

2021 VCE Macedonian written external assessment report

General comments

Students prepared well for this examination. This was evident from the quality of the students' responses and their effective use of vocabulary, grammatical structures and syntax.

Students are advised to practice with a variety of tests and resources to widen their knowledge of vocabulary and ideas. Students should note the number of marks allocated to each question as a clue to how much information is required in their response.

When answering questions, it's a good idea to underline the key words in the questions to ensure that the answers are relevant and complete.

For Section 3: Writing in Macedonian, students should focus on the question that is actually being asked, ensuring they understand the text type or the kind of writing. Students should always take time to plan the content of the piece, to ensure that the ideas are presented logically and coherently, paying particular attention to spelling, vocabulary and grammatical structures.

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: Listening and responding

Student responses were assessed on how well they understood general and specific aspects of texts by identifying and analysing information and conveying the information accurately and appropriately.

In Section 1, students were required to listen to six texts and answer questions. In Part A the responses were in English and in Part B students responded in Macedonian. The students were assessed on their ability to understand general and specific aspects of the texts. They had to identify and analyse information. Their answers to the questions conveyed the information accurately and appropriately.

Students should practise note-taking in preparation for this section.

Part A

Text 1

Question 1a.

The correct answer was that she wants to visit Ohrid in August because that's when the water in the lake is warmest and the fishing of Ohrid trout is best.

Students did well in this question, especially those who gave a detailed answer and included 'the water in the lake' and the 'fishing of trout'.

Question 1b.

The caller asks for a pool and a room with a nice view.

Students did very well in this question.

Text 2

Question 2a.

Possible responses:

- To remove the pan from the heat when she puts the red pepper, so it doesn't burn and taste bitter.
- To take the pot off the heat so the beans are not boiling when she adds the garnish with browned flour.

Question 2b.

Each family member has a task to fulfil according to the mother's voicemail.

- Biljana needs to finish the bean stew by making the garnish with browned flour.
- Dad needs to cook the meat patties.
- Mile needs to make the salad.

Most students answered this question correctly.

Text 3

Question 3a.

Possible responses:

- There were plays for both young and older children.
- All plays were booked out (they were popular).
- The plays were inspired by scenes from real life.
- They improvised while performing on stage.

This question was generally well answered and the student responses were very clear. Responses such as 'plays were very good' were not specific enough to be awarded marks.

Question 3b.

Possible responses:

- It's fun / children enjoy it.
- It allows children to know the world around them.
- It / The theatre, the arts and music exposes children to new and different ways of communicating.
- Children could socialise with each other.

This question was well answered by students.

Part B

Text 4

Question 4a.

Possible response:

Пиењето чај ни помага со спиењето, кога сме настинати, имаме проблеми со стомакот и со варењето на храната. Редовното пиење на кафе ја намалува шансата за срцев удар и помага со меморијата. (Drinking tea helps us sleep, when we have a cold or problems with our stomach and with digesting food. Regular coffee drinking reduces the risk of heart attack and helps with memory.)

Students are advised to read the question carefully as some answered only about tea and not coffee. Students should practise appropriate strategies for ensuring that they identify all aspects of a question, as well as checking that they have covered them all in their answer.

Question 4b.

Possible responses:

- Пиењето чај и кафе им помага на луѓето да се релаксираат. (Drinking tea and coffee helps people feel relaxed and meet friends.)
- да (да се odmorat) запознаваат пријатели и да го поминуваат своето слободно време во разговор и дружење. (People spend their free time chatting and socialising.)

Text 5

Question 5a.

Possible responses:

- Ја враќа во детството / спалната мириса / берела овошје. (She remembers her childhood / bedroom smell of quince / she picked the fruit when she was young.)
- Баба и имала доверба во неа. (Her grandma had faith in her / trusted her to tell her the steps in the recipe.)
- Дуњите се дел од традицијата на нејзината фамилија / слаткото се чувало само за гости (This fruit is part of her family's tradition / the jam was specifically served for guests.)

