form. The majority of students answered both parts of this question correctly and gained full marks.

Question 1b.

Electronic gadgets (mobile, laptop, tablet, iPod, iPad) are not allowed because it is an opportunity to make real-life friends.

Some students gave the strict condition but did not answer why.

Text 2

Question 2

- natural springs have boiling water, which is used for cooking
- natural springs for bathing
- fresh air
- fruit and flowers
- instead of electricity, fireflies provide light like a chain of small bulbs

The majority of students provided all answers but some students elaborated on only one aspect of nature.

Text 3

Question 3a.

- Personal qualities: she is humble, calm and helps others.
- Although she was uneducated, she persuaded most of the villagers to send their daughters to school.
- She is inspirational, and guides and listens to people.
- She is looked up to, admired and revered by the villagers.

Most students received full marks for this question.

Question 3b.

- As she teaches girls art, craft and cooking, free of charge.
- She has made women self-sufficient/improved women's lives.
- She raises awareness about (gender) inequality.

The majority of students answered this question very well.

Part B – Answer in Punjabi

Text 4

Question 4a.

This visit takes place at Mrs. Kaur's (Diljot's) property and its purpose is to check that trees have not been chopped down illegally/trees have not been chopped without obtaining a permit from the council.

The majority of students answered this question very well.

Question 4b.

- He has come to check whether any regulation has been breached.
- He tells her that she lives in a green wedge area and that before she cuts down any trees, she must get permission from the council, otherwise she may be fined.
- He tells her that no regulation has been breached.

The majority of students answered this question correctly.

Text 5

Question 5

- Collect the spices and mix them with water to make a paste.
- Cut 200 g of cheese into small pieces.
- Dip pieces of cheese in the paste and fry them in hot oil. Turn them over when they change colour.
- Use a paper towel to soak up excess oil.
- Sprinkle with chat masala (and eat warm with fresh pomegranate seeds and coriander sauce).

This question was very well answered by students.

Text 6

Question 6

In preparation for my wedding:

- I would expect mehendi and ladies sangeet
- girls will decorate my hands with henna
- my uncle will put red bangles (choora) on my both arms
- my aunty will put a red dupatta on my head and give me special sweets
- ladies and girls will sing and dance.

This question was very well answered by the majority of students. Some students missed out on marks by writing as if it were their sister getting married.

Section 2 – Reading and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 7

Question 7

- prominently used by women throughout history/it has been close to women.
- featured in many folk songs, lyrics and verses, which have been successful in keeping people together
- shared highs and lows/shared happiness and sorrows of women
- used to make materials for all purposes
- mothers-in-law used this as an opportunity to get to know their daughters-in-law by encouraging them to spin cotton for household use
- the Teeyan ladies festival
- trinjhan – the place where the spinning wheel was used by a group of girls.

Most students answered this question well. A few students did not give all the required answers.

Text 8

Question 8

- Language plays an important role in the progress and development of a country.
- New Punjabi words are not created at the same pace as change.
- If they come into existence they are not always appropriate.
- He gives quotes from Mahan Kosh.
- Some Punjabi words in the modern context seem unusual.
- For some words there are no appropriate Punjabi words, such as email, SMS and computer.
- It is important and there is a need of time for us to adopt new words, so that we keep up with the present and move with time.

This question was very well answered and students used information from the text.

Part B – Answer in Punjabi

Text 9

Question 9

To properly meet the requirements of the question, students were required to:

- respond in the form of an informal letter

- respond to all concerns and comments

Students should also have included the following in their response.

- appropriate address, and introductory and concluding greetings
- comment on Gopi's appreciation of Rohit's mum's cooking and Rohit's availability to spend time with him
- their own opinion of what could be done to maintain the Punjab's attraction.

Most students met all the requirements of the question well. However, some students did not read the question properly and wrote an email instead of an informal letter. A few students simply copied the original letter and made minor changes. Students are advised to read the question carefully before responding.

Section 3 – Writing in Punjabi

Question 10

- Text type: invitation (correct setting and layout)
- Kind of writing: informative, persuasive
- Audience: Punjabi-speaking community
- The invitation needed a proper structure with appropriate greetings, introduction, middle and conclusion
- Focus on the benefits to health and wellbeing.
- Information on how families and friends will benefit from attending the seminar.

Few students answered this question well. Some students did not highlight all aspects of the question.

Question 11

- Text type: report for a newspaper
- Kind of writing: evaluative
- Musical performance of well-known Punjabi artists from Punjab
- Your experience from the time you entered to the time you left

Many students answered this question very well and their responses contained few or no grammatical and spelling mistakes. They also used quotes/lines of songs, which they described as being well received by listeners in the hall. Some students answered only part of the question and their responses included spelling mistakes, and their writing and sentence structures were difficult to understand.

Question 12

- Text type: story
- Kind of writing: imaginative
- Audience: two young cousins as main characters in the story

This question was answered well by very few students. Others did not answer as required; they described babysitting and disciplining their cousins in their parents' absence.