

# 2019 VCE Sinhala written examination report

## General comments

Most students performed to a very good standard in Section 1 and Section 2 Part A. In Section 2 Part B and in Section 3 – Writing in Sinhala, the vocabulary used was not always appropriate to the purpose of the writing. It was at times too simple for persuasive writing or for the expression of ideas and opinions.

## 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 1

Suggested government changes	Expected outcome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online visa application which is limited for a one-month period to be extended to six months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These changes are to encourage more tourists to visit Sri Lanka.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrance fee to visit special places to be reduced.</li> </ul>	

Most responses were awarded full marks for this question.

##### Text 2

##### Question 2

Any three matching dot points of the following:

Last year	This year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebrations were held in a hall outside the school or brother school.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebrations to be held in their own school.</li> </ul>

Last year	This year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The guest speaker was an artist.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The guest speaker will be a university lecturer.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Folk songs were included.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instead of folk songs, short dramas based on folk stories will be included.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were class level based speech competitions only.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class level based recitations (songs) will also be included</li> </ul>

Students needed to match this year’s changes to last year’s activities to obtain full marks. If they were not matched, marks were only awarded to the correct dot points in the ‘Last year’ column. Many students filled the table out correctly and received full marks. There were a few responses where there was no indication of differences between last year’s event and this year’s.

**Text 3**

**Question 3**

Steps taken by the Principal included:

- Reported on the state of the buildings to the Education Department.
- Cleared the forest around the school with the help of the villagers.
- Repaired/constructed the buildings with some bricks that had been thrown out.
- Requested financial help from (Sri Lankan) associations in foreign countries and used it to buy classroom equipment.
- Explained to the villagers the value of education to encourage them to send their children to school.
- Requested and secured public transport for students coming from neighbouring villages.

Most students were able to identify four to six steps taken by the Principal.

**Part B – Answer in Sinhala**

**Text 4**

**Question 4**

උරුකඵල ඇමතුමේ අරමුණ - නැගණිය හෙට දිනයට යෙදෙන, තම උපන් දිනය සඳහා තෑග්ගක් රැගෙන ඒමට, සහෝදරයාට මතක් කරවීමයි.

(Purpose of the call – to remind the brother to buy a birthday present for the sister because her birthday is tomorrow.)

**විස්තරය Explanations**

- තම උපන් දිනය හෙට බවත්, කවුරුත් තෑග් රැගෙන එන ලෙසටත් දන්වා, දැන්වීමක් පලකරන ලෙස පුවත්පත් පත්‍ර කන්තෝරුවකට ඇමතුමක් දෙන යැයි සොයුරා නැගණියට පැවසීම. (The brother asked the sister to call a newspaper office to publish that her birthday is tomorrow and to tell people to bring presents for her.)
- ඔවුන් සුභ උපන් දිනක් වේවා ගීතය ගයනා කරන විට, ඉටිපන්දම් දල්වා කැපීමට පාන් ගෙඩියක්ද මිල දී ගෙනෙන බව පැවසීම. (The brother also said he would buy a loaf of bread, put candles on it and the sister would cut it while they sing the happy birthday song.)

All students identified the purpose of the call but a few responses included only one correct explanation. Some students incorrectly included the mother’s suggestion to give a meal to the orphanage as one of the brother’s jokes.

**Text 5**

**Question 5**

Environmental features

- අවුරුදු කාලෙට ගස්වල රතු එරබදු මල් පිපෙනවා. (The red erabadu flowers bloom during the New Year season.)
- කොහා කුරුල්ලා ඇවිදින් කොහො, කොහො සිංදු කියනවා. (The Koha bird arrives and sings 'koho koho'.)
- ගොයම් පැසි කරල් බරවී බිමට නැමෙනවා. (Paddy plants ripen and, due to the weight of the grains, the plants bend down.)

Activities of people

- ඔවුන්ගේ ගේදොරවල් පිරිසිදු කර එළිය වැටෙනවා. (People clean up their houses and look brighter.)
- කැවුම්, කොකිස් රස කැවිලි බැඳෙන සුවඳ අවට හමනවා. (People fry sweets such as Kevum and Kokis and the smell is in the air.)
- ඔවුන් අවුරුදු ගී නාලෙට රඹන් ගසනවා. (People play the rabana to the rhythm of the New Year songs.)

Most students identified the features and activities correctly.

**Text 6**

**Question 6**

ශාරීරික ව්‍යායාම (Physical activities may include)

අතීතයේ (In the past)

- මිනිසුන් ශරීරය වෙනසවා බොහෝ මහන්සියෙන් වැඩ කළා වගේම බොහෝ දුර පයින් ගමන් කළා.
- ගොවියන් පවා තම කුඹුරුවල ඉතා මහන්සියෙන් වැඩ කළා.
- Most people used to physically hard work and also used to walk long distances.
- Even the farmers used to work hard in their farms.

