



Trial Examination 2023

VCE English Language Units 3&4

Written Examination

Suggested Solutions for Sections A and B

SECTION A**Question 1** (2 marks)

The register of this text is informal, and the social purpose is for the podcast hosts, Tim and Harrison, to entertain the audience of *The Good Guys Podcast*.

2 marks

Marking guide

To achieve full marks, responses must identify the register and social purpose of the text. Line numbers or examples do not need to be provided.

One mark is awarded for identifying the register and one mark is awarded for identifying the social purpose. Other appropriate social purposes include the hosts building in-group solidarity between themselves and their audience; the hosts building rapport with their audience; the hosts informing listeners about Scott Morrison's portfolio scandal in a humorous way; and the hosts appealing to each other's positive face needs.

Question 2 (2 marks)

The use of the plural pronoun 'we' in the utterance 'we all' (line 45) allows Tim to build a sense of in-group solidarity with his audience as he is acknowledging that they are included in his appreciation of someone admitting when they are wrong.

2 marks

Marking guide

To achieve full marks, responses must explain how plural pronouns contribute to a sense of in-group solidarity, using an example from the text. Line numbers must be provided.

One mark is awarded for identifying a plural pronoun and one mark for is awarded for discussing how the pronoun builds in-group solidarity. The response must include discussion of a speaker and their audience; if the response discusses in-group solidarity between the speakers (hosts), then marks cannot be awarded.

Question 3 (3 marks)

On line 32, Harrison uses rising intonation when he finishes his utterance with 'PM/'. The use of this rising intonation is a means of topic management; Harrison is signalling to Tim and their audience that he has not finished speaking about what Scott Morrison had done during his time as Prime Minister. Furthermore, this rising intonation builds anticipation for the utterance that is about to come on the next line, which explains that Scott Morrison appointed himself multiple additional roles (line 33).

3 marks

Marking guide

To achieve full marks, responses must analyse an example of intonation from the lines specified. Any example of intonation that is correctly identified from the specified lines may be awarded a mark. Line numbers must be provided.

One mark is awarded for identifying a correct example of intonation. Two marks are awarded for analysing the example appropriately. Responses should identify what the intonation is seeking to achieve within the context of the line. The intonation identified can be rising or falling as long as the context in which it occurs is accurately discussed. When referencing the example from the text, the speaker should be identified by name.

The question explicitly states 'intonation', so students must continue to use this metalanguage term to show that they understand it.

Question 4 (4 marks)

Harrison exhibits an Australian identity throughout this discourse. This identity is expressed through colloquial lexemes such as ‘bloke’ (lines 6, 57), the diminutive shortening of ‘footy’ (line 14) and the colloquial address term for Scott Morrison, ‘ScoMo’ (line 29), as they are all features of informal Australian English.

Tim exhibits an identity that may be young or technologically savvy throughout this discourse.

His use of the verbs ‘poll’ (line 63) and ‘tag’ (line 66) in the field of the social media application Instagram suggests that he is familiar with the semantics of these concepts in the context.

4 marks

Marking guide

To achieve full marks, responses must identify and discuss one language feature of both Harrison and Tim. Line numbers must be provided.

One mark is awarded for each language feature identified and one mark is awarded for each subsequent discussion. Each language feature must be identified with correct metalanguage and an example must be provided. Full marks may not be awarded if the response does not include a discussion of metalanguage for each example. Other appropriate identities are acceptable as long as they are sufficiently justified with evidence; the response can include individual or group identities.

Question 5 (4 marks)

At the beginning of this episode of *The Good Guys Podcast*, Tim appeals to the positive face needs of Harrison by referring to him using the adjectival phrase ‘my good friend’ (line 5) to show they share a close social distance. This is further supported by Tim referring to Harrison as ‘Spida’ (line 5), an intimate nickname only those in the group understand.

The positive face needs of both speakers are met between lines 59–62 as each interlocutor shares in laughter. On line 59, Tim laughs in response to Harrison’s comment about going back to work, after which Harrison also laughs (line 60). This shared laughter signals the speakers have a shared understanding of humour and approve of the laughter.

4 marks

Marking guide

To achieve full marks, responses must clearly identify and discuss two language features that demonstrate how face needs are met. Line numbers must be provided.

One mark is awarded for each language feature identified and one mark is awarded for each subsequent discussion of how each identified language feature meets a face need. Each language feature must be identified with correct metalanguage and examples must be provided. Context is required (such as identifying speakers’ names) as responses should demonstrate that the feature being discussed has been understood sufficiently. Responses should also identify whether positive or negative face needs are being appealed to.

