



Written component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Overall, student performance in the written examination was very good. However, most students had difficulty answering in English. There were many spelling and grammatical errors in the answers written in English, and in some instances the incorrect terms and expressions were used.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Listening and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 1

Question 1a.

Any two of:

- to tell her mother that the flight is delayed due to bad weather
- the flight is not at 10.00 am
- the flight will now be at 7.00 pm.

Text 2

Question 2a.

Any three of:

- students can be expelled from school
- students can be suspended from school
- disciplinary action will be taken against the principal if appropriate action is not taken regarding the ban
- disciplinary action will be taken against the staff if appropriate action is not taken regarding the ban
- the parents are strongly advised to be vigilant about ensuring their children do not bring mobile phones to school.

Question 2b.

Both of:

- mobile phones disrupt the classroom/school education
- the parents and teachers have complained about the influence that mobile phones have on children.

Text 3

Question 3a.

Both of:

- according to a United Nations report on human development, Sri Lankan women are in 36th place out of 155 countries
- with regard to equal rights, Sri Lankan women are in twelfth place.

Some students failed to mention ‘according to a United Nations report’, but marks were given if the statistics were included in relation to the correct indexes.

Question 3b.

Roles	Examples
Roles that have a public aspect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• women are involved in politics• women are involved in administration• women are involved in the field of art
Roles that earn foreign income	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• women work in garment factories• women work overseas as domestic workers• women produce handicrafts



Roles that support others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• women work as teachers• women work as nurses• women's roles as mothers
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Two marks were allocated for the examples of each role. Most students got full marks. There were a few instances where students interchanged the examples.

Text 4

Question 4a.

- The dam built across the river was a giant project.
- The granite bund built around Yodha Weva is 5 miles long and 300 feet wide.
- The huge tank distributes water to 192 other tanks in three directions.

Question 4b.

- This area gets low rainfall and the tank can hold a large amount of water.
- Over 2500 families are provided with water (benefit from the tank) for farming.

Part B – Answer in Sinhala

The questions on Texts 5 and 6 were answered quite well.

Students are reminded to write their answers in the language specified as no marks are awarded for responses written in the wrong language.

Text 5

Question 5a.

Sinhala is:

- one of world's most creative alphabets
- one of the oldest languages in the world.

Question 5b.

The sister:

- told her brother that he would be able to communicate very closely with their grandparents and relatives when he visits Sri Lanka
- reminded her brother of the facilities provided by Australia to learn Sinhala
- said it is important to be able to read and write in their mother tongue (Sinhala).

Most students got full marks for this question.

Text 6

Question 6a.

Important things that the people living in the city miss out on experiencing include (three of):

- the simplicity of life
- a wholesome or relaxed life
- the beauty of nature
- time to enjoy life (free time).

Question 6b.

Mali:

- lives in an area of about 15 perches of land surrounded by a wall
- met her husband at university. After they married they moved to the city where he works, so she has no access to her original, freer environment.



Section 2 – Reading and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 7

Question 7a.

The writer is concerned about the rate of global warming and thinks the future for the younger generation is gloomy because (six of):

- due to the rise in global temperature the ice caps have started to melt
- the most populated areas around the coast, plains and delta will soon be under water
- the homes and land of most people will not be able to be located in the future
- the rice paddies will be under water and people will not have any food to eat
- due to high tidal waves the water in the rivers will be mixed with sea water and drinking water will be scarce
- people will die of thirst and hunger
- the main highways and airport will be washed away.

No marks were awarded if the rate or speed of global warming was not mentioned as the writer's concern.

Question 7b.

The Developed Nations are responsible for this situation because:

- they burn more fossil fuels, releasing greenhouse gases into the environment
- they were asked to reduce their use of fossil fuels (in 1991 at Rio de Janeiro), which they still have not fulfilled.

Question 8a.

The main issue was that the Vaddas were arrested by the wildlife officers for entering the wildlife parks without permission. The reporter tried to produce a balanced report by interviewing a lot of people to get their opinions on the issues.

No marks given if the word 'arrested' was not mentioned.

Question 8b.

- The Vaddas have been living in the forest for 16,000 years (for a very long time).
- The Vaddas are the Indigenous people of Sri Lanka.
- The names of the Vadda people show that they are closely associated with the animals in the forest.
- The Vaddas supplied honey and meat to the palace for religious ceremonies.
- Even now they need to go to the forest to get food and medicinal herbs.
- The Vaddas are the owners of the land.

Question 8c.

The Vaddas' right to the forest needs to be respected, while protecting the wildlife.

Part B – Answer in Sinhala

Question 9

Format

- an address
- a salutation
- a conclusion

Language

- informal
- persuasive

Content

- include information about the dates and purpose of the game, other entertainment for the people attending and the trophy



Presentation

- separating to paragraphs

Most students used the information given in the text in order to persuade the uncle to join the cricket team. For example, the uncle's captaincy of his school team, it's the New Year time, a weekend, the match is in aid of bushfire victims and there will be entertainment for the whole family. However, in some responses the uncle was only invited to join the team if he could come for the weekend.

Section 3 – Writing in Sinhala

Please refer to the *VCE Sinhala Study Design* for the main characteristics of text types (page 57) and the main characteristics of different kinds of writing (pages 54–56) for further details of how to respond to questions 10–13.

Question 10

Only a few students answered this question. Some described their experiences quite well, and some described only the people in the workplace.

Question 11

Very few students chose to write on this text; however, those who did provided good responses. Some students referred to the Commonwealth Games to show the success of Australian sports.

Question 12

There were a few good responses to this question and the responses included examples and opinions.

Question 13

Question 13 was the most popular question in this section. Some students' stories described their adventures in finding the coin and others described receiving the coin as a present from their grandparents.