

2021 VCE Korean Second Language written external assessment report

General comments

In the 2021 VCE Korean Second Language written examination, students showed their capacity to understand and convey general and specific aspects of texts. A majority of students performed well and presented their answers appropriately. High-scoring responses were highly relevant and appropriate.

Students should note that the answers in Part A are written in English; in Part B they are written in Korean. Students were not awarded marks for answers in the wrong language, or for anything written in the note-taking space. Students must take care to read the instructions carefully and write their answers exactly as requested.

The most popular question in Section 3 was Question 6, which was persuasive writing. The second-most popular one was Question 8, which was evaluative writing. Students developed their writing well in terms of structure, sequence and depth. In particular, high-scoring responses included original ideas and opinions rather than general information. They used a variety of vocabulary and grammar accurately and appropriately with few grammar and spelling errors.

Students are advised to read a wide selection of Korean texts, including old and contemporary information related to a wide range of subtopics that relate to the prescribed themes and topics. They should also try to write the answers concisely and avoid writing unnecessary information beyond what is required by the question. Students may need to practise how to write key information to ensure they understand correctly what the questions require for answers.

Specific information

Note: 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

Part A – Listening and responding in English

This section assessed the students' capacity to understand and convey general and specific aspects of texts.

Question 1a.

An example of a correct response is:

- The voting to select the winners of the photo contest ends in 30 minutes.
- The volunteers who are assigned to the awards ceremony should come to the stage immediately.

Question 1b.

An example of a correct response is:

- This is the 11th year for the event. / The event has been held for the past 10 years.
- Since 2015 the winners are determined by the vote of the residents.
- The contest won the Mayor's Award for the best community event last year.
- For the previous three years, a calendar of award-winning photos has been published each year.

Question 1c.

An example of a correct response is:

- matching with the theme
- displaying a high level of creativity
- not promoting certain businesses
- not previously shown in public.

Part B – Listening and responding in Korean

In this part of the examination, students were assessed on their understanding of the listening text and their ability to accurately convey appropriate information from the text in Korean. The information presented in the response needed to be relevant to the question. Students were not awarded separate marks for content and language. Responses that included the relevant information and were expressed clearly in Korean were awarded full marks.

Question 2a.

An example of a correct response is:

- 자연과 건축물이 조화된 독특한 디자인으로 건강을 돕자는 목표를 세웠다. (They aimed to design unique buildings with a balance between nature and development to enhance better wellbeing.)
- 국제건축가협회로부터 혁신성 분야에서 상을 받았다. (They received an award for innovation from the International Architects Association)
- 에너지가 절약되는 공간을 만들기 위해 새로운 건축재료를 사용하는 것에 집중했다. (They focused on integrating new building materials to create energy-efficient space.)
- 최근에 국제그린재단의 멤버로서 인정받게 되었다. (They are recently recognised as a member of the Global Green Foundation.)
- 재정적으로 든든한 투자그룹을 사업 파트너로 삼았다. (They formed a business partnership with a financially reliable investment group.)
- 친환경적인 건축에 대한 연구 프로젝트들을 성공시킬 수 있었다. (They were able to make their research projects successful on eco-friendly architecture.)

Question 2b.

An example of a correct response is:

- 친환경적 건축에 대한 연구가 세계적으로 더욱 활발하게 진행되어야 한다고 생각한다. (He thinks that research on eco-friendly architecture should be conducted more actively around the world.)
- 그러기 위해서는 재정적 지원이 중요한 열쇠가 된다고 믿는다. (He believes that financial support is the key to that.)
- 미래의 건축가들과 회사의 노력에 대해 함께 나누는 것이 꼭 필요하다고 생각한다. (He thinks it is essential to share the company's efforts with future architects.)
- 친환경적 건축에 대해 홍보할 기회가 많기를 바란다. (He hopes there will be many opportunities to promote green architecture.)

Section 2

Part A – Reading, listening and responding in English

Question 3a.

An example of a correct response is:

- The capital was moved to Seoul (Hanyang) as the Joseon Dynasty began in 1392.
- For the military defence of the city, they built a wall surrounding the city in 1396.
- The four Grand Gates were built to control people to move in and out of the city.

