

# 2019 VCE Vietnamese Second Language written examination report

## General comments

Most students understood and responded adequately to most sections of the 2019 VCE Vietnamese Second Language written examination, demonstrating their ability to express ideas through the creation of original responses in Vietnamese. A large number of students were able to produce good pieces of writing in Section 3. However, many students did not perform as well in the listening part of the examination. They seemed to have a general understanding of the listening texts but missed vital pieces of information required for their responses.

Students performed significantly better in Part A, where they had to respond in English, than in Part B. Students' comprehension of the Vietnamese language was much better than their ability to express themselves in writing. Some students made many grammatical and spelling errors in Part B of Sections 1 and 2 and in Section 3, where they had to respond in Vietnamese. It is recommended that students develop dictionary skills, in particular for Section 2.

Section 1 – Listening and responding covered topics such as school life in Australia, fundraising appeal, becoming a good chef and a film production competition. Students are reminded of the importance of effective note-taking during the listening section of the examination. They should read all questions carefully and ensure that their responses match the questions asked. Overall, questions were answered adequately in this section.

Section 2 – Reading and responding dealt with the fishing profession in Vietnam and bonsai. 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 appropriate sentence structures and the correct tone, grammar and syntactical rules.

Section 3 required students to express their ideas by writing an original response in Vietnamese. Students should be familiar with the five kinds of writing they were to choose from: personal, imaginative, informative, persuasive and evaluative. The most popular question was Question 7, which required students to write a diary describing their job search process, requirements from the company and their feelings after the interviews. 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.

- Each state has its own education and training program.
- These programs are appropriately designed according to the common policy of the federal government.

##### Question 1b.

An's main concern	Van's reassurances
Australian students have to study from 9 am to 3.30 pm and this is too much for them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students have a long recess and lunchbreak to rest and socialise so they should not feel tired.</li> <li>• Their teachers create interactive lessons to engage students in active learning.</li> <li>• The school offers sport and health activities in the curriculum and students practise team sport almost every day.</li> <li>• Most schools have a music program.</li> <li>• Excursions are also part of learning to expand knowledge.</li> </ul>

#### Text 2

##### Question 2a.

- To help children with illness and disabilities.
- To fund meaningful activities for aged care facilities.

##### Question 2b.

The Vietnamese community will operate two stalls:

- one stall will sell finger food, snacks and drinks
- the other will offer a bamboo bridge crossing and artificial/fake buffalo riding games.

Linh and her group of young people will operate three booths:

- the first booth will offer instructions for making and decorating lanterns
- the second booth will offer fake face and hand glitter tattoos
- the third booth will offer a tin-throwing game.

### 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.

- Vì cô có khả năng sáng tạo và trí tưởng tượng để tạo ra những món ăn mới với hương vị khác biệt. (She has creative and imaginative abilities to create dishes with different flavours.)
- Cô biết cách trang trí độc đáo cho những món ăn do mình nấu nướng. (She knows how to decorate nicely the dishes she cooks.)
- Cô chuẩn bị thức ăn để phù hợp với khẩu vị của người tiêu dùng / người ăn / người dùng / thực khách. (She prepares food to suit the taste of the customer.)

#### Question 3b.

- Cô ấy có kỹ năng giao tiếp và làm việc tập thể tốt. (She has good communication and teamwork skills.)
- Cô ấy biết kiên trì, nhẫn nại khi thực hành nghệ thuật nấu ăn. (She is persistent and patient in practising the art of cooking.)
- Cô đã may mắn gặp được một đầu bếp nổi tiếng trong một chuyến đi nước ngoài và ông ấy sẵn sàng hướng dẫn thêm cho cô. (She was lucky to meet a famous chef during a trip overseas who offered to mentor her.)

### Text 4

#### Question 4

- Làm phim ngắn. (Produce a short film.)
- Các bạn trẻ Úc gốc Việt. (Be a young Australian-Vietnamese.)
- Phim với chủ đề ‘Những câu chuyện định cư của người Việt Nam trong 45 năm qua’ (Film on the theme of Vietnamese settlement over the past 45 years)
- Để giúp các em hiểu rõ hơn về quá trình lập nghiệp của thế hệ ông bà và cha mẹ của mình (To help young Australian-Vietnamese better understand the integration process of their grandparents and parents)
- Hạn chót ghi danh tham gia là ngày 21 tháng 6 năm 2019. (Register by 21 June 2019.)

## 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.

- endless rice fields/farmland/paddy fields
- the lives of countless people who live on boats
- goods and barges pulled along rivers

##### Question 5b.

- He fished professionally with amazing skills.
- He fished like acrobats/gymnasts on the sea.
- He dropped the fish net unevenly paired in the water very quickly.
- He whipped/cast/threw the net in a simple but accurate way.

### Question 5c.

- He goes fishing during the night and returns in the early morning.
- He sells the sea products immediately when he comes in to shore.
- He spends time untangling the fishing net.
- He sorts out and fixes the nets.
- He does some maintenance / puts the net to dry.

### Question 5d.

- Fishing is his hereditary/family/intergenerational profession.
- His father taught him how to fish from an early age.
- His whole life was tied to the sea and it seems he's inseparable from it.
- He prefers this simple lifestyle because he can freely drive/steer/direct/pilot/sail his boat anywhere.
- He breathes in fresh air.
- Fishing also provides a daily income for his family.

### Question 5e.

- The author appreciates that his uncle and the other fishermen try to make a living from what the sea provides.
- He appreciates their positive attitude even though their lives are often threatened by storms but they always smile and are optimistic about life.

