

# 2023 VCE Karen written external assessment report

## General comments

The majority of students performed well in the 2023 VCE Karen written examination. Generally, students demonstrated a good level of comprehension in listening, reading and writing.

Students who achieved good results did so because they followed the examination instructions precisely and provided relevant, suitable answers in the required format.

However, at times some students did not pay enough attention to the details and requirements of each question and task. Students should ensure they read the question and the requirements of each task carefully so that their answers are accurate and relevant.

## Specific information

### Section 1: Listening and responding

In this section, students who answered the question directly and used the information they heard in a logical manner scored highly.

Students are reminded to ensure they focus on information that is relevant to the question.

#### Text 1

##### Question 1

Any one of the following:

- *don* dance
- singing
- market place selling food and Karen clothes.

The most common incorrect answer was 'Donation to Karen's new arrival'. This is not an activity that takes place during the celebration, but rather afterwards.

#### Text 2

##### Question 2a.

- education
- mental health
- poverty and limited employment opportunities.

The most common incorrect answer provided solutions instead of stating the issue.

## Question 2b.

- support in the classroom
- look after health and wellbeing
- prepare young people for future employment opportunities.

The most common incorrect answer was 'support from family and friends'. This was not a suggestion made by the researcher.

## Text 3

### Question 3a.

- recycling glass and paper
- cleaning up the waterways to remove rubbish
- planting more trees
- educating the community.

'Educating the community' was frequently omitted in responses.

### Question 3b.

- cleaner river water (which has increased the number of fish living in the river)
- cleaner air (because of more trees in the parks).

The majority of students understood the question and identified the correct components.

## Text 4

### Question 4a.

- သးစာဲခဲအံၤန့ၣ်တချုးဘၣ် ခီဖျိလၢအဂ့ၢ်ကျဲးစးတၢ်ကူၣ်ဘၣ်ကူၣ်သ (They are busy working hard on their education.)
- အဝဲသ့ၣ်တၢ်ဆၢကတီၢ်တအိၣ်လၢအနီၣ်ကစၢ်ဂီၢ်အါအါဘၣ် (They have limited time to spend on themselves.)
- နွံကတၢ်မ့ၢ်ဆၢကတီၢ်လၢ အဝဲသ့ၣ်ကရူလိၣ်သးဒီးဟံၣ်ဖိယိဖိဒီးတံၤသကိး (They only have weekends to connect with family and friends.)

Responses that stated 'In the past, young people were more involved; they contributed and they remained after the events and packed everything' were incorrect.

### Question 4b.

- ပကသ့ၣ်ညါအါထီၣ်ဘၣ်ပုၤကညိဒီးပတၢ်ရူလိၣ်ဒီးပုၤတဝၢၣ်စ့ၢ်ကိးကအါထီၣ်လီၤ. (Know more people and build strong relationships.)
- ပတၢ်သ့တၢ်ဘၣ်တဖၣ်ကအါထီၣ်ဝဲ(သ့ရဲၣ်ကျဲးတၢ်လၢမူးဒီးမူးသးဖုံ) (Develop more skills to organise events and celebrations.)

Responses such as 'develop more skill' were incorrect. The response needed to include 'develop more skills to organise events ...' to gain a full marks.

## Text 5

### Question 5a.

- ယကွာ်ထွဲဘဉ်ယဖံလၢဟံဉ် (She has been looking after her grandmother.)
- ဖဲယထီၣ်တၢ်မၤလိကတီၢ်န့ၣ် ယကွာ်ထွဲဘဉ်ပှၤသးပှၤလၢတၢ်မၤလိအပူၤ (She has been taking care of elderly people when she studied the course and completed the placements.)

'She loves cooking and cleaning' was incorrect.

### Question 5b.

- မ့ၢ်လၢအဲၣ်အဲၣ်ဘဉ်ပှၤသးပှၤတဖၣ်အယိ (Because she loves the elderly.)
- နီး အဲၣ်အဲၣ်ဒီးမၤစၢၤပှၤသးပှၤတဖၣ် (She wants to help the elderly as much as she can.)

The majority of students understood the question and identified the correct components.