Students generally responded well to this question. Most showed a very thorough understanding of the text by conveying relevant aspects accurately and appropriately in their answers.

Question 5b.

Possible responses:

- Требаше да ѝ ги кажува постапките за правење на слаткото за да ѝ покаже дека ја научила рецептата на памет. (She had to tell her grandmother the steps for making the jam to show her that she had learned the recipe off by heart.)
- И мајката бара од синот тој да ѝ го кажува рецептот. (The mother asks the son to tell her the recipe.)

Text 6

Question 6a.

Possible responses:

- Дознаваме дека го вардел внукот пред да се пресели во Австралија и се среќаваат онлајн секој петок. (Stojan used to look after his grandson before he moved to Australia, and they meet online every Friday.)
- Двата обожаваат да зборуваат за фудбалот и заедно читаат македонски книги. (They like to discuss soccer and read Macedonian books together.)

Some students showed a very thorough understanding of the text and were able to convey relevant aspects appropriately.

Question 6b.

Possible responses:

- Онлајн видео разговор им овозможува да се видат (физички) и позборуваат за животот на пр. за другарите, училиштето, фудбалот. (Online video chat enables them to see each other [physically] and talk about their lives, e.g. friends, school, soccer.)
- и внукот го оддржува јазикот. (The grandson learns Macedonian so the language is not forgotten.)
- се чувствуваат блиски. (They feel connected/close.)

Section 2: Reading and Responding

Part A

Text 7

Question 7a.

The eels can't reach the place where they reproduce because their natural path is obstructed by the dams.

Question 7b.

The plan for resolving the issue:

- A tunnel needs to be built to allow the eels to travel through the dam.
- Famous marathonists will run the course to raise awareness because funding is needed for the tunnel.

Text 8

Question 8a.

The main messages were:

- (according to Blaze) Koneski language is our homeland
- the increased use of English affecting/destroying the mother tongue (which is the pillar of identity).

Question 8b.

Each expert's concern about the way the Macedonian language is currently spoken:

- author: 'use of foreign words'
- linguist: 'structure of sentences/syntax': 'many first thoughts are in English when speaking rather than Macedonian'
- actress: 'use of jargon': 'they used to have speech exercise and the texts in the theatre used to be checked and now there is mainly use of jargon'.

Part B

Question 9

This question asked students to write an article for their local newspaper, in which they describe the differences in the way people appear in photographs in the past and the present, and also the differences in the role of photographs in people's lives.

Text type: Article

Kind of writing: Descriptive

Audience: Local community

Suggested points students may include in their response:

- Денешната технологија донесува многу придобивки во нашиот живот. Мобилните телефони се секаде и секои- стара и млада особа- ги има и ги употребува. И така способноста да можеме да се сликаме кога сакаме и колку сакаме.
- Тие слики се презентација на нашиот живот. Со сликите се забележани нашите весели моменти. Исто така, гледајќи ги сликите можеме да се сетиме на тие моменти кога биле направени и што се случувало.
- Но кога се потсетуваме на старите слики и ги споредиме со оние од минатото, дознаваме едно важно нешто, ние сме разгалени со можностите за фотографирање.
- Едно прашање- дали денешните фотографии ја имаат истата вредност како оние што ја имале во минатото.
- Во минатото луѓето се фотографирале на важни моменти, кога се венчале, кога оделе војска. Тие слики ги покажуваат емоциите на луѓето и затоа старите фотографии имаат голема вредност.
- А денес кога можеме да се сликаме во секој момент и да се ставиме веднаш на интернет, сликите стануваат обични и ја губат вредноста.
 - Today's technology brings many benefits to our lives. Mobile phones are everywhere and everybody, young and old, has them and uses them. Therefore, we can have our photos taken whenever we like and as much as we like.
 - These photos are a presentation of our life. They show our happiest moments. Also, looking at the photos we can remember when those moments occurred and what was happening.
 - But when we look back at those old photos and compare them with the past, we find out one important thing, we are spoilt by the possibilities of photography.
 - One question: do photos today have the same value as those in the past?
 - In the past people were photographed at important moments, when they got married, when they joined the army. Those photos show the peoples' emotions and that's why old photos have great value.
 - Today, when our photo can be taken at any time and we can upload it on the internet, the photos become ordinary and lose their value.

