

2015 VCE Romanian written examination report

Specific information

Section 1 – Listening and responding Part A – Answer in English

Students' comprehension of this section was good.

Text 1

Question 1

This question was correctly answered by most students.

The advantages of buying books at the book fair rather than online are:

- It's quicker/immediate/it would take longer if it was ordered online.
- It's cheaper.
- George got an autograph from Mihai Popovici/one of the award-winning writers.

Text 2

Most students gave correct answers to questions on Text 2. They identified specific information and conveyed it precisely for Question 2a., but some did not fully understand Question 2b.

Question 2a.

- The Neamț Fortress is situated in the Eastern part of Romania.
- It is located on a hilltop/The ascent was long and tiring.
- It is accessed via a stone bridge.

Question 2b.

- the two guards at the entrance: Short story studied at school
- the four circular towers: Roman castra/fortress
- the two underground tunnels: Escape for the prince/used for water supply/secret passage

Text 3

Text 3 was of a higher degree of complexity than Texts 1 and 2. Question 3a. was correctly answered by all students, while Question 3b. allowed capable students to demonstrate their skill.

Question 3a.

Mountain climbing gives Maria the feeling of having wings/of flying/of being a bird/of being in a different world.

Question 3b.

- she is passionate about/loves mountaineering/she has been doing it for five years
- she trains very hard (4–6 sessions a week)
- she is learning the climbing techniques by training indoors
- the support of her parents
- she has covered many/24 tracks, participating in many/14 contests
- she is joining the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport

Students needed to demonstrate a good level of comprehension and analysis of the text in order to correctly answer this question.

Part B – Answer in Romanian

Text 4

Question 4

Un borcan cu acești castraveți murați ar fi un dar frumos pentru că (a jar of these pickled cucumbers would make a nice gift because):

- *Este un lucru făcut în casă/de mine* (the pickled cucumbers are homemade)
- *Este din produse locale, direct de la producător* (is made out of local produce, straight from the producer)
- *Conține ingrediente nutritive/este o mâncare nutritivă* (contains healthy and nutritious ingredients/food)
- *Are un aspect plăcut și o aromă plăcută* (has a pleasant look and aroma).

Most students answered this question well.

Text 5

Question 5

Printre contribuțiile lui George Emil Palade la binele comunității se numără următoarele (Some of George Emil Palade's contributions to the common good are that he):

- *A fost unul dintre fondatorii biologiei celulare* (was one of the founders of cell biology)
- *A fost medic pe front, în timpul celui de-al Doilea Război Mondial* (was an army medic during the Second World War)
- *A descoperit particulele care-i poartă numele/particulele Palade* (discovered the particles that were named after him)
- *A adus cinste nației sale, fiind primul laureat român al Premiului Nobel* (brought honour to his nation as he was the first Romanian to be awarded a Nobel Prize)
- *Este și va continua să fie un model pentru generații de tineri* (is, and will continue to be, a model for generations of young people).

Text 6

Question 6

Many students wrote good answers in response to Question 6.

Afacerea Florinei a avut succes pentru că (Florina's business has been successful because):

- *Oferă produse de casă, fără chimicale* (it offers homemade, chemical-free products)
- *Ambianța patiseriilor ei este specială* (the atmosphere of her pastry shops is special)
- *Florina a învățat cum să-și deschidă și să-și dezvolte o afacere urmând un curs profesional* (Florina learnt how to start and develop a business well by doing a vocational course)
- *Clienții/Publicul obține cunoștințe culturale/publicul/clienții sunt satisfăcuți* (the customers/public gain cultural knowledge/the public/customers are satisfied)
- *Florina a crescut cunoscându-și produsul/se trage dintr-o familie de patiseri* (Florina grew up with the knowledge of her product/she comes from a family of pastry makers)

- *Florina credea in valori, in dragostea și respectul atât pentru familia ei cât și față de client* (Florina's values: love and respect for her background and for her customers)
- *Se bazează pe surse locale făcute la punctul de vânzare* (the products are made and sold on-site).

Section 2 – Reading and Responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 7

Text 7 was about Romanian traditional weddings.

