

LOTE: Korean Second Language GA 3: Examination

Oral component

Despite this being the second year of the revised LOTE examination, some students did not understand the procedures. In Section 2, to start the discussion assessors gave an instruction such as “그러면, 준비한 주제와 소주제를 말씀해주세요.” and found that in many cases students were embarrassed and confused; not knowing what the instruction meant. If they understood the procedures there would be no confusion.

Section 1 – Conversation

Most students satisfactorily managed the general conversation about their personal world, although some seemed inappropriately prepared to answer very simple questions which are an essential part of conversation. Assessors expect breadth and depth of information, opinions and ideas from students, so they should not respond with monosyllables such as yes/no to any of the questions. The key to success is to clarify and expand answers like ‘Yes, I play tennis everyday’. More capable students should express feelings and opinions.

Section 2 – Discussion

Students should express ideas and opinions on the issues related to their sub-topic in no more than 1 minute.

When the resources for the sub-topics are chosen from the Internet, choice can often be limited and make it difficult to express ideas and opinions. The study design suggests that a range of oral and written texts be selected which will enable ‘the student to explore and compare aspects of language and culture of the Korean-speaking communities. It is suggested that a range of at least three different kinds of text be selected. These might include aural and visual, as well as written texts’ (page 25).

Support materials such as photos, cards or charts may help to explore the sub-topic or advance the exchange more appropriately and effectively. Questions such as ‘why’ or ‘how’ may be asked and students should be prepared to answer these questions.

It is acceptable for students to respond with ‘I didn’t study that aspect’, but be able to direct the discussion so as to express other ideas and opinions related to the sub-topic, and support these with appropriate reference to the text studied. The choice of sub-topic is very important and should optimise the students’ ability to respond. Many chose Korean costumes, culture or festivals. Often, these can be very limiting sub-topics as they are very descriptive and do not usually allow for the expression of opinions.

If the same topic is chosen for the whole class, it is advisable that the sub-topic is sufficiently broad to accommodate a range of interests and perspectives so each student can respond individually and give their own views. The key to success is that students must be able to express their own thoughts and ideas and use a good range of vocabulary and grammar.

Written component

Section 1 – Listening and responding

Part A

Question 1

Five

Question 2

Working for a computer company

Question 3

Taekwondo is good for health

Question 4

He doesn’t like exercise

He is busy with learning to play the piano

Question 5

Tomorrow

Next Sunday

Watch movies

Go to the (Han-river) Park/have lunch/ride a bike

Question 6

On an answering message

Question 7

It is important because Korean people eat Kimchi with rice everyday

Question 8

The flavour of Kimchi in the hot region is more spicy-hot and salty than the one in the colder region

Question 9

Hot pepper, garlic

Question 10

Year 1988/1988 Seoul Olympic/Seoul Olympic

Question 11

It was too hot for him

Question 12

To eat vegetables in winter

Question 13

(around) December

Question 14

Family and friends

Part B**Question 15**

도서관

Question 16

노란꽃 and or 빨간사과 그림 (any one of the two)

Question 17

물병 , 12 가지 색연필

Question 18

생일 선물

Question 19

박 선생님 사무실

Question 20

1996, 80

Question 21

많은 전화 요금 또는 비용

Question 22

- 수업 시간에 전화가 오는 것
- 시험 시간에 핸드폰으로 답을 가르쳐 주는 것
- 핸드폰을 잃어버리는 것.

Question 23

학생들이 학교에 핸드폰을 가지고 올수없음

Section 2 – Reading and responding**Part A****Question 24**

- high buildings
- people can take cooking and computer classes for free
- situated in the city where the transportation is accessible
- a lot of parking spaces/easy to park
- expensive but good quality products more than the market.

Question 25

- a wide variety of goods available
- people can buy new stock earlier than in other places
- cheaper but not as good quality as the department store
- there are so many people in the restaurant of the market
- it opens at 11 pm and closes at 5 am.

Question 26

Department stores because different item shops at the market are far from each other

Question 27

Nam-dae-moon Market has the widest range of goods in Korea

Question 28

People eat at restaurants at around 5 am after shopping which interests tourists taking photos.

Question 29

Good, cheap (in order)

Question 30

- write down things to buy
- buy in large quantities
- buy groceries at 5pm
- buy goods during sale periods.

Question 31

Megamart or Kim's Club

Because it's located close to home and sells products at very low prices.

Question 32

Megamart or Kim's Club or Nam-dae-moon Market

Because it sells quality items at cheap prices and is located close to home.

Even though students had to respond in English in Part A, many students were confused in Question 32, because it was not clearly stated which text to use in Text 6 or 7. Answers were accepted if students supported them with evidence from the text.

Part B

Students were required to write a letter to a friend in 400 *cha* in Korean. Many students struggled to comply with the word limit but they were very well prepared for writing a formal letter.

Section 3 – Writing in Korean

Questions 34 and 35 were the most popular questions in this section. Question 34 required students to take on the role of an Australian migrant and write about an interesting experience for them and their family. Question 35 required students to write an informative report titled 'Koreans love sport' for the school magazine.

It is important that students have plenty of practice in report writing to gain knowledge about appropriate structures and to gain skills in expressing their thoughts and ideas clearly.