

2016 VCE Russian written examination report

General comments

In Section 1 – Listening and Responding of the 2016 Russian written examination, students were able to identify specific details and use descriptive language in order to address the questions. Students also performed well in Section 2 – Reading and Responding.

Students should practise writing in a variety of genres to improve their ability to express themselves coherently. For some students, underdeveloped writing skills prevented them from expressing their ideas and opinions clearly, particularly in Section 3.

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

Text 1

Question 1a.

- Cakes and chocolates do not leave a special and lasting impression.
- Perfume is a very personal and risky gift.

Most students received full marks for this question.

Question 1b.

Sveta means that a birthday person should accept any gift with gratitude.

This question appeared to be quite challenging for students. Some students could not explain the proverb.

Question 1c.

- feeling of pleasure
- the hormone of joy (endorphin) is produced, and more hormones equals more happiness

Some students appeared not to understand the word 'endorphin'.

Text 2

Question 2

- yell at children
- shut themselves away to read a newspaper
- watch TV instead of attending to children (playing/teaching)
- refuse their help

- accuse them of lying

Most students addressed the question and scored full marks.

Text 3

Question 3

- It received multiple international awards, including an Australian one in 1978.
- In 2003 it was recognised as the best cartoon ever in Tokyo.
- In 2009 a monument was erected in Kiev.
- In 2013 one of the Russian banks issued silver collectable coins depicting the hedgehog.
- The character is commemorated on crockery produced by a famous porcelain factory.

Most students answered this question correctly and achieved full marks.

Part B – Answer in Russian

Text 4

Question 4

- *Поэты будут читать стихи о своих любимых животных* (Poets will recite poems about their favourite animals.)
- *Примут участие животные из городского цирка* (Animals from the City Circus will perform.)
- *Пройдёт выставка-продажа картин по теме “Животный мир”* (Paintings of animals will be exhibited and available for sale.)
- *Мастер-класс для детей, на котором известные художники-анималисты будут учить детей рисовать зверей* (A workshop for children on how to draw animals will be delivered by wildlife artists.)

Most students were able to answer this question correctly.

Text 5

Question 5a.

- *Царь рассмеялся и сказал: “Ну ты и хитрец!”* (The Tsar laughed and called him ‘one shrewd fellow’.)
- *Наградил он умного мужика хлебом и полной шапкой серебра* (The Tsar rewarded the peasant with bread and a hat full of silver.)
- *Отпустил домой* (The Tsar let the peasant go free.)

Some students missed the answer: The Tsar laughed and called him ‘one shrewd fellow’.

Question 5b.

- *Царь – главный, всему голова, ему гусиная голова* (Tsar – head. He is the master [head of the state].)
- *Жена – шея. Куда шея повернёт, туда голова и пойдёт; Царице – гусиную шею* (Tsarina – neck. She can influence the Tsar in an important way [turns the head].)
- *Дочки выйдут замуж и улетят в другие царства-государства. Им – по гусиному крылу* (Daughters – wings. They will get married and follow their husbands to foreign countries [fly away].)
- *Сыновья будут продолжать дело отца – ходить по царским дорогам. Им – по гусиной ножке* (Sons – legs. They follow in their fathers’ footsteps.)

Most students were able to comprehend the information and address the question correctly.

Text 6

Question 6a.

Размер звезд зависит от размера башни (The size of the stars depends on the size of the towers.)

Almost all students answered the question correctly.

Question 6b.

- *Внутри каждой звезды располагается молочное стекло, а снаружи – рубиновое стекло* (The interior glass of each star is made of milk-white glass and the exterior glass is made of ruby.)
- *Днем и ночью горят мощные лампы внутри каждой звезды* (There are special power lamps inside the stars.)

Many students were not able to provide two reasons to explain why the stars shine day and night.

Question 6c.

Звезды были частично разрушены (The stars were partly damaged [i.e. not completely saved from the bombs].)

Not all students were able to explain why and when the stars were damaged.

Section 2 – Reading and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 7

Question 7a.

- The husband and wife were seated on a fur coat.
- The bride's face was covered with a veil.

This question appeared to be quite challenging for students.

Question 7b.

- the exchange of wedding bands meant that the marriage is blessed by God
- newlyweds were crowned, which meant that they were granted some sort of royal power
- newlyweds would circle the lectern, symbolising a promise to be faithful until death
- newlyweds drank wine from the same cup, symbolising sharing happiness, sorrows, worries and hard work
- bread grains and money were put into their shoes
- the couple had to touch an iron horseshoe to leave sorrows behind

Not all students were able to answer this question fully.

Text 8

Question 8

For parents:

- quite expensive
- may increase parents' anxiety
- ability to control, which may arouse conflict and feelings of animosity against the parents by a child

For children:

- might cause jealousy among children

- children may feel 'controlled' by their parents
- children may feel their personal space is limited, which may lead to conflict

Almost all students addressed this question and many achieved full marks.

Part B – Answer in Russian

Text 9

Question 9

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 Russian.

Students were asked to write an article for the journal *Environment* in response to information given in the text and provide an opinion on who would be a better friend, a dolphin or a human. Most students demonstrated good writing skills in Russian, manipulated the language authentically and creatively, used sophisticated vocabulary and demonstrated extensive knowledge of grammar.

Some students copied irrelevant sentences from the original text, thus not providing their point of view or demonstrating well-developed writing skills.

Section 3 – Writing in Russian

Students were assessed on how well they:

- demonstrated depth of treatment of information, ideas and/or opinions
- wrote text appropriate and relevant to context, purpose and audience
- structured and sequenced information and ideas
- manipulated language structures and vocabulary in Russian.

Question 10

For this question students had to write an informative speech for a school seminar on how literature can change the world. This was one of the most popular questions. Students produced well-structured speeches with considerable depth.

Question 11

Students were asked to write an imaginative piece of writing for young readers, based on a prompt. Though this was the least popular question, students who attempted it demonstrated their ability to produce a correctly structured response in the form of an imaginative story and showed good understanding of register and style.

Question 12

This question asked students to write a letter of complaint to a tour company to express their dissatisfaction. Many students attempted this question, producing a clear point of view supported with strong arguments.

Question 13

This question asked students to make three diary entries about their work and impressions on an expedition to excavate dinosaur fossils. Most students who attempted this question achieved high marks.