



VICTORIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH

2017 VATE EAL EXAM – SAMPLE RESPONSES

NB: 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 2017 Sample English as an Additional Language Exam. Students' responses will necessarily reflect exam conditions and time limits.

Section A - Sample answers prepared by Anne Height

Audio/Text 1: Life Matters interview

Question 1 (10 marks)

- a. **The interviewer lists the qualifications and experience of the interviewee, Cassie White. Note one of these.**

Suggested answers (1 mark):

- Personal trainer
- Yoga instructor
- Health journalist
- A regular on this programme

- b. **When Cassie White greets the interviewer, her tone is (choose one):**

- Formal/professional
- Relaxed/friendly/casual (**Correct answer - 1 mark**)
- Serious/concerned
- Humorous/joking

- c. **What problem does Cassie White focus on in this interview?**

Suggested answers (1 mark):

Australian children are...

- not running around outside enough
- not spending enough time in the great outdoors
- not getting enough physical exercise
- less than 2 in 10 kids are getting national guidelines of 60 minutes physical activity per day

d. How does Cassie show her knowledge and expertise in this field?**Suggested answers** (1 mark):

- Quotes statistical evidence from research at University of South Australia
- Uses terminology such as ‘cardio’ (NOT ‘it’s pretty scary’)

e. According to Cassie, there are various reasons why schools and sporting clubs do not provide enough physical exercise for children. Explain these reasons.**Suggested answers** (2 marks):

- Schools only provide a few hours of PE per week
- PE lessons often involve lots of time standing around/getting instructions/waiting your turn
- Kids are not made to do PE; it’s not compulsory
- Even if an hour is allocated for PE lessons, students not actually moving for the full hour
- Children might only get 20-30 minutes of exercise for the day

f. When the interviewer asks ‘Who is responsible for sedentary kids’?, Cassie blames (choose one):**Suggested answers** (1 mark):

- Lazy parents
- The government’s ineffective policies and lack of investment
- Schools
- The digital age – children spend too much time in front of screens
- The over-scheduling of kids – too many after school activities
- A combination of all of these
- She does not actually blame anyone

g. How does Cassie feel about parents of young children? How does her word choice and delivery convey this?**Suggested answers** (3 marks):

Cassie expresses empathy and understanding. She realises that it’s not easy for parents to find time for their children to exercise. Some of her comments which support this view include:

- ‘Everyone is so busy’
- ‘A lot of them try their hardest’
- ‘They’re really aware of kids just sitting in front of the iPads’
- ‘They want their kids to move’
- ‘There’s only so many hours in the day’
- ‘When they’re working full time’
- ‘It’s 7 o’clock at night and I’m still in my work clothes’

Cassie lists all the things that parents have to do when they get home from work. Her tone is sympathetic and she is not critical.

Audio/Text 2: Jason Li profile**Question 2 (10 marks)**

a. As a young person, how did Jason feel about his heritage?

Suggested answers (1 mark):

- He didn't want to be Chinese or to speak Chinese
- He wanted to be Australian like everyone else

b. In the 1970's Jason's family experienced...

Suggested answer (1 mark):

- ...racism and discrimination

c. Now that he is involved in politics, what is Jason's aim?

Suggested answer (1 mark):

- He wants to see more people from minority backgrounds participating in politics and public life (e.g. media, companies, sport)
- He wants to encourage Asian voices to be heard

d. Jason comments on two particular issues that are important to Asian voters. What are they?

Suggested answers (2 marks):

- Importance of education
- Respect for elderly/parents/grandparents

e. What hope does Jason express for all young Australians?

Suggested answer (1 mark):

- Jason's hope for all young Australians is that they feel that they belong

f. Give one word or phrase that he uses when explaining why a career in politics is not easy.

Suggested answers (1 mark):

- Tough, gruelling
- Lots of public scrutiny
- A lot of negativity
- A real lack of trust by the public

- g. Describe Jason’s long-term goals and comment on the attitude and personal qualities he displays when speaking about his future. Support your answer by referring to word choice and delivery.**

Suggested answers (3 marks):

Jason is determined, committed and passionate. If he does not succeed immediately, he is willing to try again. Jason takes a long-term view of his political goals. He wants to make a positive contribution to his community and the country. He shows concern not only for the Asian community but for all Australians. Jason loves interacting with people. He wants to make a difference to people’s lives. He wants to be an advocate and a role model.

- ‘This is a long-term project’
- ‘If I’m not successful, we’ll still be in the area ... working on things I’m passionate about’
- ‘I’ll continue to work with my businesses, I’ll continue to be involved in the community, to pursue those things that are important to me.’

He speaks calmly and confidently.

Section C - Sample answers prepared by Mark Dooley

Question 1 (10 marks)

Willingham Community Newsletter

- a. What is the ‘cold, hard reality’ the Council needs to deal with? Give **two** points.

Suggested answers (2 marks):

- The costs of repairs to the Baths.
- The rising annual running costs of the Baths.

- b. What attempt will be made to preserve the heritage of the historic Baths?

Suggested answers (1 mark):

- To preserve the heritage of the historic Baths, the Council plans to incorporate the old façade into the proposed new 12 storey apartment block being built on the old site.

Transcript of speech by Roger Smiley

- c. Why does the speaker say ‘I know that our Council has enough respect for its residents that we aren’t locked into any binding contracts’?

Suggested answer (1 mark):

- The speaker wishes to suggest or remind the Council that it is still possible to reverse its decision to close the historic pool.

- d. Why does the speaker include information about his best memories?

Suggested answer (1 mark):

- In order to create a sense of how important the Baths are and have been to the community over a long period of time.

- e. What does the speaker mean when he says that the Baths brought back ‘Pride’?

Suggested answer (2 marks):

- The speaker attempts to position the listener to agree with both the historic and the economic reasons for the Baths being built and maintained by suggesting that the Baths were something the community could be proud of. This appeals to the listeners by reinforcing the cultural importance and heritage value of the historic Baths within the community.

f. What does the speaker mean by saying that ‘It’s our past and future prosperity’?

Suggested answer (2 marks):

- By making historical links with the Baths, the speaker suggests that it is an important iconic landmark that is integral to the community’s historic identity and ongoing economic success. By doing so, the speaker suggests to the audience that cost isn’t such an important consideration because they have significance for the Willingham residents as a symbol of prosperity.

g. According to the speaker, what are two ways that the closing of the Baths and the building of the new facility will impact on Inner Willingham residents?

Suggested answers (1 mark):

- The location makes it difficult for families who have to travel from Inner Willingham to the new facility; inconvenient location with long travel times.
- Particularly difficult for immobile pensioners to access the new pool facility in Everington Fields.