

# VCE ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

## 2018 Practice Paper 2 ANSWER GUIDE

### Section A

#### Text 1

#### Question 1. 10 marks

- a. Lee names several things that give her business an advantage.

List two of these things. 2 marks

The Australian climate/ the long hot summer, the natural process, high rainfall, few pests, fertile soil, small producer can be more experimental and flexible

- b. How does John encourage Lee to talk about the Agriculture Research Council? Support your answer with one example of his choice of language. 1 mark

He asks her a question about the Council, “Did you get support from the Agriculture Research Council?” and later asks her to “tell us more”.

- c. Explain what Lee says about the role of the *Farm Gate* program. Give one example from the text to support your answer. 2 marks

Lee is grateful to the *Farm Gate* program for its support and help in connecting people.

“I would also like to thank you and the *Farm Gate* program because you have always supported farmers and helped us get to know other people trying to do similar things. “

- d. Lee tells John that she has had to develop new skills to grow the mulberry trees. Identify two words or phrases that Lee uses to explain her new skills. 2 marks

“learn to plant properly” “work out how to prune”, “think about how to pick the leaves”

- e. Comment on Lee’s language choice and delivery when she talks about silk. 3 marks

Lee builds the positive comments she makes about silk: it is “really clear... most of all...luxury in a fabric...the most wonderful clothes”. Her voice emphasises these positive qualities. Her voice is enthusiastic and excited and she ends with a sigh, as though satisfied with silk.

#### Text 2

#### Question 2 10 marks

- a. What are two different reasons Jason gives for being a vegetarian? 2 marks

Vegetarianism is not cruel.

Vegetarianism is healthy

Vegetarianism is convenient

Vegetarianism increases a person's life-span by four years

Vegetarianism does not hurt the environment

- b. Identify one word that Jason uses to describe human teeth. 1 mark**

short

flat

blunt

- c. Tick the best answer. Sonia says that vegetarians are healthy because: 1 mark**

They have sharp teeth.

They exercise.

They drink alcohol instead of eating meat.

They eat a lot of fruit.

- d. How does Sonia show her disagreement with Jason's claim that meat production hurts the environment? Provide an example of her choice of language and delivery. 3 mark**

She says his argument "does not make much sense" and is "not very logical".  
Her voice is impatient and critical.

- e. What does Sonia mean when she says that learning how to be a vegetarian is not fun? Tick the best answer. 2 marks**

She means that it requires learning new ways of shopping, cooking and she doesn't have time for that.

- f. Provide a word to describe the way Jason and Sophia interact. 1 mark**

argumentative

## Section C

### Question 1 10 marks

- a. Laura Williamson objects to the number of women on the Board of Tanami Tennis Club. How many women does she think should be on the Board? 1 mark**

Five / half / fifty percent

- b. Williamson and Muldoon have different views about gender balance on boards. Identify their views. 2 marks**

Williamson: She thinks gender balance reflects the population and that it is essential to have equal numbers of men and women on the Board.

Muldoon: He thinks that Board members should not be appointed because they are men or women, but because they are the best people for the job.

**c. What arguments does Williamson provide to support her claim that merit-based selection should only be one part of the process”? Give two examples. 2 marks**

Women have fewer opportunities than men in many social and business contexts.  
Women are underrepresented in most leadership positions in modern society.  
Women have fewer opportunities to put themselves forward for leadership positions..

**d. Give one reason that Muldoon thinks quotas in business do not work. 1 mark**

a small number of women share all the positions  
the women in those positions (25%) are ineffectual

**e. Why does Muldoon not believe that a quota on the Board “is relevant to our situation”? Provide two examples he gives in his speech to support this claim. 3 marks**

Muldoon believes the Club already does a lot to promote women and girls, and that there have been many success stories over the years. He cites the names on the Honour Roll as evidence; he says the Club values women; he says the best thing for the Board is to appoint the best person for the role, regardless of gender.

## **Question 2 10 marks**

**Analyse the ways in which the writer and the speaker use argument and spoken and visual language to try to persuade others to share their points of view.**

The decision by the Tanami Tennis Club to review the way it elects members of the Board has prompted lawyer and Board member, Laura Williamson, to write a letter. In it, she argues passionately that female representation on the Tanami Tennis Club Board is too low and that a quota system should be introduced to increase it to 50%. This would reflect the proportion of women members in the Club and in the broader community. Opposing the proposition, in a speech at the Board meeting, Board member Brian Muldoon rejects Williamson’s proposal, calling it a “shrill letter” with “crazy ideas”.

Williamson delivers a carefully constructed letter. First she seeks to discredit the present Board’s current practice of appointing “mates” to fill vacancies instead of running a fair and “transparent election process”. This implies that the process may be corrupt. Then, she asserts that equal representation for women is sensible and reasonable and that 50% representation of women would be a “proper” number. She reinforces these claims with phrases like “I don’t have to remind you” and “it makes complete sense”, delivered confidently and authoritatively, suggesting that the men would already know these things.