## Text 6

### Question 6

	ကညီကီၢ် (Karen State)	အီၤတြုလယါကီၢ် (Australia)
မူကလံၤသီၣ်ဂီၤကတီၢ် အိၣ်ပှၤမံၤလဲၣ် (What is the number of seasons?)	၃ (3)	၄ (4)
သ့ၣ်လဲၣ်လီၤလၢ မူကလံၤသီၣ်ဂီၤကတီၢ်ဖဲလဲၣ် (In what season do leaves fall?)	တၢ်ကီၢ်ခါအဆၢကတီၢ် (summer)	တၢ်ဂီၢ်ထီၣ်သီအဆၢကတီၢ် (autumn)
တၢ်စူၤခါကတၢ်လၢ မူကလံၤသီၣ်ဂီၤကတီၢ်ဖဲလဲၣ် (In what season does it rain the most?)	တၢ်စူၤခါအဆၢကတီၢ် (rainy season)	တၢ်ကီၢ်ထီၣ်သီအဆၢကတီၢ် (spring)

Incorrect responses resulted when months were stated instead of seasons.

## Section 2: Reading and responding

### Text 7

#### Question 7a.

- The food was overcooked.
- It's the seller's responsibility to charge the right price.
- The food was expensive and not worth the price.

'It's the seller's responsibility to charge the right price' was frequently omitted in responses.

## Question 7b.

Correct responses identified the following reasons:

- They had the drinks so should pay for them.
- We all can make a mistake (and should not take advantage of the cashier's mistake).
- It was our responsibility to pay.

## Text 8

### Question 8a.

Any two of the following:

- keeping the water clean
- putting gravel and plants
- feeding the fish once or twice a day but not overfeeding

Responses such as 'She loves fish and takes excellent care of them' were incorrect.

### Question 8b.

- Watching her fish brings happiness and relaxation.
- Maintaining the fish tank is good exercise and good for health.

## Text 9

### Question 9

Text type: letter

Kind of writing: personal

Audience: your friend

Suggested points students may have included in responses:

- မျန်ဆုံးကတည်းက - မျန်ဆုံးကတည်းက (Saturday school – graduated and went on to study at secondary school)
- မိတ်ဆွေများ - ရှိသမျှမိတ်ဆွေများအားဆက်ဆံထားဆဲ (made friends – still have them today)
- အိမ်နီးနားများနှင့်ဆက်ဆံထားဆဲ (maintain connection with local Karen community)
- သွားရောက်သည့်အခါ အိမ်နီးနားများနှင့်ဆက်ဆံထားဆဲ (remember my home country and keep in touch)
- ယခုလောက်အထိ (visit my village when travelling home)
- အဆင့်မြှင့်တင်ရန် (still listen to the radio and read newspapers)
- ယခုလောက်အထိ (can still read, write and speak Karen)
- ယခုလောက်အထိ (participate in cultural events in my local community)

The responses suggested that the majority of the students had an adequate comprehension of the text. They composed a personal letter that included the necessary information needed for this task. Some students were able to express their own opinions and thoughts while meeting all of the task's requirements; however, some responses lacked personal perspectives and ideas.

## Section 3: Writing in Karen

Students were required to write an original text in Karen on one of the two topics. In order to comply with the criteria, they needed to present relevant content with depth and meaning. Students should have demonstrated an ability to express themselves in Karen, to match the register of the response to the question asked and to write a response in the text type and kind of writing required.

### Question 10

Text type: Blog

Kind of writing: personal writing

Audience: your subscribers

Points students needed to keep in mind:

- the review needs to relate to the photograph
- the blog must be in personal writing
- the blog must be appropriate for its audience: subscribers
- the piece of writing should be clearly recognised as a blog: title/headline, structure (introduction, body and conclusion), content.

Based on the image presented, students were asked to write a review blog for the subscribers. The majority of students chose this option. The highest-scoring responses described the photograph, reflected on their own experience, and discussed both the positive and negative aspects of the visit. They included what other visitors are likely to experience, highlighted what makes the place special, and attempted to share something unique and new. Responses that described only the photograph did not score as well.

### Question 11

Text type: newspaper article

Kind of writing: evaluative

Audience: local community

Points students needed to keep in mind:

- evaluate the influence of technology on society
- focus on the influence of technology on society, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages
- the article must be evaluative, not informative
- the article must be appropriate for its audience, the local community.
- the piece of writing should be clearly recognised as an article: title, date, place, content, author (fictional name), register, style and layout.

Students who selected this question performed satisfactorily. They demonstrated a good understanding of the topic and outlined both the advantages and disadvantages of technology on society to a certain extent.