



2013

Languages: Sinhala GA 3: Examination

Written component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Many students performed very well on the 2013 Sinhala examination.

Areas for improvement included the following.

- Students should ensure that they read the question carefully and understand what is being asked before responding. It was evident that some students did not understand some questions.
- Students struggled to provide evidence from the text to support a statement. It was evident that some students failed to recognise the most relevant information in the text. The ability to analyse the given information in the text in both listening and reading sections requires improvement.
- There were many grammatical mistakes in the language as well as spelling mistakes in both English and Sinhala. There were also a few instances where inaccurate vocabulary was used in the responses.

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

Most students answered the questions on this text correctly.

Question 1a.

- A kidney transplant was carried out for the first time in Sri Lanka.
- The operation was successful.

Some students mentioned an operation on another organ (such as the lungs) but this was not accepted. Students needed to mention that this operation was done for the first time. Saying that the patient is recovering from the operation was not accepted.

Question 1b.

- A very experienced doctor carried out the operation.
- The kidney for the operation was donated by a blood relative.

Stating that a doctor qualified overseas only carried out the operation was not accepted.

Text 2

Question 2a.

Either of

- the urban population fell from 1990 to 2010 from 18.6 per cent to 14.3 per cent
- second-lowest of the countries with a low rate of urbanisation.

Since the question asked for statistical evidence, the answer needed to refer to a number. Stating that the population in Colombo has reduced was not accepted.

Question 2b.

- Less than 20 per cent of the population live in urban areas or cities.
- Even in developed countries, urbanisation brings problems or urbanisation is not a solution to the problems in Sri Lanka.
- People do not like to live in the cities and prefer a life in the villages because it is healthier or better for the mind and the body.

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- All modern facilities are provided to the villages.

Text 3

Question 3

The change that has taken place	The reason for the change
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the past women had security, but now women lack security.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Important values in the society have deteriorated.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the past women did not go out to work or worked in the fields.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women need to work away from home to earn money or for economic reasons.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In the past women were not as educated as they are in the present.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women have more opportunities for education.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The women used to look after the family and attended to all household duties, but now these duties have become neglected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women have to leave their homes for work, sometimes even go overseas.

Students were expected to mention the change that has taken place. Therefore, simply mentioning that women lack security or that women are working was not accepted unless there was an indication of a change.

Part B – Answer in Sinhala

Text 4

Question 4

- Sri Lanka launched the first communication satellite last year.
- Sri Lanka is planning to construct a space administration centre and a space training centre.

Most students provided the correct answers to this question. Stating that Sri Lanka was the 45th country to send a satellite was not accepted because the news item did not indicate it as an achievement.

Text 5

Question 5

- Grinding stones for grinding medicinal herbs were excavated.
- Medicine boats to keep patients immersed in medicinal/herbal extracts (or herbal baths) were found.

The architecture of the construction or the row of rooms for residential purpose is similar to that of a hospital. Most students identified that this place was used for a hospital. A few answers indicated that it was a place where monks resided because of its proximity to Thuparamya. This was not accepted. Many students gave two pieces of evidence correctly.

Text 6

Question 6a.

The main topic of the conversation was Seetha's parents coming to live in Australia. Seetha feels guilty. She feels that she has done an injustice to her parents by bringing them to Australia for her satisfaction, for her own peace of mind or as her duty to keep them happy.

Some students wrote that the parents were brought to work or to look after their children, but this was incorrect. Most students gave the correct topic of the conversation, but few were able to explain Seetha's regrets.

Question 6b.

Seetha thought

- her parents were feeling lonely in Sri Lanka
- her parents would be happy living in Australia with their children and grandchildren
- that there will be better medical facilities in Australia for her parents as they get older.

This question was not answered correctly by many students. Some were confused with responses for part c. Some responses indicated that students misunderstood the question.

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Question 6c.