Section 3: Writing in Macedonian

Question 10

Students were asked to write about their life as a teenager living in Australia, where the 18th birthday represents an important milestone. At this age, a teenager enters adulthood and acquires a number of rights and freedoms. In a personal journal, students were asked to write about their thoughts, feelings and what they anticipate about the next phase of their life.

Responses needed to include an appropriate opening and closing for a diary entry, and may have included the use of relevant vocabulary specific to the cues in the question, such as independence, professionalism, responsibility, confidence.

Text type: Journal entry

Kind of writing: Personal Audience:

Suggested points/responses students may include:

- Донесување одлуки и со последиците (making decisions and choices and dealing with the consequences).
- Возачка дозвола (obtaining a driver's licence)
- Започнување на факултет (starting higher education)
- Започнување на работно место (starting employment)
- Дозволено гласање (allowed to vote)
- Дозвола за влез во ноќни клубови (getting into nightclubs).

Question 11

This question asked students to consider modern technology and how it has allowed a wide range of opinions and thoughts to be shared online. Students needed to write the script of a speech for a youth forum, in which they try to persuade the audience that they have the right to share their views no matter what they are.

Text type: Script for a speech at a youth forum

Kind of writing: Persuasive

Audience: Public attending the forum (e.g. youth, parents, youth workers, teachers)

Suggested points/responses students may include:

- Слободата на говорот е еден од најважните столбови во демократскиот свет. (Freedom of speech is one of the most important pillars in the democratic world.)
- секоја личност треба да има можност да ги каже своите мислења за да се чувствува рамноправна во општеството. (Every person can share their views so as to feel included/equal in this society.)
- најлесно може да се каже своето мислење за разни тема на интернетот. (It is easiest to express one's own opinion on various topics on the internet.)
- Интернетот дава можност да се сподели мислењето со најширока публика. (The internet provides the opportunity to share ones' views with the broader public.)

Question 12

This question asked students to consider whether teenagers benefit from having a part-time job during high school. Students needed to write an evaluative report for their school newspaper presenting the advantages and disadvantages of part-time work for a high-school student.

Text type: Report for school newspaper

Kind of writing: Evaluative

Audience: Readers of the newspaper (e.g. students, parents, staff)

Responses could include examples about their personal experience and use emotional language. However, students should not have included a personal account of their experience in a part time job.

Suggested points/responses students may include:

- Positives
 - Јас мислам, мое мислење е ... (I think, I believe ...)
 - Можиш да заработиш пари, да им помагаш на родителите, да купиш нешто независно (You can make money, help parents, buy something independently.)
 - Работни навики се формираат, да се биди организиран, навреме, да толерираш други, респектираш други и нивните мислења (Work habits are formed: being organised, punctual, tolerant of others, respectful of others and their opinions.)
 - Се развиваат социјалните односи. (Social skills development.)
- Negatives
 - Трошејќи пари и мислејќи дека парите се единствената цел. (Spending all your money and thinking money is the only goal / If you consider work as only for money.)
 - Менуваш работни места и немаш толеранција за другите. (You change jobs and don't have tolerance for others.)
 - Не можеш да собериш пари, да заштедиш. (You can't save any of the money.)
 - Можеби треба да одлучиш дали ќе излезеш на забава или ќе отидеш на работа. (You might have to decide whether to go to a party or to work.)
 - Работата е монотона и не можеш да напредуваш. (The work is boring, and you don't learn anything.)
 - Можеби има луѓе кои не те почитуваат. (Maybe there are people who do not respect you.)
 - Сатницата ти е мала. (Your work schedule is too little.)