

2015 VCE Sinhala written examination report

General comments

Most students provided appropriate responses to the questions on the 2015 Sinhala written examination. However, there were some instances where students did not read questions carefully and gave incorrect information.

In Section 3 – Writing in Sinhala, some students were not able to provide sufficient facts or information. Generally, the grammar and language used was appropriate.

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.

The per capita income has increased during the last few years, but the carbon released into the environment by an individual is at a very low level.

No marks were awarded for a response stating that the important message was the statement made by the president.

Question 1b.

- Forest areas were increased.
- Hydropower is used to generate electricity.
- High-speed roads/freeways/highways were constructed for fast driving.

Most students gave correct responses.

Text 2

Question 2a.

- evaluation of the information technology programs carried out by various countries
- evaluation of the social and economic development and the knowledge of information technology among the people in the country

Question 2b.

- The project carried out by Nanasala has been recognised as the best project among 199 projects implemented in 110 countries.

- The project has increased information technology literacy throughout Sri Lanka (increased from 4% to 40%).

Question 2c.

Any two of:

- to increase the percentage of people with knowledge of information technology to 77% by the end of 2015
- to increase the number of Nanasala Centres to 1000 by the end of 2015
- to increase the number of instructors to 100 000.

Text 3

Question 3a.

- In 2014 he won first place out of 33 000 competitors in the Toastmasters international speech competition.
- This is the first time the competition has been won by a person from a country where English is not the mother tongue.

Question 3b.

- He took part in many such competitions over the past 10 years (evidence of perseverance).
- He learned something new at each competition (evidence of willingness).

Part B – Answer in Sinhala

Text 4

Question 4a.

Sarath guessed that the question might be: What is the best Super Star competition (program) you (he) have watched on TV?

No marks were awarded for a response that assumed the question had asked: Who is your best Super Star?

Question 4b.

- They destroy the culture.
- Youth is misled.
- It is not a competition of talent but a competition of SMS.

Question 4c.

Any two of:

- He said (strongly) that if there is going to be a penalty for these programs he will give this idea full support.
- He turns off the TV when these programs are broadcast.
- He was answering the questions calmly and suddenly his tone changed.

Text 5

Question 5a.

- According to research, it is a language with the second-most beautiful alphabet.
- It is a very old language that was chosen to send a message to space in a spacecraft.
- There are 54 letters in the whole alphabet and therefore any word can be pronounced correctly.

Question 5b.

- Students can learn Sinhala as a language.
- Students can choose to do Sinhala language as a VCE study.

Text 6

Question 6a.

- *Viridu* have a long history and were sung to make the kings happy.
- *Baila* were song tunes influenced by the Portuguese and they are of a more recent origin.

Question 6b.

To expose the weaknesses of people in the society in a humorous way

Section 2 – Reading and Responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 7

Question 7a.

Any three of:

- Trees have been planted along the roads.
- Beira Lake and canals were cleaned, leaving no stagnant water.
- Parks were built in the surrounding areas.
- The main parks were further beautified.

Students who responded that the roads had been widened and highways constructed gained no marks because the text stated that these were for the convenience of the people rather than to beautify the city.

Question 7b.

- The government has offered to move people to flats with all facilities.
- The government has said that the people can own these flats.
- The roads were repaired and widened for easy transport.
- Modern shopping complexes were constructed for the convenience of the people.

Question 7c.

Since there will be no opportunities for small businesses in the city in the future, people will have to decide whether they should move out of the city.

Text 8

Question 8a.

- They raise funds to assist poor people through the development of schools and hospitals and the provision of scholarships.
- They donate for emergency situations such as landslides and floods.

Question 8b.

- They send their children to language schools and religious centres to learn Sinhala.
- They involve the children in cultural activities.

Part B – Answer in Sinhala

Text 9

Question 9

Many students did not identify the purpose of their speech. The question required them to suggest strategies that could assist the government to solve the problems. There were only a few high-scoring responses presenting ideas and steps that the association could take to help and work along with the government. Many responses merely repeated the information provided in the text, suggesting that the association should request the government to solve the problem urgently.

Most students used the correct format for the text of a speech as well as appropriate informal language.

Section 3 – Writing in Sinhala

Question 10

Most students selected this question and their persuasive letters were of a high standard. Students chose appropriate content to demonstrate the importance of secondary school driver programs. The format and formal language used was appropriate.

Question 11

Only a few students selected this question. Those who did described their character or their embarrassment when performing on the stage; however, the question asked them to describe a hilarious incident. The correct format for a letter was used along with appropriate informal language.

Question 12

Only a very few students selected this question and those who did gave satisfactory descriptions of the strange discovery. The correct format for a short story was used along with appropriate language. Students needed to give a title and the writer's name.