Once she has established that the gender imbalance on the Board is, she asserts that the Club “must actively work” to achieve “proper [...]” female representation on the Board. The adverb “actively” suggests that the Club should make decisions that deliberately increase the numbers of females.

Next, she introduces the ideas of quotas, referring to “other clubs [that] have set quotas to achieve gender balance”. This shows that other organisations have accepted the idea. She acknowledges the argument against quotas (“appointments should be made on merit”) and then contemptuously describes these arguments as “tired”, and “simplistic”, in order to denigrate and dismiss them. She systematically “discredit[s]” this argument with a list of reasons why it does not stand up to scrutiny. She equates setting up a quota system with “giving women a chance to shine” and develop the skills that they might lack because they have not had opportunities before. This is designed to put pressure on the Board to open up equal opportunities for women in the Club. Williamson claims that the Board “need[s]” to do this as though it is an unarguable part of their responsibility.

The term “gender inequality” has negative connotations, whereas “gender balance” is something to be admired and striven for. Her reference to the consequences of Government policy that changed the situation in Norway, backs her claims with “actual or empirical evidence”, (which Muldoon chooses to ignore.) She suggests her impatience with the situation and her tone is one of exasperation when she claims that “Someone has to force the issue”. She implies that only when the Board “approach[es] ...women in our Club to join” it will Board members themselves be showing the leadership that is expected of them.

Muldoon is completely opposed to the idea of introducing quotas. He wants to maintain the status quo: “That has always been our policy and I see no reason to change”. He is immediately on the attack. His question invites his listeners to agree that the quota proposal is “political correctness gone mad”. The idea of madness and irrationality is reinforced when he denigrates Williamson’s ideas as “completely crazy”. Muldoon suggests that if quotas are introduced the people on the Board will be forced to choose someone other than “the best person for the job”.

He attempts to discredit Williamson as a “frenzied feminist”, personally attacking Williamson. His alliterative insult suggests she is out of control and prejudiced against men. Muldoon rejects the idea of quotas as “a tokenistic solution to a complex problem” but does not elaborate on what that complex problem is. He glosses over the larger social and moral issues of gender inequity that is the core of Williamson’s argument. He ignores her point about giving female members of the club opportunities to “shine”.

He invites his audience to check the Honor Roll where the names of winners are shown. He wants his audience to accept that this is proof of equality in the Club, even though only initials and surnames are shown, and therefore the gender of the names cannot be determined. He finally completely dismisses Williamson’s letter by returning to his ‘common sense’ understanding of how vacancies should be filled, i.e., “the person best suited for that position, regardless of gender”. His final words appeal to Board members to be faithful to established practice, implying that they have all been of one mind in the past and inviting them to follow his lead since “[he] see[s] no reason to change.” In this way he asserts that his personal authority is greater than Williamson’s.

## Section A transcripts

### Text 1 Silkworm Farming

#### Background information

John Petrovic is the host of a radio program called *Farm Gate*, which is a show that focuses on farming issues in Australia. In this program, Petrovic talks with silkworm farmer Lee Brown.

John: Good afternoon listeners, this is John Petrovic, your host for *Farm Gate* on Regional Radio. Today we continue our series on new types of farms that are being set up by clever farmers who have new ideas. Our farmer today is Lee Brown and she's set up a new silkworm farm. The worms produce silk thread that is woven into beautiful natural fabrics. The production of silk is a very old story, an ancient story, and Lee's given it a modern twist.

Hi Lee. We all know that China is the world's biggest producer of silk, so I am curious to know what made you try silk farming in Australia?

Lee: Hi John. Thank you for having me on the program. The way I got into it was through my children. They started breeding silkworms for a school science project, and that led to the whole family watching the life cycle of the silkworm.

John: Tell me more about that, Lee.

Lee: Well - the total life cycle can be six to eight weeks, and silkworms only eat mulberry leaves. We had a bit of trouble feeding the silkworms because the mulberry leaves they eat were really hard to find. That was when we got the idea. We had a small area of land and we were looking for a new way to use it so we thought could grow our own mulberry trees.

John: And what sets your silk producing business apart from others?

Lee: Well, there are several things. First, the Australian climate speeds up the whole process of growing the silkworms because but their life cycle is shorter in warm weather. The climate here is hot, so the worms develop and breed quickly. The long hot summer is a big advantage; the mulberry trees grow well, and the silkworms reproduce quickly.

Second, our whole process is natural. The mulberry trees grow in healthy fertile soil and we have good rainfall. Finally, there are very few pests that attack the trees.

John: That makes sense. It is surprising that other farmers have not thought about trying to grow silkworms or mulberry trees.

Lee: There are also advantages in being a small producer. We can be more flexible than big business and this means we can work on new ideas and experiment more. For instance, we are working with a cotton grower to make a combined cotton-silk fabric. There is a big market for naturally produced materials like this. In fact, there is a huge demand for it.

