

# 2017 VCE Vietnamese Second Language written examination report

## General comments

The majority of students understood and responded adequately to most sections of the 2017 VCE Vietnamese Second Language written examination, demonstrating their ability to express ideas through the creation of original texts in Vietnamese.

Section 1 – Listening and responding covered topics such as community announcements, graduation ceremonies and well-known Vietnamese women. Overall, questions were answered adequately in this section.

Section 2 – Reading and responding dealt with famous tourist destinations in Vietnam and a well-known traditional music composer. This section assessed students' capacity to understand and convey general and specific aspects of reading texts. Most students wrote their responses in a logical sequence and expressed themselves using good sentence structures and correct tone, grammar and syntactical rules.

Section 3 – Writing in Vietnamese required students to express their ideas by writing an original text in Vietnamese. Students should be familiar with the five kinds of writing required: informative, imaginative, personal, persuasive and evaluative. The most popular question was Question 7, which required students to write a letter to their friend, expressing their views on the importance of family life and their thoughts on a happy family. Overall, students displayed a good understanding of the different text types and kinds of writing.

## 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

This section assessed students' ability to understand general and specific aspects of texts. Students who scored highly tended to successfully discriminate between important and irrelevant information.

### Text 1

#### Question 1a.

- date and time of the election – Saturday 11/11/2017, 8.00 am – 6.30 pm
- venue/places where people can vote – Vietnamese community office or refugee supporting group office

## Text 2

### Question 2a.

The graduation ceremony of a Vietnamese language school

### Question 2b.

The five main points that the principal made in her speech are:

- by joining in Vietnamese classes, the students have come to understand that they are Australians of Vietnamese descent
- the students were born and raised in Australia, but they should not forget the traditions and customs of the Vietnamese people
- the students should empathise with or understand their parents more deeply
- the students should be proud of their ethnic origins/background
- language and culture are fundamental/basic/essential/important to every person's identity.

### Question 2c.

- The student representative read the students' acknowledgment of the school, their parents' sacrifices and the patience of the teachers who had taught them how to listen, read, write and speak Vietnamese.
- The student representative also mentioned that the teachers had given the students an understanding of the backgrounds/origins, culture and traditions of the Vietnamese people.

### Question 2d.

- A cultural program was offered, with choral/choir, dance and quizzes.
- Refreshments were offered at the end of the evening.

### Question 2e.

- Everyone went home feeling jubilant (happy).
- The faces of the students expressed joy because they could now have a rest (after all their hard work).

## Part B – Answer in Vietnamese

In this part of the examination, students were required to demonstrate their capacity to understand spoken texts in Vietnamese by responding in full sentences in Vietnamese.

## Text 3

### Question 3a.

*Vi cô Thùy Vân là một nhà báo đã nghiên cứu nhiều về những thành quả của phụ nữ Việt Nam tại hải ngoại.*  
(Because Miss Thuy Van is a journalist who has done a lot of research on the achievements of some overseas Vietnamese women.)

### Question 3b.

- *Cô đoạt được huy chương vàng môn đấu vật tại thế vận hội Bắc Kinh năm 2008* (She got a gold medal for Canada at the 2008 Beijing Olympics)
- *Cô đoạt được huy chương đồng môn đấu vật tại thế vận hội Luân Đôn năm 2012* (She got a bronze medal at the 2012 London Olympics)

### Question 3c.

- *Trong quá khứ, nhiều phụ nữ chỉ làm vợ và mẹ trong gia đình. Tất nhiên, điều đó thật tuyệt vời - công việc này rất quan trọng trong tất cả các nền văn hoá.* (In the past, many women were wives and

mothers in the home. Of course, that was excellent – this is very important work in all cultures.)

- *Nhưng thử thách dành cho phụ nữ trẻ ngày nay là việc nuôi dạy thế hệ tiếp theo đồng thời phải kết hợp với công việc này với việc làm ngoài xã hội trong tất cả các lĩnh vực như giáo dục, khoa học, y khoa và kỹ thuật.* (The challenge now is for young women to give attention to the raising the next generation, but also to combine this work with work outside the home in all areas, such as education, science, medicine and engineering.)