## Part B – Answer in Vietnamese

### Text 6

#### Question 6

Cây bonsai đặc biệt vì (Bonsai is special because):

- Cây mang lại cho căn nhà một hình ảnh thiên nhiên thu nhỏ thật đẹp và tao nhã. (The bonsai is a special tree because it shows an interesting miniature image of nature.)

Lợi ích (Its benefits):

- làm tăng vẻ đẹp của căn nhà (it enhances the beauty of the house)
- chăm sóc cây bonsai giúp ông Nội rèn luyện tính kiên nhẫn và khéo léo (taking care of this bonsai taught the grandfather to be patient and skillful)
- giúp ông Nội sống mạnh mẽ (it helped the grandfather live robustly like a bonsai tree)
- làm sạch không khí trong nhà (the bonsai tree cleaned the atmosphere of the house).

## Section 3 – Writing in Vietnamese

In this section, students were required to demonstrate their ability to write an original response 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, grammar 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 personal diary entry describing their job search process, the job requirements and their thoughts after the interviews.

Text type: journal

Audience: self

Kind of writing: personal

Responses could have included some of the following points.

Job search process

- advice of a friend about job vacancy
- job advertisement
- notice posted in front of employment agency
- broadcast from radio, television or websites
- a tailor-made application to each employment agency
- newsletters in the press.

Skills and experience required

- appropriate qualifications
- good health, no dangerous disease
- good working attitude, enthusiastic, not afraid of difficulties
- friendly personality
- hands-on experience
- qualities such as being careful, diligent, eager, honest, hardworking.

Thoughts after the interviews

- learned a lot of new and useful things, especially the opportunity to mentally prepare for job interview
- felt the desire to become a member of the company
- promised to be a dynamic, creative and helpful member
- found a good working environment with opportunities for training or promotion
- thanked the interviewers for sharing a lot of good things
- self-reflection on shortcomings and areas of improvement.

### Question 8

Students were asked to write an imaginative story for a science fiction magazine, about life and transportation in a city they travel to in the year 2070. The story includes their thoughts after waking up from their dream.

Text type: short story

Audience: general reader

Kind of writing: imaginative

Responses could have included some of the following points:

- the activities of people during the day and at night, such as work and entertainment
- the atmosphere of the city – busy, crowded, boring
- description of the types of transportation; for example, moving pavement, wheel-less car, flying carpet
- the type of energy used to run household appliances and transportation – solar, electricity, wind, water

- impressions from seeing life in this city – flutter, surprise, happiness, worry or interest, danger, agreement
- the environment – clean, dirty, polluted
- conclusion; reflection after the dream – regret, happiness, expectation.

### Question 9

Students were required to write an article for the food column in a local community newspaper to introduce the services that their company offers.

Text type: article

Audience: community newspaper readers

Kind of writing: informative

Responses could have included some of the following points:

- reasons for establishing the company
- process of establishing the company
- factors leading to the success of the company, such as
  - the organisation of the company
  - the merchandise, general prices
  - the quality and schedule of delivery
  - the guarantee and promises, the behaviour of the deliverers, the safety of food for customers.
- conclusion – describe the customers and their impressions of the company's customer service; for example, satisfaction, expectations.

### Question 10

Students were required to write the script of a persuasive speech to the Year 10 students at a career expo to persuade them to choose a career in aged care.

Text type: speech script

Audience: Year 10 students

Kind of writing: persuasive

Responses could have included some of the following points.

Purpose of this job

- aged-care services provide daily opportunities to help improve the elderly's standards of living
- carers can work in an aged-care service facility, a community centre or even in their client's own home

Condition to become an aged care worker

- the right qualification, e.g. Certificate 3 or higher in aged care

Responsibilities

- immediate needs:
  - washing
  - dressing
  - maintaining the clients' hygiene
- basic daily activities:
  - cleaning

- laundry
- cooking
- paying bills
- maintaining records and paperwork
- shopping
- trips to the doctor
- emotional support
  - taking part in leisure activities, such as day excursions and organised activities

Benefits of this job

- availability of work because of high demand
- opportunity to learn from the elderly through their knowledge and life experience
- gain knowledge of health/medical support to take care of themselves.

### Question 11

Students were required to write a report to evaluate the statement 'Some people think watching sports on TV is actually better than watching sports live at a stadium'. Their report will be published in a local sports magazine.

Text type: review

Audience: sports magazine readers

Kind of writing: evaluative

Responses could have included some of the following points.

Advantages of watching sports at a stadium:

- as a sports fan, there really is no better place to experience a big game than at the stadium
- many stadiums are specially designed to best amplify the sound and energy of the crowd
- the special feelings when large numbers of fans cheer for their team and when one can meet all the athletes in person
- can save tickets to sports events as souvenirs
- watching sports from home on TV misses the bustling scene at the stadium
- there really is nothing like being at the game
- interruptions because of advertising on TV
- matches can be boring when watched on TV at home.

Disadvantages of watching sports at the stadium:

- as a sports fan, there really is no worse place to watch a big game than at the stadium
- the hard plastic seats with no leg room are uncomfortable to sit on
- the obnoxious drunk sitting next to you, spilling their beer all over your shoes
- some kid sitting behind you may poke you
- the terrible weather
- the long queues for food and toilets
- never being able to get a phone signal to see what everyone is talking about on Facebook or Instagram
- the two hours it takes to get out of the parking lots
- some fans believe they miss too much by actually being there if they cannot buy good seats
- it is cheaper to watch sports on TV
- the ability to see more on TV from home
- paying for internet or cable is still cheaper than going to a professional live sporting event.