

2009 HSC Korean Background Speakers Sample Answers — Written Examination

This document contains ‘sample answers’, or, in the case of some questions, ‘answer may include’. These are developed by the examination committee for two purposes. The committee does this:

- (a) as part of the development of the examination paper to ensure the questions will effectively assess students’ knowledge and skills, and
- (b) in order to provide some advice to the Supervisor of Marking about the nature and scope of the responses expected of students.

The ‘sample answers’ or similar advice, are not intended to be exemplary or even complete responses. They have been reproduced in their original form as part of the examination committee’s ‘working document’. While the handwritten notes have been typed for legibility, no further editorial change or addition has occurred.

Section I — Listening and Responding

Part A

Question 1 (a)

Sample answer:

Although the society changed a lot and people more and more choose their profession regardless of their gender, Songyi believes that the Korean society still adheres to the conventional way. She is certain that the nursing career is traditional if appropriate for the female rather than the male. She believes that the feminine delicate and caring nature are required when caring for patients.

Question 1 (b)

Sample answer:

Youngho wants to become a nurse and believes that the nursing job is suitable for him. He maintains calm and confident attitude with the firm tone of his voice throughout the dialogue. For instance, Youngho believes that people need to choose their job as long as they have the right aptitude and capability in the job regardless of social prejudice and other people's view towards the occupation.

He also presents a number of examples to support his argument effectively. He claims that it is meaningless to classify a job specifically for men or women. Therefore the choice of profession should be based on personal quality and aptitude regardless of gender. Although his parents are not that supportive of his decision, he is confident that they will change their mind later on when they see him working hard and enjoying his job.

Section I — Listening and Responding

Part B

Question 2

Sample answer:

Korea is becoming a multicultural country with 1.2 million foreign people living in Korea. According to the statistics, one in every 10 couples is an inter-racial marriage. It is essential to increase the number of support centres for migrants not only to learn language and culture but also to get job training. Everyone in the society should respect and appreciate other cultures instead of insisting on traditional Korean culture only. People should be encouraged to participate in volunteering activities for the recent arrived migrants who are experiencing difficulties in settling in the community. Korean society should live together in harmony without racial discrimination or prejudice.

Section II — Reading and Responding

Part A

Question 3 (a)

Sample answer:

‘Bangui’ is Mankun’s nickname, which can be interpreted as ‘half-wit’. He has been ridiculed because of his habit of falling over, a foolish behaviour and the habit of his speech.

Question 3 (b)

Sample answer:

The rally represents ‘the reality of rural area suffering from an excessive amount of debt’. The rally has taken place for requesting the debt remission to the government. It is also related to the cause of Mankun’s death as he has a tractor accident. He is the only one who travels to and from the rally by tractor.

Question 3 (c)

Sample answer:

The author intends to emphasise the significance of the Mankun’s existence in the village as he is the only faithful and genuine member of the community. After Mankun’s disappearance, the village people experienced great inconvenience without Mankun to carry out his tasks. In the past, they had not considered that Mankun did anything useful or important and didn’t care whether he was present or not. For example, the village people realised the absence of Mankun when cleaning the communal toilets to produce the natural fertiliser, distributing manure equally, and settling disputes in the village.

Question 3 (d)

Sample answer:

The story portrays the disappearance of humanity in a selfish society, even within a rural setting, through the main character ‘Hwang Man Kun’. The author leads the readers to reflect their own lives in this heartless world through the genuine human being, ‘Hwang Man Kun’. Today’s people need to learn what we have been missing in their lives.

- He is the only person to follow the community decision without seeking his own comfort.
- He has a considerate and caring nature with genuine mindset in today’s society filled with full of selfish people.
- He does his best for his work and his community, but he is humble without seeking any reward.
- He lives within his means as he was not in debt at all.
- He gives his son and mother unconditional love. Mankun is a devoted son to his thoughtless mother as well as a good father to an ungrateful son. He is always willing to sacrifice himself to his family.

Section II — Reading and Responding

Part A (continued)

Question 4

Sample answer:

- The theme of this poem is the father's love or his son's longing for his father's love.
- In order to address the theme, the poet uses techniques to effectively portray it eg images. Especially, the father's love is symbolically described using the visual image of red 'Sansuyu'. The 'snow' is the medium connecting between the past and the present and it creates a high level of visual effect by contrasting with the redness of Sansuyu.
- In stanza 1–6, the father's love is symbolically described through the poet's experience in his childhood. The father, who comes back with some 'Sansuyu' in the extreme cold weather, was like the Saviour to his son / the subject and this becomes more emphasised in connection with the birth of the Saviour on Christmas Day. The unconditional love of the Saviour is equated with father's love one while Christmas Day. The touch of the snow on the subject's forehead one day at the age of 30 causes him to think of his childhood.
- Thus, it again reinforce the love of the father that is like the one from the Saviour to us on a white Christmas Day and the subject is longing for his father's love.

Section II — Reading and Responding

Part B

Question 5

Sample answer:

Positive aspects of the new assessment method are as follows:

Preparing the digital age students for the world: the new method focuses more on assessing students' conceptual understanding of what they are working on.

Enhanced competency in creating social networking, and searching information on websites.

Enhanced competency in identifying the appropriate information and check the reliability of the information for the purpose of responding to the given tasks.

Negative aspects of the new assessment method are as follows:

Challenges in supervising technology expert students in exams.

Challenges the copyright and plagiarism

Unfair: apparent possibilities of excluding those who cannot access the internet and other IT facilities.

Further issues include as follows:

Facilitating all the necessary equipment (eg internet access, the school intranet for all students) before conducting the new method of education and assessments.

School Online learning Training focusing on topics such as netiquette, online plagiarism and online learning strategies, etc.