Question 3b.

An example of a correct response is (any four of):

- Hanseong is the longest functioning city wall in the world.
- It has been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- The oldest wooden building in Korea.
- The building has been designated as a national treasure of Korea.
- Namdaemun was the first market.
- Namdaemun market has been bigger since the state acknowledgement in 1414.

Question 3c.

An example of a correct response is:

- closed business for over 10 years due to neighbouring country's invasion in 1592
- closed business for two years due to an unprecedented drought in the late 19th century
- the merchants were expelled, as they lost the ownership and changed the name to Japan in the early 20th century
- Korean War

Question 3d.

An example of a correct response is:

- More people were using Namdaemun than any other gates.
- The government officially permitted business in the market in 1414.
- As supplies for the US military were traded, Namdaemun market became further developed.
- It is getting more popular since some of the biggest shopping malls are located next to it.

Question 3e.

An example of a correct response is:

	Items sold	Circumstances that promoted trade
15th century	Fish/fruits/vegetables	Market situated near the Han river
17th to mid 19th century	Rice and cloth materials	State organisation collected and maintained taxes
End of 19th century	Various Western items (coffee, dress, shoes)	Joseon opened trade with Western countries

Part B – Reading and responding in Korean

Students were required to demonstrate an understanding of the stimulus text(s) and to address the requirements of the task by conveying the relevant information from the text(s) that was appropriate for the audience and the prescribed writing style and text type.

Student responses were assessed holistically according to the assessment criteria and the expected qualities published on the VCAA website. Students were not awarded separate marks for content and language accuracy; however, language accuracy was an important expected quality that was considered in the assessment.

It was possible to achieve a high score for this question without exceeding the specified word/character limit, which is shorter than the limit specified for Section 3.

Question 4

Possible answers are:

- 비자를 받으면 기쁠 것이다. (You will be happy to receive your visa.)
- 호주국민이 지원이 가능하면 좋겠다. (I hope that Australian citizens can apply.)
- 영어를 가르칠 수 있으면 좋겠다. (I wish I could teach English.)
- 머무는 기간을 연장할 수 있으면 좋겠다. (I wish I could extend my stay.)
- 내 나이가 제한에 걸릴까봐 걱정이다. (I'm worried about an age limit.)
- 아플까봐 걱정이다. (I am afraid of getting sick.)

Students were expected to include jobs, the period of staying, age, country, sickness, financial support and other activities. As this was personal writing, feeling, emotions and opinions were required to be included. As a diary entry was required, responses should have included the date. The weather was optional.

Section 3 – Writing in Korean

Question 5

Some students attempted this question. As this was imaginative writing, students were expected to produce a creative story related to the image. As the image symbolised artificial intelligence as being applied to different industries, students could have included all sectors or some of the fields from the image in their response. Their response should have made clear reference to the picture.

Question 6

About 50 per cent of students attempted this question. Students were required to write an informal letter to a friend. As this was persuasive writing, the language should be convincing, for example, -면 좋겠다, -면 될 것이다, 분명하다, 확신한다, etc. In addition, students needed to include positive and negative aspects of living in a regional area, describing different kinds of activities (appropriate for teenagers). Students were required to follow an appropriate letter format, such as how to address a friend, the date and sender.

Question 7

This question was informative writing. Students provided rich information about a city or town (except for Seoul). Their response needed to include reference to both traditional and modern Korea to gain full marks, while maintaining an informative style. It could include indoor and outdoor activities, eating foods, visiting tourist sites, or hidden places people don't know well. As the text type was a blog post, both written and spoken forms could be used.

Question 8

Students were expected to evaluate the pros and cons of Internet streaming services (e.g. YouTube and Netflix) as a replacement for television. The task required students to produce a report for a school newspaper that weighed up the pros and cons. Almost half of students chose this question and did very well. There were captivating and thoughtful opinions logically detailing possible options, with most concluding that a balance of advantages and disadvantages was the most relevant outcome for all concerned.