වර්තමානයේ (At present)

- බොහෝ අය දැන් තම රාජකාරි ස්ථානවල එක තැන ඉඳුගෙන වැඩ කරන අතර ගමන් යන්නේ ද වාහන වලින්ය. එමනිසා ප්‍රමාණවත් ශාරීරික ව්‍යායාමයක් නොලැබේ.
- නවීන තාක්ෂණික දියුණුවත් සමඟ කුඹුරුවල වැඩ කිරීමේ දී පවා මහන්සිවීම අඩු වී ඇත.
- Most people sit in one place in their work places and use vehicles for transport. Therefore they do not get enough physical exercises.
- With modern technology less hard work is done even in the farms.

ආහාර පුරුදු (Food habits may include)

අතීතයේ (In the past)

- මිනිසුන් තම ආහාර රසායනික ද්‍රව්‍යයන් භාවිතා නොකර වඩා ගනීහ.
- ආහාරවලට ගුණදායක තුනපහ ආදිය යොදා තමන්ම පිලියල කර ගනීහ.
- People used to grow their own food without using chemicals in them.
- People used to cook their own food using healthy spices.

වර්තමානයේ (At present)

- දැන් මිනිසුන් වෙළඳ පොලෙන් විශ සහිත එළවළු සහ පලතුරු මිල දී ගනිති.
- ඔවුන්ගේ කාර්ය බහුල ජීවිත නිසා එතරම් ගුණදායක නොවන ලෙස පිසින ලද කෑම මිල දී ගෙන අනුභව කරති.
- People now buy fruits and vegetables from the markets, that are contaminated with poisons.
- Due to the busy lives they now buy food to eat that is not prepared in a healthy manner.

මානසික ස්වභාවය (Mental state)

අතීතයේ (In the past)

- මිනිසුන් වඩා සැහැල්ලුවෙන්, දවසේ කාර්ය බහුල ජීවිතයෙන් පසුව තම පවුලේ අය සමඟ විනෝදවෙමින් හෝ ආගමික කටයුතුවල යෙදෙමින් මානසික සුවයක් ලැබූහ.
- People were more relaxed after their hard day’s work, enjoying time with the family or getting involved in religious activities.

වර්තමානයේ (At present)

- මිනිසුන් තම රැකියාස්ථානවල, විශ්වවිද්‍යාලවල සහ පාසල් පවා අසහනකාරීව කාලය ගත කරති.
- ඔවුන් විවේක කාලය ගත කරන්නේද පරිගණකය හෝ රූපවාහිනිය ඉදිරියේ නැති නම් දුරකථනය පාවිච්චි කරමින්ය.
- But now people are more stressed in their work places, universities or schools and lead a busy life.
- Even when they have free time they spend it in front of the computer or television or using their mobile phones.

In many responses the three factors were not separately stated, but if they were clarified with examples the marks were awarded. Responses that only included examples were awarded only one mark.

## Section 2– Reading and responding

### Part A – Answer in English

#### Text 7

##### Question 7a.

- Geography – The city is surrounded by a beautiful range of mountains. / The Mahaweli river flows around the city making the climate cooler.
- History – The last king ruled from Mahanuwara before being exiled and his palace still exists.
- Religion – Buddha’s tooth relic is placed in the palace and people go there to worship.
- Economy – The tourism industry is important to Sri Lanka. The beauty of Mahanuwara city and the palace, as well as the Dalada procession, makes them popular among the tourists.

Most students answered this question correctly. For Geography, writing ‘Mahaweli river flowing through the city’ was not accepted.

##### Question 7b.

- Since the trees are cut down to construct buildings there could be landslides in the mountain areas.
- Due to the increase in population people have built shanties and shops and the beauty of the city is disappearing.

Most responses identified the concerns correctly.

**Text 8**

**Question 8**

Value	How adults can enable children to develop this value
To appreciate and protect the environment.	Provide opportunity to experience and enjoy nature.
To develop good human qualities such as kindness, gratitude and sharing.	Adults to demonstrate these values as role models and appreciate the good deeds children do without pushing them for competition / may lead to selfishness.

Two marks were awarded for each value to develop and two for each of the matching adults' role. Only one mark was given for the value if the adults' role did not match it.

The majority of responses were correct and obtained full marks; in only a few instances the columns did not match.

**Part B – Answer in Sinhala**

**Text 9**

**Question 9**

Students were required to write a formal letter to the manager of ABC Computer Suppliers about their concerns over computer programs not functioning correctly. They needed to persuade him to provide a solution to the problem. Suggested points may have included the following:

Concerns may have included:

- එය ක්‍රියාත්මක වන්නේ ඉතා සෙමින්. (It functions slowly.)
- වැඩසටහන් නිසි පරිදි වැඩ නොකරයි. (The programs are not working properly.)
- ඒ නිසා කාර්යයන් ප්‍රමාද වේ. (As a result work is delayed.)