Question 7

Rules and restrictions that reflect the conservative nature of the Romanian wedding customs presented in the text include (seven of):

- physical and psychological qualities of the couple
- the bride is expected to have a dowry
- the couples' families must give their consent
- social differences between the bride and the groom are not allowed
- large age differences between the bride and the groom are not allowed
- the bride and the groom must belong to the same religion
- the wedding ritual is performed by a priest
- the strict observance of the social hierarchy shows respect for the symbolic status of the participants.

All students answered this question, but only some correctly identified seven rules and restrictions as required by Question 7.

Text 8

Text 8 was an extract from Mihai Eminescu's poem *Călin* (*file din poveste*)/*Călin* (Pages from a Tale).

Question 8

The elements with symbolic value common to both Text 7 and Text 8 are:

- ritual ceremonies with song (and dance) performed by the mosquitos
- the presence of the wedding carriage in which the groom sits – the butterfly, ready to collect his bride (which makes the passage to the new order)
- the rich symbolism of the bread twists: fertility and the link with the world of divinity
- the presence of the family.

Part B – Answer in Romanian

Text 9

Text 9 was a letter addressed by Maria to her Aunt Clara. Students had to write a conversation between Aunt Clara and Maria's mother, with Aunt Clara defending Maria's point of view expressed in the letter, which was to choose a degree in Literature/for Maria to study a degree of her choice.

Question 9

Most students understood specific aspects of the text and wrote interesting responses. They used a varied vocabulary and conveyed the information coherently. Most students made reference to Maria's letter and clearly supported their ideas with arguments. They demonstrated the characteristics of the required text type, a conversation, by using appropriate spoken language and personal pronouns as linguistic features. Most students included sufficient detail to give shape to an informal, persuasive dialogue, thus demonstrating a clear understanding of the task. Some students copied sentences from the text in their responses, which is not recommended.

Section 3 – Writing in Romanian

Overall, students responded appropriately in Section 3, formulating interesting and original responses.

However, some students made grammar and vocabulary errors, such as:

- incorrect spelling of auxiliary verbs (*sa gândit, sa apropiat, sa dus, sa sculat, la atras, ma trimis*)
- agreement (*o persoană să fie bun la munca ei, fetiție, vița ea*)
- vocabulary inconsistencies (*descripția la felă, brazul, incodata, pedure, in portanta, finca, devi, fasciniasa, conplecse, plimbara, derect, sa striga, umit, uneveristate, preteni*)
- use of English words (for example, 'box' – correct form *cutie* and 'business' – correct form *afacere*)
- spelling of specific group sounds, like *chi* or *ge* (*ciar, veci, scimba, cemical, jest, jantă*)
- incorrect use of vocabulary, with influences from English spelling (*namelui, gymnsatică, arhitectji*)
- incorrect use of pronouns (*ia, me, li spun, uni, cea ce, ceia ce*)
- incorrect use of the negative (*nu știind*)
- incorrect use of prepositions (*la parc, depe, dece*).

Question 10

Students had to write a narrative for a blog entry, starting with: 'It was an ordinary spring day. The boy was taking his daily walk in the park with Rex, his dog. Nothing could have foretold how the boy's life would change.'

A relevant answer could have included the following elements.

- form of a blog entry
- description of the experience in the park and the incidents, providing sufficient detail to cover the breadth of the topic
- the characteristics of imaginative writing
- use of appropriate tense (past) and descriptive words such as adjectives and adverbs
- clear explanation of how the incident changed the character's life

Question 11

Students had to write the text of a speech to deliver at a school assembly, presenting arguments both for and against the demolition of heritage buildings and the construction of new, modern buildings on those sites.

A relevant answer could have included the following elements.

- form of a speech
- clear presentation of the advantages and disadvantages of demolishing old buildings, with reference to some of them (optional)
- enough ideas and detail to cover the breadth of the topic

- the characteristics of evaluative writing: stresses the positive and negative aspects of the topic, occasionally using rhetorical questions or interaction with the audience (optional)

Question 12

Students had to write a report for the association they work for as a volunteer, describing the itinerary of a day trip and including some feedback from the participants.

A relevant answer could have included the following elements.

- form of a report
- sufficient aspects of the day trip, which could have included: geographical, scenic, cultural, entertainment, activities or incidents occurred
- informative writing, providing facts; descriptive writing; the use of passive voice; time reference
- formal writing with some evaluative comments