- Most of the time they were alone at home, without anyone to talk to.
- They do not have any work to do, not even cooking because of the danger of fire, and are bored in the house.
- They miss the community work that they did in Sri Lanka.
- They don't have the opportunity to go to the temple.

Most students were able to give at least two correct responses.

Section 2 – Reading and responding Part A – Answer in English

Text 7

Question 7a.

- Limited resources like water and coal are used to produce electricity.
- Unlimited use is made of electricity.

Question 7b.

The resources are limited because

- droughts or lack of water limits the production of electricity by the hydropower station
- coal and crude oil are limited because they are non-renewable resources.

Unlimited use

- In Sri Lanka, use of electricity increased due to the growth of the population.
- Increased use of electrical goods.
- Opening of factories due to open economy.

Most students did not answer this question correctly.

Text 8

Question 8a.

It was his sister's wedding day.

Most responses were correct.

Question 8b.

- She was blamed for spoiling Pasan.
- She helped Pasan to complete his homework.
- She acts as the jury for all his allegations and gives the judgment in his favour.

There were many correct responses to this question.

Question 8c.

- His sister said she loved Siri aiya and he loved her too.
- Siri aiya loved him too.
- Siri aiya invited him to stay with them during the school holidays.
- Pasan's sister told him that she will be there for him whenever he wants her.

Most students were able to give at least two correct responses to this question.



Part B – Answer in Sinhala

Text 9

There were many very good responses to Text 9. Students provided information and evidence to support their experiences. In some responses, students simply mentioned their ability to perform all the requirements without providing evidence. It was evident that some students were not aware of the correct format for an email.

Question 9

Students were required to write an email application to the organisers of a conference, persuading them that they would be a suitable participant.

Students could have included some of the following points.

- the ability to read and speak Sinhala fluently – studied Sinhala at school and speak the language at home
- have written articles to Sinhala newspapers published in Australia
- have taken part in plays staged in Australia
- provide evidence to show Sri Lankan culture and its influence in on youth. The cultural practices at home
- participated in cultural events organised in language school or in the community
- provide evidence to show interest in youth activities – youth club membership and participation in volunteer and social activities for young people organised through the club
- participation in or management of a survey of young people’s interests and problems and the steps taken to improve in the required areas
- participation in similar conferences

Section 3 – Writing in Sinhala

Question 10

Students were required to write an evaluative article for an educational magazine about the extent to which the technology plays a positive or a negative role in education today.

Suggested answers included the following.

Technology	Negative	Positive
mathematics calculators	Reduce students’ capacity to make mental calculations	saves time and students make fewer mistakes
computers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • handwriting and spelling skills do not improve • the reading of books reduces • if there is no proper guidance or supervision there could be adverse effects or waste of time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students can make corrections and conduct spellchecks • students collect information from the internet • technology is required in future education and careers
smart phones	using phones to copy notes and results reduces mental retention ability	can save time and can refer to them when required

This was the most popular question. Most students referred to the positive and the negative aspects of the use of the computers in education. Many responses were very good.

Question 11

Students needed to write a formal letter to the Minister of Transport in their state to present their personal views regarding public transport.

Students could have stated their personal views regarding public transport; for example, their area may not be well serviced by public transport. Buses and trains may not arrive on time and this causes students to be late to school or work. Alternatively, students could have stated that they were happy with the present public transport services because they arrive on time, save them time and are comfortable.

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A few students answered this question and responded well.

Question 12

Students were required to write an informative report for their local newspaper about important activities of a youth organisation that works to achieve a greener environment, titled 'Action is more impressive than advice'.

Students could have discussed

- using less electricity – turning off lights, air conditioners and heaters
- educating people
- using dishwashers to minimise water use
- walking or riding a bike when travelling short distances
- recycling
- reducing waste.

Question 13

Students were required to write an imaginative short story about the time they met King Kashapa when they visited Sigiriya.

Students could have discussed with King Kashapa

- why he built Sigiriya
- the technology used
- the paintings.