Points of persuasion may have included that the manager should:

- ‘ABC පරිගණක සපයන්නෝ’ හි කීර්ති නාමය රැකගැනීමට. (preserve the good name of ABC Computer company)
- ‘ABC පරිගණක සපයන්නෝ’ පිළිබඳ විශ්වාසය පාරිභෝගිකයන් අතර නැතිවීම. (avoid the ABC computer company losing the trust of the customers)
- වගකීම් සහතිකය පිළිබඳ නීතිමය ගැටළු මගහරවා ගැනීමට. (avoid the legal problems regarding the warranty)
- මුදලට සරිලන වටිනාකමක් ලබාගැනීමට (give value for money)
- විසඳුමක් ලෙස පරිගණකය අලුත් වැඩියාකර දීම/ වෙනත් පරිගණකයක් බොදීම/ මුදල් ආපසු බොදීම. (as a solution, repair the computer / replace the computer with a new one / offer a refund.)

In most responses students were aware of the format required for a formal letter and used appropriate formal language and correct grammar. Some students mentioned their concerns and possible solutions but did not use enough persuasive language to ask for a solution. Students can improve in this area by expanding their vocabulary.

## Section 3 – Writing in Sinhala

### Question 10

Students were required to write an imaginative short story about the clearing of forests for a young adult creative writing competition. Writing from the point of view of an elephant, they needed to start the story with ‘Son, when I was your age I walked through the forest with my father, but now...’

Suggested points/responses may have included:

- අලියා තම බාල කාලයේදී වනයේ විනෝද වූ අන්දම. (how the elephant enjoyed the forest when he was young)
- වනයේ සිදුවූ සිද්ධීන් සමහරක් පිළිබඳව. (some incidents that happened in the forest)
- ඔහුගේ විරක්ෂිතයන්. (his adventures)
- වනයේ අලංකාරය පිළිබඳව. (about the beauty of the forest)
- තම පුතාට අත්විඳීමට නොලැබී ඇති දේවල් පිළිබඳව. (about the things his son is missing out on)

Some of the writing was of a very good level, with students demonstrating good imagination and their ability to express their ideas and opinions in the story. Good responses included information about the fun the elephant had as a young elephant and the things his son was missing.

### Question 11

For this topic students had to write an informative article for a newspaper about what could happen to the coastal areas of Sri Lanka if the global temperature rose by 2 degrees Celsius and the ice cap melted. They needed to suggest at least three ways in which an increase in the global temperature could be prevented. Suggested points/responses may have included the following:

Disasters

- ශ්‍රී ලංකාවේ මුහුදු වෙරළට සිදුවී ඇති විනාශය. (The damage to the beautiful beaches of Sri Lanka.)
- මුහුදු වෙරළ අසල ජීවත්වන මාළු අල්ලන මිනිසුන්ගේ නිවෙස්වලට සිදුවන විනාශය. (The damage to the houses of the fishermen that live near the shore.)
- ශ්‍රී ලංකාව කුඩා දූපතක් බැවින් රටටම සිදුවන විනාශය. (Sri Lanka is a small island and the whole country will be devastated.)

Suggestions

- ගොසිල ඉන්ධන භාවිතය අඩු කිරීම. (Reduce the use of fossil fuels.)
- සූර්යබල ශක්තිය භාවිතයට උනන්දු කරවීම. (Encourage using solar energy.)
- ගස් වැවීම. (Grow trees.)
- කැලෑ ආරක්ෂා කරගැනීම. (Preserve the forests.)

Not many students attempted this topic. Those who did mentioned the disasters that could happen but could have provided more suggestions on what could be done to prevent the increase in global temperature.

### Question 12

Students were required to write a script for a speech to be delivered at their final school assembly, evaluating some satisfactory and unsatisfactory experiences they had while studying at their secondary college. They needed to indicate the impact of these experiences on their life.

Suggested points/responses may have included the following:

අත්දැකීම් (Experiences)

- ක්‍රීඩා වලදී, වෙනත් විෂය බාහිර ක්‍රියාකාරීම් වලදී, පංති කාමරයේ වැඩ වලදී, ගුරුවරුන් සමඟ හෝ පාසලේ ප්‍රමුඛ සමඟ ලැබූ අත් දැකීම්. හොඳ හෝ නරක අත්දැකීම් එකක් හෝ වැඩි ගණනක් විස්තර කිරීම.
- Experiences in sports or other extracurricular activity, classroom work, with teachers or peers. The experiences could be either positive or negative and there may be more than one experience in detail.

බලපෑම් (Experience)

- ඇතිවූ හැඟීම්, එයින් ඉගෙන ගත් පාඩම් සහ ඒ පිළිබඳව ඔවුන්ගේ මතය.
- Impact of these experiences on their feelings and the lessons they learned from them, as well as their judgement on it.

Many students attempted this topic and some of the writing was at a good level. Most students mentioned different experiences and situations they had had in school, and related them to the impact on their life. However, in some responses, the experiences and their impact were only very vaguely connected.