

2018 VCE Portuguese written examination report

General comments

In general, students responded accurately and appropriately to questions on the 2018 Portuguese examination. The examination gave students with different levels of understanding of Portuguese the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability. The majority of students did this very well.

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

Students 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.

To improve their performance in the listening and responding section, students should:

- practise listening exercises
- listen to different texts in various text types
- practise picking out key points
- learn how to respond in full sentences
- listen to spoken Portuguese in films or on the news
- learn how to take notes while listening to texts
- pick up the key words in the question in order to respond accurately
- acquire a range of vocabulary from the topics and themes in the Portuguese study design.

Part A – Answer in English

Text 1

Question 1a.

- taken by immigrants
- sold abroad (in shops)

Question 1b.

- secret recipe that no one knows
- (unchanged) since 1837

Question 1c.

Tourists reserve an afternoon to make a detour to the pastry shop.

Many students were unable to answer this question.

Text 2

Question 2

Way of going unnoticed	Habitat where it is used	Why it is used
hide	area with rocks, sand, leaves	animals can hunt more easily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prevents being hunted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> camouflage patterned appearances 	no place to hide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> confuses/misleads predators
swing movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mimics movement of branches and wind

The majority of students answered this question well.

Text 3

Question 3a.

Diana suggests the outing specifically to (C) celebrate her birthday.

The majority of the students answered this question well.

Question 3b.

- good food/dinner
- large crowd/quite busy
- live music
- to have fun

Part B – Answer in Portuguese

Text 4

Generally, questions 4a.–c. were answered well.

Question 4a.

- 50 000 espetadores/espetadores aplaudiram o gato* (50 000 spectators/spectators applauded the cat)
- Os árbitros pararam o jogo.* (The referees stopped the game.)

Question 4b.

Os seguranças de serviço acabaram por apanhar o feline pachorrento e manso (The attending security guards finally caught the feline/cat [slow and meek])

Question 4c.

O gato estava aborrecido com o resultado de 0-0/jogo empatado (The cat was annoyed at the 0–0 score/tied score of the game)

Text 5

Question 5a.

Dançam, marcham e cantam elogios a Lisboa (Dance, march and sing the praises of Lisbon)

Question 5b.

Mulheres, por exemplo mulheres solteiras, casadas e viúvas (Santo Antônio, São João e São Pedro, respetivamente.) (Women, for example single, married and widowed women [St Anthony, St John and St Peter, respectively.])

Text 6

Question 6a.

O voo de Melbourne para Londres atrasou-se. (Melbourne to London flight delayed.)

Question 6b.

Falou com calma, explicou situação (bagagem num vôo mais tarde), ofereceu soluções - entregar a bagagem no hotel, número de emergência se houver mais problemas, pediu desculpa pela inconveniência. (Spoke calmly in explaining the situation [luggage on a later flight], offered solutions, possibility of delivering luggage to hotel, emergency number if further problems, apologised for the inconvenience.)

Section 2 – Reading and Responding

Most students were able to select the relevant information.

To improve their performance in this section, students should:

- pay more attention to the key words and translate them well
- read the text and the question carefully and look up unfamiliar words in the dictionary
- make sure they understand the questions before answering them.

Part A – Answer in English

Students were assessed on how well they understood general and specific aspects of texts (for example, by comparing, contrasting, summarising and/or evaluating) and whether or not they conveyed the information appropriately. This section was answered very well.

Text 7

Question 7

- walking – walking paths have been restored/network of trails to enjoy the scenery
- bird watching – more than 400 species of birds
- whale and dolphin watching/28 different species of cetaceans
- see volcanoes – 25 active volcanoes/1000 extinct volcanoes
- climb volcanoes and explore caves

Text 8

Question 8a.

- two hours to climb/highest point in the country
- can see north and south coasts (whole island) from the summit
- watching the sunrise

Question 8b.

- beautiful beach (coral reefs, fish, fine sand)
- visited by groups of dolphins

Part B – Answer in Portuguese

Students were assessed on how well they:

- demonstrated an understanding of the stimulus text
- wrote text appropriate and relevant to context, purpose and audience
- structured and sequenced information and ideas
- manipulated language structures and vocabulary in Portuguese.

Text 9

Question 9

Text type: report

Kind of writing: informative

Audience: Portuguese language summit

Students were required to write a letter as a climate change sceptic to the editor of *Ecopro* magazine.

Section 3 – Writing in Portuguese

Students were assessed on how well they could:

- demonstrate depth of treatment of information, ideas and/or opinions
- write text appropriate and relevant to context, purpose and audience
- structure and sequence information and ideas
- manipulate language structures and vocabulary in Portuguese.

Students could choose between a variety of topics and could write in an imaginative, informative or evaluative style.

Most students wrote clearly and gave their opinions and ideas; however, more breadth and depth in terms of content was often needed.

When attempting the writing section, students should:

- choose a topic they enjoy
- read each paragraph of their response to make sure that the piece develops logically and makes sense
- use the dictionary to look up unfamiliar words
- check their spelling
- proofread their work.

Students should look for errors in their work such as lack of tense agreement, a lack of subjects or verbs in phrases, the omission of articles and prepositions or a failure to pluralise.

Question 10

Students were required to write an imaginative story for a Portuguese-language literary magazine about a day that animals spoke back.

Question 11

Students were required to write a speech for a Portuguese-language forum about how modern media is shaping access to information, and the advantages and disadvantages of this for society.

Question 12

Students were required to write a journal entry under the heading 'The Winter Olympics was about more than just the events and personal performances'.