#### Text 4

##### Question 4a.

- *Cả hai loại cây Lô hội và Củ tỏi đều dễ trồng và rẻ tiền* (Both are very easy to grow and cheap)
- *Cả Lô hội và Củ tỏi đều dùng cho việc nấu ăn* (Both are used in cooking)
- *Lô hội dùng nhựa từ lá cây để trị bệnh ngoài da, ví dụ như thoa lên vùng bị thương để làm giảm đau và chữa lành vết trầy và phỏng ở da* (Use aloe vera leaves for skin treatment, for example, to relieve pain, heal bruises and heal burns)
- *Củ tỏi dùng để làm gia vị và trị nhiều bệnh, ví dụ như tăng lượng mỡ tốt và giảm mỡ xấu trong máu và tăng cường hệ miễn dịch* (Use garlic as a spice and to cure diseases, for example, it increases good cholesterol, reduces bad cholesterol and helps to improve the immune system)

##### Question 4b.

*Cô ấy làm cho cuộc phỏng vấn trở nên nhẹ nhàng hơn bằng cách dùng từ quý vị với giọng nói không nghiêm trọng và nhắc họ nghĩ đến những thức ăn ngon khi ở nhà hàng.* (She speaks to her audience directly using 'You' and her tone is not as serious. She reminds them about eating a delicious meal in a restaurant and tries to lighten the interview at the end).

## Section 2 – Reading and responding

This section assessed students' knowledge and skills in analysing and responding to information from written texts.

### Part A – Answer in English

#### Text 5

##### Question 5a.

- The Cai Rang floating market is located on the Cai Rang River.
- It is located at 6 km from the Can Tho city centre and at about 30 minutes by boat from the Ninh Kieu wharf.

##### Question 5b.

- The writer tells us that the market has been popular for hundreds of years.
- This special market was formed to meet the demand for trade and exchange of goods when means of road traffic were not developed.

##### Question 5c.

Both:

- fruit
- local products/produce of the Mekong Delta.

**Question 5d.**

- The goods are sold on boats. Usually, each boat specialises in selling a particular type of item.
- At the front of the boat, there is usually a pole on which the type of goods that are sold hang.

**Question 5e.**

- Even though the roads are better, the market takes traffic (boats) and works as a waterway/river traffic is still popular on top of road traffic/traffic on river.
- The market opens up economic potential by creating jobs for people living around or on the river.
- The market provides many opportunities by promoting tourism in the area.

**Question 5f.**

The five main points are:

- foreign visitors love to explore and experience the market
- they can see the beauty of the water culture because the market preserves the water culture
- they seem to find their soul more expansive (broader) after they have visited the market
- they can really feel the difference in life here (in the market)
- they can see the sincerity, simplicity and hospitality of the people of the Hau Giang river.

**Question 5g.**

Aims	How the writer achieves the aim
1. to inform people about this great market	Many detailed facts are offered in the article.
2. to persuade people reading the article that this is a good place to visit	The article uses lively and colourful language to show that the market is very attractive and interesting and therefore should be visited.

**Part B – Answer in Vietnamese****Text 6****Question 6**

- *Trên con đường trở thành một nhạc sĩ chuyên nghiệp, ông Cao Văn Lầu đã trải qua nhiều đoạn đời cam khổ.* (On the way to becoming a professional musician, Cao Van Lau has experienced many difficulties in his life.)
- *Ông đã tích lũy được khá nhiều kinh nghiệm trong việc học hỏi các cung bậc, âm giai và nhạc cụ dân tộc.* (He accumulated a lot of experience learning the notes, the scales and traditional musical instruments.)
- *Ông học chuyên cần, chịu khó tập dượt rèn luyện, đã sáng tác và để lại đời nhiều tác phẩm có giá trị, nhưng nổi bật nhất là bài ca vọng cổ độc đáo Dạ Cổ Hoài Lang.* (He studied diligently, practised very hard, composed and left many valuable musical songs [including Da Co Hoai Lang].)
- *Đến nay, bản vọng cổ này vẫn được sử dụng thường xuyên như một bài ca chủ chốt trong các buổi ca nhạc truyền thống và đã được khẳng định là một tác phẩm sân khấu có giá trị vĩnh cửu.* (Today, this classical song [Da Co Hoai Lang] is still used regularly as a key work in traditional music performances and has been confirmed as a classic theater work of lasting value.)
- *Nó đã góp phần mang lại ánh hào quang cho nhiều tầng lớp nghệ sĩ và khơi nguồn dòng chảy cho lịch sử âm nhạc Việt Nam.* (It has contributed to bringing honour to many classes of performing artists and has contributed to the flow of Vietnamese musical history.)

