

# 2017 VCE Sinhala written examination report

## General comments

Most students performed well in the 2017 Sinhala written examination.

Students should ensure that they read questions carefully. In Section 3, students should have paid further attention to the language used in the type of writing, for example persuasive language for a persuasive letter, and not just give instructions as to what should be done.

## 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.

All rubbish must be separated into two groups as:

- material that decays/decomposes naturally
- material that does not decay/decompose naturally.

Most students answered this question correctly.

#### Question 1b.

They will have to pay a large fine.

All students answered this question correctly.

### Text 2

#### Question 2

- There are hundreds of stalls selling different types of items.
- There are games and entertainment for everyone to enjoy.
- Foods of all different kinds/tastes will be available.
- Every day, there will be a prize for someone drawn from the entry ticket number (not from the raffle tickets they buy).
- There will be reduced price tickets for children.
- It will be kept open for longer hours.

Most students were able to respond correctly, but there were a few incomplete answers.

### Text 3

#### Question 3a.

- Chong wanted to inform Malini about an opportunity to become involved in radio broadcasting in China.
- He wanted to encourage Malini to apply for the job.

Many students did not identify the first reason. It was not only to inform about him being in charge of the Sinhala segment but about the opportunity to employ someone as an assistant.

#### Question 3b.

- Malini is very well qualified/has an honours degree in Sinhala.
- She is fluent and speaks very well in Sinhala.
- She knows about the cultural background of Sri Lanka.
- She can speak and write Chinese.
- He thought of her as she had been helpful in the past.

'They studied at the same university in Sri Lanka' was not considered as a correct answer.

Many students provided high-scoring responses, but there were a few incomplete answers.

#### Question 3c.

- They had a good friendship or they were very good friends.
- Malini had helped Chong to achieve his goal when they were studying together in the university.

Most students answered this question fully, but some gave only partial answers.

## Part B – Answer in Sinhala

### Text 4

#### Question 4

- Wild animals will lose their habitats.
- The animals will come to the village and endanger the villages.
- Animals will destroy their farms.
- The cutting down of trees for construction could cause environmental damage, and the simple way of life in the village may be disrupted if tourists come to the village.
- The younger generation in the village may go astray due to the influence of the tourists.

Most students provided good responses for this question.

### Text 5

#### Question 5a.

- There are no exams.
- He doesn't have to go looking for jobs/he can work from home.
- He can start his own business.
- He will not run out of customers due to the high demand.

Most students were able to provide high-scoring responses.

#### Question 5b.

Four of the following:

- to get a horoscope made when a child is born
- to get a letter to name the child

- to get a good time to feed the child with rice for the first time
- to get a good time to leave the house for first day of schooling
- to get a good time to leave the house for the exams
- to get a good time to leave the house for first day of the job
- to match the horoscopes for marriages
- when people fall sick

Most students identified the correct responses.

### **Text 6**

#### **Question 6**

- enthusiasm – because her mother said that the climbing is in her blood
- physical and mental strength
- high level of concentration
- courage – prior preparations
- determination – to reach the goal

Many students described the prior preparations undertaken by Jayanthi but did not relate that to her personal qualities. Some students described that a lot of concentration and determination is required to go across the ridge but this was not given as a personal quality of Jayanthi.

## **Section 2 – Reading and Responding**

### **Part A – Respond in English**

#### **Text 7**

##### **Question 7a.**

- Famous travellers said that Sri Lanka was ‘a paradise on earth’.
- Ptolemy’s old map of the world showed Sri Lanka even bigger than India (and that reflected how important they thought it was).

Most students identified the correct answers.

##### **Question 7b.**

The natural treasure focused on is the waterfall. Its beauty described as a silvery cascade/silvery water falling.

Its value is described as helping the economy and energy-based benefits such as:

- self-employment for the people from tourist industry
- production of energy from hydropower
- employment for people.

Some students did not describe the beauty.

#### **Text 8**

##### **Question 8a.**

- His father was a good violinist as well as a repairer of violins. Therefore, he had the opportunity to play the violin when he was young.
- His father was a Buddhist and recited the stanzas rhythmically and loud when he went to the temple with him.
- His mother sang hymns and carols in the church.

Most students answered this question well.

### **Question 8b.**

He stated that more than all the awards he had received he valued the appreciation of the listeners.

Most students responded correctly.

## **Part B – Answer in Sinhala**

### **Text 9**

#### **Question 9**

Students were required to write a letter to their cousin who lives in Sri Lanka, persuading him to take on a leadership position and suggesting some steps that could be taken to ease the problem.

Students needed to use the format of a personal letter (with an address in Australia), informal language, vocabulary used for persuasion and multiple suggestions taken from the text. There were some very good responses to this question. In some responses, there were many suggestions but little use of persuasive language or expressions to take the leadership role. All letters had the appropriate format for a personal letter.

## **Section 3 – Writing in Sinhala**

### **Question 10**

Students were given the topic ‘Education alone will not make a person perfect – it is necessary to have other valuable human qualities as well.’ and were required to write the script of a speech reflecting on this topic that would be delivered at a youth forum.

Most students selected this question. Addressing the youth forum and thanking the audience at the end of the speech was expected. Students should also have included a brief mention about the important aspects of education and some human qualities important to the society that should be developed. There were many good responses covering all requirements. However, some did not address youth but focused on a general audience. Some responses repeatedly stated that human qualities are important without mentioning any examples.

### **Question 11**

Students were required to write an informative report for the school magazine about a concert they had organised.

There were only a few responses to this question. Students were expected to write about aspects such as: cultural dancing, dramas, songs or clothing, and the response from the audience. The report needed to be written in the past tense and to include a description and information about the items performed at the concert.

### **Question 12**

Students were required to write an imaginative diary entry about travelling back in time and some of the experiences they had in a place important to Sri Lanka’s past.

There were some good responses to this question. The format of a diary entry was evident. The students selected some important historical places in Sri Lanka and described them well, when those places were constructed or an incident that occurred there.