



2012

Languages: Sinhala GA 3: Examination

Written component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Students' overall performance in the 2012 Sinhala written examination was very good. However, it was evident that some students did not read some questions properly. Some students used inappropriate terms when answering questions in English and therefore provided an incorrect answer to the question asked.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

This report provides sample answers or an indication of what the 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 1

- Lal said that there is a (easy-to-use) website for translating words.
- Mali said that it's valuable information and thanked him (or blessed him).

Responses such as Mali was happy or excited were not accepted as this was not indicated in the text.

Text 2

Question 2

The main messages in this announcement were (four of)

- computer-based crimes have increased in Sri Lanka
- the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has established a special unit to investigate these crimes
- people who commit these crimes will be taken into custody
- people who had been (unjustifiably) affected will be compensated
- telephone numbers to report any such incident.

Text 3

Question 3a.

Kumar Sangakkara scored 9000 runs in the lowest number of innings.

In this question only the statistical evidence that measured his achievement was accepted.

Question 3b.

In 2011 he was

- awarded 'Best Player'
- awarded 'Most Popular Player'
- selected as the captain for the World Cricket Team
- selected as the wicketkeeper for the World Cricket Team.

Kumar Sangakkara captaining the Sri Lankan team and achieving victories, and his speech at the Colin Cowdrey memorial were not accepted as correct answers.

Text 4

Question 4a.

A census of wild elephants

Question 4b.

- Positive aspect: Several groups have counted the elephants in the same area.



- Negative aspect: Some elephants may have been counted twice or some may not have been counted.

Question 4c.

- The project can be considered successful.
- Ruwan said the numbers counted by the independent groups showed a great difference from one another.

Question 4d.

The conflict between man and the elephants is the issue that has become a major problem.

Ways in which the project has helped

- The numbers of elephants are now known.
- The distribution of the elephants is known.
- It is now possible to allocate enough space for the elephants and to provide security for humans.

Most students failed to mention the distribution of the elephants.

Part B – Answer in Sinhala

Text 5

Question 5a.

- Achievement – The group won first place in an international folk song competition.
- It was an honour because the group won this place from 29 other countries.

Question 5b.

- the role of the pioneers in preserving the old folk songs
- the groups were very dedicated in their rehearsals

Items presented at the competition and drumming and dancing were not accepted.

Text 6

Question 6a.

The lakes are important to the village

- because the flowers growing in the lakes can be sold.
- because they provide fish for people
- because they provide water to paddy fields
- because they provide water for vegetable patches
- because they provide water for drinking, including for the wild animals
- for boating.

Section 2 – Reading and Responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 7

Question 7a.

The crisis is that there will not be enough food for the increasing population.

Question 7b.

- Evidence – There is already a famine in Sri Lanka.
- Reasons
 - The change in environmental and climatic conditions have destroyed the crops and reduced the harvest.
 - The agricultural land is now used to grow food for the animals as there is great demand for meat and milk; therefore, there is not enough land on which to grow food for humans.

Question 7c.

The government has

- increased the storage for extra food



- given assistance and advice to help to can and dehydrate the extra produce to make the food last for a longer time
- reconstructed the tanks and canals to assist with farming. This means that even the abandoned paddy field can be used
- encouraged the people to grow fruit and vegetables instead of flowering plants in their home gardens by providing them with seeds and advice
- banned the sale of paddy fields and coconut estates for other purposes
- developed the fisheries industry by breeding freshwater fish in lakes
- banned the cutting down of jak and coconut trees
- encouraged eco-friendly farming.

Text 8

Question 8a.

The writer thinks the freeways are essential to Sri Lanka because (both of)

- Sri Lanka is a developing country
- quick transportation is essential for economic benefits to facilitate the development process and minimise waste.

Question 8b.

- The freeways connect the two cities (Kandy and Matara) to Colombo (the capital city).
- A freeway will connect Colombo to (Katunayake) International Airport.

Most students failed to respond correctly to this question.

Question 8c.

Freeways provide support for the economy as

- they save petrol by allowing fast travel with less traffic
- income is earned from tolls
- tourists can use the freeways
- produce (fishery and agricultural) can be transported quickly from the south to the capital city and it will be fresh when it arrives.

However

- the construction of the freeways might damage people's properties and crops
- some vehicles (three-wheeler motorcycles and small tractors) used by ordinary people are banned from the freeways
- construction of freeways has divided the villages and this could lead to social and religious disharmony.

Many students gave only the disadvantages and failed to mention how freeways help the economy.

Part B – Answer in Sinhala

Text 9

Students were expected to select statements from the diary entry, discuss them as positive or negative aspects of development and give the opinion of the writer. The format and grammar used were correct. The text type required was an article.

Section 3 – Writing in Sinhala

Question 10

Text type: A report

Suggested content

- government policy
- funding and support for a wide range of cultures, languages, religions and ways of life
- funding and support for many different language schools and language examinations
- ethnic radio and TV programs (SBS radio, SBS TV)

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- broad interest and participation in national celebrations
- Multicultural Day celebrations in schools and workplaces
- different cultural groups invited to participate in Australia Day celebrations

Few students responded to Question 10. Students who responded to this question did not supply much evidence to support their responses.

Question 11

Text type: A script for a speech

Suggested content

- commitment to education
- respect for a spiritual life
- respect for the teachers
- respect for the elders
- appropriate body language
- not staying out late without the guidance of an elder
- dress appropriately
- respect for females (as a sister or as a mother)

A few students chose Question 11. The format and language used were correct; however, students' responses did not include many points.

Question 12

Text type: A formal letter

Suggested content

- getting together as a family unit
- children watch TV during the weekends
- to share, understand and respect each other's ideas and points of view
- children spending more time at home

Most students chose this question. In most responses the format and grammar used were correct. Some student responses lacked persuasive language used even though they wrote a good number of relevant points.

Question 13

Text type: A short story

There were very few responses to this question. Some responses did not include a moral, a proverb or advice for children but this was an essential part of the task. The story and the conclusion needed to be connected.