



VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH

2018 VATE EAL EXAM – SAMPLE RESPONSES

The following is a guide **only** to the types of responses students may provide to the short-answer questions in Section A and Section C of the VATE 2018 Sample English as an Additional Language Examination Paper. Students' responses will necessarily reflect exam conditions and time limits.

Section A - Sample answers prepared by Anne Height

Text 1: 'Life in 500 words'

Question 1 (total 10 marks)

- a. How did Terrie Ferman feel about studying Geography at school?
(Use your own words OR quote words used by the speaker.)

Suggested answers (1 mark):

- She did not enjoy it.
- She found it boring.
- She only chose it because there was no alternative.
- 'It never grabbed me.'

- b. What experience made her feel 'devastated' and 'blindsided'?

Correct answer (1 mark):

- It was failing (more than once) the external Geography exam in her final year at school.

- c. How does Terrie express disbelief about this event?
Quote one phrase she uses.

Suggested answers (1 mark):

- 'I failed! Again!'
- 'How could this happen?'
- 'I was completely mystified.'

- d. What did her mother do to show support for Terrie?

Suggested answers (1 mark):

- She paid for the exam to be reassessed.
- She hired a tutor for her daughter.

e. **When Terrie started her job as a typist in the Vice-Chancellor's office at university, how did she feel about it?**

(Use your own words OR quote words used by Terry.)

Suggested answers (1 mark):

- She loved it.
- She thought it was 'an ideal place to work'.
- Everyone made her feel very welcome.
- '(They)... couldn't have been more welcoming.'

f. **At the end of the year (choose one):**

- ***Terrie resigned from her job to study teaching.* (Correct answer - 1 mark)**
- Terrie was promoted to a better job in the VC's office.
- Terrie failed the Ancient History exam.
- The VC wrote a letter asking her not to leave.

g. **How did Terry's experience working in this office change her?**

(Use your own words OR quote the words she uses.)

Suggested answers (1 mark):

- 'Those experiences transformed me.'
- Terrie's experience in the office gave her confidence and self-belief.

h. **What is the purpose and who is the intended audience of this presentation?**

What is the tone of the presentation?

Suggested answers (3 marks):

- Terrie is reflecting on events which happened fifty years ago. She now has the maturity and wisdom to understand that failure can actually be a positive thing.
- Her intended audience would be (young) people who may feel very anxious or depressed when they experience failure or do not achieve their goals.
- Her tone is reflective and thoughtful; she realises that she gained a lot by experiencing failure and being forced to delay her university studies.

Text 2: 'Living with dogs and children'**Question 2 (total 10 marks)**

- a. The host of this radio programme explains why this is an important topic. What fact does she provide to demonstrate this?

Suggested answer (1 mark):

- The majority of patients at hospital emergency departments with dog bite injuries are young children.

- b. Provide two facts about the dog Rudi. (Use dot points.)

Suggested answers (2 marks):

- He likes cheese.
- He is 3 ½ years old.
- Rudi's breed is staghound.
- His bark is worse than his bite.
- He is twice the size of the child, Freya.
- Rudi weighs 50 kg.
- He is gentle; he can be energetic but most of the time he's a couch potato.
- He is easy to live with.
- The family have had Rudi as a pet since he was 5 months old.

- c. The mother, Mia, did several things to ensure a harmonious relationship between her children and their pet dog. Give one detail and/or example in boxes A, B, C.

Suggested answer (3 marks):

Actions	Details/examples
1. Environmental controls	A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed gates between rooms of house to separate dog from children when necessary
2. Preparations for the arrival of the new baby	B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • played recording of babies crying (from YouTube) • took dog to visit friends who had small babies • accustomed dog to smells and noises of babies
3. Taught Freya what signs to look for	C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dog yawning or licking lips means dog is uncomfortable or uneasy

d. What does Mia hope her children will learn by having a pet?

Suggested answer (1 mark):

- Empathy and respect for others

e. What is the purpose and who is the intended audience of this radio programme? Explain why Mia is an appropriate person to be interviewed.

Suggested answers (3 marks):

- The intended audience would include: parents who are considering getting a dog; or dog owners who are planning to have children.
- The purpose of Text 2 is to give advice, to explain how dogs and children can live together safely.
- The mother (Mia) is a canine scientist so she shows her expertise when discussing the behaviour of dogs. (e.g. suggesting appropriate 'environmental controls')
- Mia is also herself a parent.
- She is very thoughtful and caring when describing the relationship between family members, visitors, and the pet dog. (e.g. 'role models')

Section C - Sample answers prepared by Janelle Lugg

Question 1 (total 10 marks)

Text 1: Angela Stavrou's description of Hong Kong

- a. Angela Stavrou is excited about Hong Kong as a travel destination. List three reasons she gives to suggest why it's her best holiday destination.

Suggested answers (3 marks):

- The shopping: 'You can buy anything'
- The history
- The mountains (Victoria Peak) and the 'breathtaking' views
- The harbour (Victoria Harbour)

- b. According to the writer, which two cities do not compare to Hong Kong and its harbour?

Suggested answers (2 marks):

- New York (on the 4th of July)
- Sydney (the fireworks on the Sydney Harbour Bridge)

Text 2: Jack Nguyen's description of Victoria

- c. Why did the writer decide to explore Victoria?
Describe in your own words.

Suggested answers (2 marks):

- When he was overseas, Jack realised that he didn't know much about his own country and he thought this was embarrassing and unpatriotic.
- Jack was determined to find out more about where he lived.

- d. Why does Jack like to be out of the city at night?

Suggested answer (1 mark):

- You can see the stars better at night out of the city.

e. **Why does the writer suggest that the wine and cheese is better in Victoria than in France?**

Suggested answer (1 mark):

- It's closer - only a day trip away
- The atmosphere here is better

f. **What does the writer compare the stars to?**

Suggested answer (1 mark):

- Fireworks - 'nature's greatest fireworks display'