

2016 VCE Sinhala written examination report

General comments

Most students performed well in the 2016 Sinhala written examination.

However, there were some instances where students were not able to select the correct information from the text. It is important for students to read and understand the question in order to select the correct answers. In Section 2 it was evident that some students did not understand the question and gave incorrect answers.

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.

- an express bus service from Colombo to Pinnawala
- 29 September is 'World Tourism Day'/to celebrate/to mark/to identify

A fast, speedy or special bus service was not accepted as a correct answer. Most answers for the second part were correct.

Question 1b.

- The tourists can travel to the elephant orphanage in Pinnawala (an attractive tourist destination) much faster or more easily.
- A park with native/local wild animals has been constructed close to Pinnawala.

The text clearly stated that this service makes the travel easy and a park with native animals was built.

Text 2

Question 2a.

Conclusion

- ancient man was involved in farming

Evidence

- Different types of grains were discovered and it appeared as if the grains were stored in this place.

- Tools that could be used to dig the ground for farming were also discovered in an area used for farming.

Some students did not take much notice of the term 'final conclusion' in the question. The final conclusion was not that there were people living in Lunugala caves but that they were farming during that period.

Question 2b.

- It was thought earlier that the ancient people of Sri Lanka lived only by hunting.
- With this discovery, it is evident that they were farming as well.

Most students answered this question correctly.

Text 3

Question 3a.

He is the Minister of Transport.

Most students answered this correctly.

Question 3b.

- People spend more time on the road than at their homes.
- The patients die on the way to the hospital because of the traffic/delays on the roads.

Most answers were correct for this question.

Question 3c.

- to have a separate lane for buses
- to implement a high toll for private vehicles
- to introduce a more efficient public transport system

A separate line or road for the buses was acceptable but a separate route for the buses was not.

Part B – Answer in Sinhala

Text 4

Question 4a.

- The situation is that there is bad weather or heavy rain at the airport they are meant to land at.
- That means that if the runway is covered with water, the pilot will not be able to see clearly to land and will have to change to a different airport for landing.

Most students answered this question correctly.

Question 4b.

If he cannot land the plane at Katunayake Airport, he will take the plane to Maththala Airport for landing. (This means that the passengers will have to get out at an airport they did not expect to be at and will therefore be inconvenienced.)

Question 4c.

The captain instructs passengers to remain seated and to fasten their seatbelts.

Most answers were correct.

Text 5

Question 5a.

- she was taking her daughter to a class to study a subject not offered at school/taking the child to a class where she is learning the folk songs and dancing
- because she is taking her daughter to a class where they are not trained for a competition

Only a small number of students included both points in their answer.

Question 5b.

- The children do not have a childhood.
- They do not have time to read a storybook and enjoy it.
- They do not have time to enjoy nature (the natural world).
- They will not know how to share and live peacefully/co-exist without competing.
- They do not have time to enjoy the artistic experience of learning to sing and dance.

Most students were awarded full marks for this question.

Text 6

Question 6a.

- Value – cleanliness or purity, indicated by the lotus flower
- Value – pride, loyalty or identity, indicated by uniqueness of the construction of the tower (in height and design, which is not found anywhere in the world)

Many answers identified and explained both points.

Question 6b.

- There are rotating or revolving restaurants.
- There are vantage points all round, from where the country can be seen.

Section 2 – Reading and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 7

Question 7a.

- it is becoming polluted in many ways by adding various chemicals to the river
- the impact on the people – water cannot be used for drinking, people fall sick by drinking this water and the fish in the sea are affected
- cavities in the riverbed are made due to collecting sand (sand mining) or excavating in search of gems – people have drowned in these cavities.

Most responses were correct.

Question 7b.

- It provides water for farming or living.
- It adds beauty to the environment.

Text 8

Question 8a.

In the Ramayanaya, it is stated that Prince Rama came to Sri Lanka through (or by using) these islands.

Using a road or a path along the islands was accepted but along a bridge that was built along the islands was not accepted.

Question 8b.

Explanation: The government has to weigh up everything very carefully as there are several possible positive and negative outcomes, so it might be hard to make the final decision about the construction of the bridge.

Positive outcomes

- It strengthens the cultural and economic ties between Sri Lanka and India.
- Pilgrims going either from Sri Lanka to India or from India to Sri Lanka would save money by using the bridge.
- The people who travel very often to India for business/import things from India would find it easy to use the bridge.

Negative outcomes

- Oil deposits may be affected which will affect the economy of the country and the young people who were hoping for their future.
- More unemployment may result due to the fish industry being affected.
- The sovereignty of the country may be affected.
- The northwest shore of Sri Lanka may be subject to sea erosion.

An explanation that contained either two positive outcomes and one negative outcome or one positive and two negative outcomes was given full marks. Most students responded correctly.

Part B – Answer in Sinhala

It was evident from students' responses that they were well aware of the types of writing and formats required. Formal and informal language was used appropriately. To ensure that their writing is effective, students' vocabulary requires improvement. Students are encouraged to read a variety of texts in order to improve their vocabulary and language skills.

Question 9

All letters were written in the correct format for a formal letter. Some responses used a high level of persuasive language and contained many suggested strategies for the points given in the text. In some responses there were only a few suggestions and much repetition of the information given in the text. Most letters had an appropriate ending, appealing for quick action.

Students could have included some of the following elements in their responses.

- format of a formal letter
- persuasive language
- suggested strategies to solve the problem at the school
- ending with a final recommendation to act quickly before the situation gets worse

Section 3 – Writing in Sinhala

Question 10

Most students selected this question and there were many high-level responses covering all aspects of a reflective article. In some responses the description of the event was too long and the reflective part of the article was short. Students were not required to write a story but an article to describe the experience and the writer's feelings about the experience.

Students could have included some of the following elements in their responses.

- format of an article
- the experience of giving up the birthday money, how they felt and the positive results it had
- some of the children, parents or doctors writing thank you letters
- children's gratitude for receiving something bought with that money
- other people's comments and their decision to do the same for their birthday

Question 11

Only a few students selected this question. They discussed both positive and negative aspects of social media, giving more emphasis to the negative aspect.

Students could have included some of the following elements in their responses.

- positive and negative aspects of social media (this could have included the time spent worrying and criticising other people's social activities)
- how social media can bring about good outcomes
- weighing up of both sides of the argument and a final decision that supported or did not support the main contention

Question 12

This question was answered by many students. Most responses included several examples of cultural events that take place in Australia and described how the customs are maintained at homes and in public events.

Students could have included some of the following elements in their responses.

- format of a report and formal language
- an objective style of writing
- examples of the participation and enthusiasm of the people