- John All the other farmers we have had on the *Farm Gate* program tell us that the hardest part in setting up a successful crop was doing the research.
- Lee That is true without a doubt. But recently there's been a lot of interest in new types of farming and there is a lot of support from the government.
- John Did you get support from the Agriculture Research Council?
- Lee Did we! We were amazed at the support we got. Lots of other people told us that just five years ago farmers had to do all their own research and find other people who might be doing similar things. But the Agriculture Research Council put us in contact with others and helped us build a network of silk farmers.
- John Lots of farmers who are trying to do something new and different have told us that the most important thing was getting to know other people in a similar situation. They said it was really hard to do that. They just did not know where to start, especially if it was something unusual.
- Lee We were lucky because the Agriculture Research Council did all of that for us. And I would also like to thank you and the *Farm Gate* program because you have always supported farmers and helped us get to know other people trying to do similar things.
- John Thank you Lee. But I'm really interested in the process; tell us more about how the Agriculture Research Council helped you.
- Lee They put us in contact with someone who tested the soil, and someone who had grown mulberry trees.
- John Great! That sounds like it was a real help. So you grow the mulberry trees to provide the leaves for the silkworms to eat. How hard was that?
- Lee That was only the first step. We had to work out which species of tree would grow best and how old the trees have to be before they can produce leaves that the worms can eat. Then we had to learn to plant the trees properly. Then we had to work out how to prune. I even had to think about how to pick the leaves.
- John: What is so good about silk?
- Lee: It is really strong, the colours are really clear, it is light, it shines. But most of all it feels soft and smooth on the skin. It is a luxury fabric. And it makes the most wonderful clothes - evening dresses, wedding gowns, the best quality men's suits.
- John: Well you've sold me on silk, Lee. Thanks very much for coming in today and sharing your story. It's been fascinating.
- Lee My pleasure, John. Thanks for having me.
- John: And that is all from today's episode of *Farm Gate*. See you next week.

## Text 2 Vegetarianism

### Background information

Jason and Sonia are colleagues at work. Jason does not eat meat but Sophia does. They discuss their different views on the topic.

**Jason:** It is cruel to kill animals for food when vegetarian options are available. Animals have emotions and social connections. All warm-blooded animals can experience stress, pain, and fear. Animals shouldn't have to die to satisfy an unnecessary dietary preference.

**Sonia:** I don't think it's cruel. Eating meat is a part of life. Humans are animals and lots of animals eat meat. This is a cycle and how the natural world works. Everything that is alive eventually dies, even plants. Whether humans are vegetarians or meat eaters, either way we are killing another life form.

**Jason:** Humans have evolved to be vegetarians. We don't have a wide mouth or long, pointed teeth like other meat-eating animals. Human teeth are short and flat. In comparison to other animals, our teeth are quite blunt which is just right for chewing vegetables and fruit.

**Sonia:** Humans have been eating meat for millions of years. Our large brains developed over this time at the same time as our meat-eating habits. You can argue that our intelligence as a species is because of meat.

**Jason:** Meat eating might be related to the development of the brain, but in the world today a vegetarian diet is healthy. It gives us all the nutrients we need.

**Sophia:** Meat is a really valuable source of protein and many other nutrients. It is convenient and easily available.

**Jason:** What is more convenient than fresh fruit? You have to cook meat, but lots of fruit and vegetables can be eaten raw. Besides vegetarians live longer. An extra four years is what people can expect.

**Sophia:** Vegetarians live longer because they are people who are interested in their health. The people who stop eating meat are also likely to exercise more and drink less alcohol. That is why they live longer, not because they don't eat meat.

**Jason:** Meat production hurts the environment. Cattle bred for meat exhale huge amounts of methane gas. Land is cleared for animals when it would be better used for growing plant food for humans.

**Sophia:** Well that argument doesn't make much sense. It's not very logical. Land is also cleared for plants and crops to be grown. Some animals take a lot of land, other animals take less. Modern farming methods also mean that animal farming is becoming more efficient. To grow plants, farmers use poisons to kill weeds and insects.

**Jason:** We have all learned to cook meat as the main part of a meal. We have developed a taste for it. Now we need to learn to cook vegetables so they're the main part of the meal. I admit this takes a bit

of working out at first. You have to change the way you shop, the ingredients you select and the recipes that you use. But this can be fun. There are plenty of books and videos to help you plan vegetarian menus and cook vegetarian meals. Better still, people can share recipes with friends and family to find new ways of eating.

**Sophia:** Well, we all know how to cook meat, as the main part of a meal and throughout history people have enjoyed the delicious taste of cooked meat. Now you vegetarians are asking us to learn to shop and cook in new ways. This is not fun. And you can't tell me that it is fun. You are being ridiculous. I don't want to spend my time looking at cookbooks and videos to work it out. We are all too busy to find people who will teach us what to do.

**Jason:** I am a vegetarian and I have been for years now. I am perfectly healthy and happy. Even more than that I am satisfied to know that no animal has had to die so I can put food in my mouth.

**Sophia:** Jason, really I think you should stop acting like you are better than me. I eat a balanced diet, the key word is balanced. Animals eat other animals. That is life. I am an animal and part of my diet is meat. So there.