Students may also choose to discuss the face needs of the audience and how they are met by either host. For example, the verb ‘welcome’ in line 1 meets the positive face needs of the audience by making them feel valued.

SECTION B

Question 6 (30 marks)

Sample response:

This written text is a letter from Trish Moss, a representative for the Morevale City Council, to the residents of Collins Street, Morevale. As Moss is writing on behalf of the Morevale City Council, it can be assumed that there is a wide social distance between the writer and the reader due to the council being an authoritative body. The text serves an informative function with a social purpose of providing information to the residents of Collins Street about upcoming construction work organised by the council, while meeting the negative face needs of residents. The primary register of the text is formal.

The social purpose and function of the text are supported by various language features. The informative function is supported using primarily declarative sentences such as ‘The work will commence ...’ (lines 8–9), ‘In order to achieve these upgrades ...’ (line 11) and ‘In the unlikely event ...’ (lines 23–24), all of which provide essential information to the reader. Listing ‘weather conditions, supply availability and worker staffing’ on lines 9–10 clearly outlines to the reader the factors that could potentially impact the work. Moss’ use of the plural pronoun ‘we’ (lines 12–14, 18, 21, 25, 27 and 30–32) throughout the letter refers to the Morevale City Council, showing that the information about the construction work is coming from them. Modal verbs such as ‘may’ (lines 9, 18 and 26) allow the council to fulfill their social purpose of providing detailed information, as these verbs indicate that there may be changes to the current plans. On line 32, the positively connotated adjective phrase ‘premium lifestyle destination’ promotes the construction work to the residents by providing details of the attractive end result. The negative face needs of the Collins Street residents are met through verbs such as ‘ask’ (lines 14 and 31), which are embedded within declarative sentences as opposed to imperative sentences. Moss also uses the phrase ‘we ask for ...’ (line 31) as a means of requesting the cooperation of residents rather than telling them what they need to do, which would impose on their negative face needs.

The primary register of the letter is formal. The use of modal verb ‘will’ (lines 6, 8, 11, 13, 16, 27 and 30) shows a sense of definitiveness regarding the details of the construction work and asserts the authority of the council in making decisions about the work. Formal lexis is used with words such as ‘aesthetics’ (line 7), which elevates the register as this jargon is associated with architecture or art, and ‘endeavour’ (line 30), which carries more connotations of prestige in comparison to a synonym such as ‘try’. The nominalisation ‘disruptions’ (line 27) distances the construction workers (who may cause disruption) from the reader, which in turn contributes to a sense of formality through the depersonalisation of the text. Sections of the letter are also written in a passive voice, further depersonalising the text with phrases such as ‘On days when concrete is poured’ (line 16); this removes the subject of the pouring and focuses on the action, rather than on the individuals performing the action.

Various features enable the letter to be both coherent and cohesive. The text follows the conventions of a letter; the date (line 1), subject line (line 3) and formal closing of ‘Yours sincerely’ followed by the author’s name and title (lines 34–36) adds to the overall coherence of the text. Lexis within the field of building and construction found throughout the text also aids coherency. Examples of subject-specific lexis include ‘construction’ (line 3), ‘footpaths’ (line 4) and ‘site manager’ (line 24). Coherence is further achieved through logically ordered paragraphs throughout the letter; for example, lines 3–7 introduce the purpose of the letter and lines 8–10 follow with the planned dates of the construction work.

Cohesive features in the text include hyponyms, which are used to avoid unnecessary repetition. On lines 14–15, the lexeme ‘vehicles’ is used to refer to any type of vehicle that may be on the street, which in turn draws a cohesive connection to what is classified as ‘traffic’ (lines 12 and 17). Front-focused adverbials are used to connect different sections of the text in a logical way. For example, ‘In order to achieve these upgrades’ (line 11), ‘In the unlikely event’ (line 23), and ‘At this stage’ (line 25) all provide a relationship between where or when certain construction work will take place and the conditions surrounding the work.

30 marks

Marking guide

To achieve full marks, responses must acknowledge the social purpose within this text and analyse the register. High-scoring responses will discuss the degree of formality and what this reflects about the situational context of the text.

Given that the text is written, coherence and cohesion must be discussed. Responses must show a clear understanding of the difference between cohesion and coherence.

Responses must refer to at least two subsystems of language; however, high-scoring responses will tend to refer to more than two and discuss them within the context of the text.

The commentary should be tightly structured with an emphasis on quality of analysis rather than volume of examples. Differing structures of commentary are acceptable, as long as the required areas are addressed and the paragraphs are centered around linguistic features. However, the structure must be logical and signposted throughout the commentary by using topic sentences at the start of each paragraph. An appropriate line number must be provided for each example.