

2019 VCE Portuguese written examination report

General comments

The majority of students were able to comprehend the texts, and respond accurately and comprehensively, demonstrating good listening and responding skills. However, some students were not able to provide complete answers to the questions, select the main points or present their ideas clearly.

As part of their examination preparation students should listen to spoken texts from a range of sources texts to practise their listening skills.

On the whole, students performed very well, producing some high-scoring texts, especially in response to Question 12 in Section 3 – Writing in Portuguese.

Specific comments

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

Part A – Answer in English

Text 1

Question 1

The requirements to become a leader at the Mar e Montanha holiday camps are that the applicant needs to be someone that likes:

- to be animated/lively
- adventure
- fun/joy
- helping others to reach goals / wearing a uniform
- imagination.

Text 2

Question 2a.

Three reasons why the female speaker chooses the blue shoes in spite of their cost are:

- they are beautiful and stylish
- they look good on her
- she loves good leather shoes.

Question 2b.

The other two items that the female speaker is going to purchase are:

- a handbag in the same colour to match the shoes
- a scarf in shades of blue.

Text 3

Question 3a.

Apart from ancient coins, one of the following could possibly be found in the ship:

- port wine (20 000 litres)
- silver objects
- vases of the 18th century
- weapons

Question 3b.

The reason the ship did not arrive at its destination was that it was overtaken by a storm blowing from the south / its sails were torn and it sank.

Part B – Answer in Portuguese

Text 4

Question 4a.

The author was referring to:

- *as nossas preocupações com a saúde e a aparência* (our concerns with health and appearance)
- *manter-se em forma e relaxado/livrar-se de stress/aborrecimentos do dia-a-dia* (relaxing and staying in shape / getting rid of stress/worries of everyday life).

Question 4b.

According to the speaker, the other benefits sport has for us are:

- *gerir e reduzir o stress / sentir-se mais contente* (managing and reducing stress / feeling happy)
- *fazer novos amigos* (making new friends)
- *aprender a colaborar em equipe* (learning to collaborate as a team).

Text 5

Question 5a.

The two main constraints that Ana and João have to take into account when planning their holiday are:

- *só pode durar uma semana* (it can last only one week)
- *pouco dinheiro. Eles não podem ir a outro país* (lack of money. They cannot go to another country.)

Question 5b.

The three locations suggested for their holiday are:

- Geres National Park: *caminhadas e contemplar a paisagem* (walks and contemplating the landscape)
- Algarve: *praias muito bonitas / se fôr prevista uma páscoa com sol* (wonderful beaches/if they predict a sunny Easter)
- Madeira: *flora unica / nunca lá estive / não fica muito caro* (uniqueness of the flora / never been there before / not too expensive).

Text 6

Question 6a.

The Portuguese fado:

- *é um género musical* (is a musical genre)
- *a música fala de sofrimento e tristeza profunda e duradoura* (the music speaks of suffering and deep and long-lasting sadness).

Question 6b.

Three pieces of evidence from the text of the evolution of fado from popular lyrics and melodies to internationally recognised music include:

- *adquiriu musicalidade e conteúdo literário mais ricos / mais consistente e adaptado aos novos tempos* (acquired richer musicality and literary content / more consistent and adapted to the new times)
- *poemas simples para versos requintados / enriquecidos e com uma sonoridade única* (simple poems to exquisite verses / enriched and unique sonority)
- *reconhecido pela UNESCO* (recognised by UNESCO).

Section 2 – Reading and responding

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 conveying the information appropriately.

Text 7

Question 7a.

The main findings of Conservation International are:

- the waters around the island of Ataúro have the largest maritime biodiversity in the world/examples
- there are scars of the legacy of fishing with explosives
- the invasion of crown-of-thorns starfish/affect balance of species.

Question 7b.

Two ways of restoring the deteriorated marine area and its biodiversity are:

- transforming the whole island into a protected area
- restricting the fishing activity to the locals only.

Text 8

Question 8a.

The two main areas that tourism helped develop are:

- (it drives) the economy
- (it influences) the culture.

Question 8b.

Human beings travel:

- to communicate with others
- to visit places and exchange knowledge
- because they have an impulse to discover/any pretext as long as it satisfies an impetus to travel.

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

Students were required to write a formal letter to the director of the Instituto de Apoio ao Estudante explaining the type of room they would like and reasons for wanting accommodation at the residence.

Students should have introduced themselves in the letter and described their situation (*na carta apresente-se e descreva a sua situação*).

The letter could have included the following information:

- *quarto privado ou comum* (private or shared room)
 - *a razão para escolher o tipo de acomodação pode ser económica / fazer amigos / conviver com outros estudantes / privacidade - ser capaz de estudar no meu quarto* (reason for choosing this type of accommodation could be the price of the room / making friends / mingle with other students / privacy – being able to study in my room)
- *mobilado ou não mobilado* (furnished or unfurnished room)

- *sair de casa para estudar* (moving away from home)
- *casa de banho privada ou comum* (private or shared bathroom)
 - *tempo de espera para que os colegas estejam prontos* (time spent waiting for others to be ready)
- *cozinha* (kitchen)
 - *ser capaz de preparar a sua refeição / cozinhar para os outros / compartilhar refeições* (being able to prepare your own meals / cook for others / share meals)
- *equipamentos desportivos (ginásio / piscina)* (sports equipment / gym / swimming pool)
 - *ser possível manter-se em forma enquanto estuda* (being able to stay in shape while studying)
- *pergunte pelo preço da acomodação* (ask about the costs of the accommodation).

Section 3 – Writing in Portuguese

Students were assessed on how well they:

- demonstrated depth of treatment of information, ideas and/or opinions
- wrote text appropriate and relevant to context, purpose and audience
- structured and sequenced information and ideas
- manipulated language structures and vocabulary in Portuguese.

Question 10

Students responding to this question were required to write an evaluative report for their school magazine about the advantages and difficulties of learning a second language.

The report could have included the following points.

Advantages:

- Being able to communicate with people from different background
- Useful for traveling
- Helps in understanding people of different cultures
- Keeps your mind active

Difficulties:

- A lot of work required.
- Hard to learn if you're not immersed
- Understanding the language structure

Question 11

Students responding to this question were required to write a personal diary entry or entries to describe a time or event that they experienced in childhood with a member of your family or a friend.

The diary entry could have included:

- a description of the relationship
- the type of event (funny/dramatic/adventurous)
- a description of the outcome.

Question 12

Students responding to this question were required to write a speech to be delivered at a community centre, to persuade parents that they should not interfere in their children's friendships.

The speech could have included the following persuasive points:

- Friendships are important to build character/to grow.
- Friendships teach you how to live in a group/community.
- Parents should allow children to make mistakes of their own.