

2017 VCE Korean Second Language written examination report

General comments

In the 2017 VCE Korean Second Language written examination, students were well prepared and able to complete all the required tasks in each section.

In Section 1 – Listening and responding, students demonstrated their comprehension skills by identifying the required information from three spoken texts. In Part B of Section 1, most students displayed a good level of understanding of the spoken text by presenting the required information in their responses. However, some students made an error by presenting their answers in dot point format rather than in full sentences. It is important for students to read questions very carefully in each part of the written examination.

In Section 2 – Reading and responding, students demonstrated their comprehension skills after reading three written texts: an article, an informal letter and an advertisement. Some students presented long responses, exceeding the provided answer space on the examination. In some cases, whole sentences from the texts were simply copied and translated. Students are expected to rephrase and condense the identified information in accordance with the question. In Part B of Section 2, most students displayed their understanding of the task by presenting reasons for and against applying for the position. Some students presented outstanding responses by integrating the required information in a sophisticated way.

In Section 3 – Writing in Korean, students were required to respond to one of five questions. Each question represented a different kind of writing, such as imaginative, informative, personal, evaluative and persuasive. The most popular question chosen by students was Question 11, the persuasive writing task, which required students to write a letter to the principal, opposing a plan to change to digital textbooks.

Specific information

This report provides sample answers or an indication of the key points that are expected in students' responses for each question.

Section 1 – Listening and responding Part A – Answer in English

Text 1

Question 1a.

The purpose is to find out the singer's social activities.

Question 1b.

- She received the Best Singer of the Year award.
- She was announced as the People's Singer of Korea.

- She has a fan club.

Question 1c.

- World Peace Movement
- charity for orphans
- charity for elderly people who live alone

Text 2

Question 2a.

- doesn't know anything about hard work
- is guaranteed a bright future without any personal effort

Question 2b.

- not complaining about her hardship
- working hard to achieve her dream
- being happy although she feels tired

Question 2c.

- He doesn't care about his parents' wealth.
- He practises hard to become a basketball player.
- He studies English hard, to go overseas as a basketball player.

Part B – Answer in Korean

Text 3

Question 3a.

- 11 월이 세계 시민의 달이기 때문이다 (As November is the month of Global Citizenship.)
- 한국 음식 전문인 대회가 11 월에 열리기 때문이다 (As the Korean cuisine professionals' conference is held in November.)

Question 3b.

- 행사 장소를 제공한다 (Venue is to be provided.)
- 자원봉사자들을 준비한다 (Volunteers are to be organised.)
- 홍보를 위해 김치와 건강 전시센터를 운영한다 (The Kimchi and Wellbeing Display Centre is to be operated to promote the event.)
- 김치 전문가들이 묵을 호텔을 제공한다 (Accommodation is to be provided for kimchi specialists.)

Question 3c.

실용적인 요리 전문가들은 호주인들이 좋아할 김치의 맛을 원할 것이다. 보수적인 김치 연구학자들은 전통적인 김치의 맛을 원할 것이다.

(The professional chefs, who are practical, may want the flavour of kimchi to be suitable for Australians to enjoy. The kimchi researchers, who are conservative, may want to produce the traditional flavour of kimchi.)

Section 2 – Reading and responding

Part A – Answer in English

Text 4

Question 4a.

- Busan had been famous for its hot springs.
- Paintings of kings' visits to the hot springs are still exhibited in the museum.
- Busan had been developed as a major foreign-trading city.
- The foreign merchants' streets still exist near the port.
- Busan had been developed as an important military base.
- The ancient fortresses still remain in several places.

Question 4b.

- making the city an internationally renowned cultural city
- hosting the International Film Festival
- planning for the International Fashion Designer Conference

Text 5

Question 5a.

- links with Charles Darwin
- discovery of gold
- beautiful beaches
- tropical climate
- flora
- fauna (wild animals)

Question 5b.

	Text 4	Text 5
Text type	article	<i>informal letter</i>
Missing feature from each text	title	greeting
Purpose of both texts	to provide information	
Common geographical feature of the two cities	port cities	

Part B – Answer in Korean

Text 6

Question 6

- 디자인과 건축에 대한 실제적으로 배운다 (learning practical skills in design and building)
- 수료증을 받을 수 있다 (possibility of getting a certificate)
- 수입이 생긴다 (earning money)
- 대학 공부가 6 개월 늦어진다 (missing six months of university study)
- 일 경험이 없어서 뽑히지 못할 수도 있다 (no work experience, therefore could be unsuccessful)

Section 3 – Writing in Korean

Question 7

Students were expected to write an imaginative short story about becoming invisible to help people in danger. Some stories that scored highly displayed the writers' creativity and originality through the settings, events and characters. Each of these stories contained a very interesting plot that was well structured in several paragraphs. Some examples of the imaginary settings for helping people in danger were a hospital, shopping centre and camping ground.

Question 8

This question required students to write an informative article on how senior students can use social network services wisely while studying. Students provided some interesting ideas about ways of productively using social networking, such as forming an action group with like-minded people and setting a strictly designated time for social networking. Some students supported their ideas effectively by adding statistics and experts' quotations.

Question 9

This question required students to write a journal entry focusing on a personal experience of overcoming a bad habit. Students with high-scoring responses demonstrated an ability to integrate all necessary aspects of reflection throughout their responses. They described a particular habit and clearly stated its significant impact. This was followed by one or two paragraphs of descriptive recounts, focusing on personal efforts for overcoming the habit. Some of the bad habits presented by the students were nail-biting, gossiping, overindulging and procrastinating.

Question 10

This was the second-most popular question chosen by students. This question required students to write a script for a speech on the advantages and disadvantages of having pets in aged-care centres. Some students produced high-scoring responses by stating proportionally balanced ideas for each case. Those students were able to present their ideas objectively within well-linked paragraphs.

Question 11

This was the most popular question chosen by students. Students were asked to write a persuasive letter to the principal to oppose the plan of switching to digital textbooks. Students with high-scoring responses produced a convincing letter by presenting sufficient ideas to support their arguments. They presented logically sequenced paragraphs with a topic sentence at the beginning of each. Their arguments were well supported by convincing reasons, such as academic, economic and health concerns.