## Section 3 – Writing in Vietnamese

In this section, students were asked to demonstrate their ability to write an original text of 200–300 words in Vietnamese on one of five topics. Most students were familiar with the various text type features and were able to write complex sentences and expressions. However, some students did not use the appropriate vocabulary and structures for the required text type of their piece of writing.

### Question 7

This question was the most popular. Students were required to write a letter to a friend, expressing their views on the importance of family life and their thoughts on a happy family.

Responses could have included some of the following points:

- a description of a perfect family, in which family members stick together, show a sense of care and appreciation and respect
- a discussion on how to solve problems when one member of a family is having problems, and how to help and protect each other.

### Question 8

Students were asked to write an imaginative story for a magazine for teenagers based on their journey as a member of a crew that explored the bottom of the ocean.

Responses could have included some of the following points:

- how the people on the voyage were selected
- impressions of the journey (for example, the view, the living creatures)
- viewing the bottom of the ocean as the high point of the story
- a conclusion including brief reflections on the journey.

### Question 9

Students were required to write a report outlining a summer holiday activity program and its benefits in order to persuade the parents' association of their local school to support the program.

Responses could have included some of the following points:

- offering recommendations for the development of a summer holiday activity program for students, based on the criteria of physical education and improving skills and knowledge
- suggesting actions to take for active learning experiences, such as checking with local departments of parks and recreation about camps and other activities, or finding out what exhibitions, events or concerts are happening in town over the summer, or creating a directory or calendar of local summer learning fun to share with students and their families.

### Question 10

Students were required to write an informative speech for students describing a charity's day-to-day work and the strategies it uses to overcome any difficulties when assisting homeless children in many different countries.

Responses could have included some of the following points:

- The speech could tell the students about life in one of the places that the organisation looks after. That would interest students and enable them to relate to such a place and its day-to-day life. The speaker may make the point that a lot of energy needs to go into fundraising but that the money must always translate into good care for the children that the organisation is looking after.
- A lot of time and energy will be spent organising the homeless children and making sure that they have adequate meals and a safe place to sleep. They will need reassurance and friends.

The children will need time to play and time to rest. In a better place, some attempts may be made to introduce some lessons for homeless children.

- Strategies could have centred around fundraising. The following points could have been included in the speech: Look for a similar organisation that can help you get started with finding grants. They may be able to guide you. They may have a list of organisations that gave them funds and supported them and may be willing to give to your charity organisation since your missions are similar. The government may also be a source for charity organisations that need financial assistance. Use websites to search for possible charity funding. From these websites, you may be able to find specific funding for your organisation.

### Question 11

Students were required to write an evaluative article for a community magazine based on the proverb 'a healthy mind in a healthy body'.

Responses could have included some of the following points:

- Students could write that the proverb seems accurate but, if they evaluate the extent to which it is really true, they will find that the proverb does not contain the whole truth.
- The review will evaluate the extent to which the proverb is true. As the article is for a community magazine, students will be able to see that some people are not necessarily healthy, but their minds are very active.
- On the other hand, students could also argue that some people are very healthy and yet do not use their minds enough (they go to fitness clubs, but do not think or read or try to improve their minds).
- However, there are others who have **both** a healthy mind and a healthy body and then the proverb is convincing.