

CCAFL Sample Examination 2025

Transcripts

Section 1 – Responding to texts

Question 1 – Listening in [Language] and responding in English

TEXT 1 (approx 1'30")

Josh: Seriously, Soph? In the age of high-tech translators and voice recognition, you're still interested in learning languages ... Why invest time in it when technology can do it all for us?

Sophie: Ha-ha, I totally get you, Josh. Translating apps can be a lifesaver until they lead to awkward misunderstandings. Remember telling that actor in Madrid to 'break a leg' with your app? Classic! Plus, using these apps without knowledge can sometimes make us sound culturally insensitive, too.

Josh: Huh, true. They totally miss my sense of humour.

Sophie: Trust me, learning a language has so many more benefits than just translating words! To begin with, getting into languages stimulates brain growth. Researchers suggest that. Don't you want to be smarter?

Josh: Okay, can't we just do brain teasers or something?

Sophie: Sure, but also think of language learning as a workout for your brain. It's all about flexing that creative muscle, almost like fitness for your brain! What's more, when you switch between languages, you're training your brain to handle multiple tasks easily.

Josh: You are making a compelling case, Soph. Being able to handle many tasks at once is such a powerful life skill. I'd love to be ready to take on any challenge!

Sophie: Absolutely, Josh! And the magic part! There's a famous saying: 'Those who know nothing of foreign languages know nothing of their own.' Learning other languages helps us understand our native language better. It's a win-win situation.

Question 2 – Listening and responding in [Language]

TEXT 2 (approx 1'30")

Welcome to the Sydney Harbour Bridge Museum! Our beautiful bridge is a key tourist attraction, not just in Sydney, but in all of Australia.

Did you know that a bridge across Sydney Harbour was first suggested in the 1800s? However, the bridge structures of that time were not suitable for the harbour because they required additional support pillars. In the early 1900s, innovative construction methods enabled the engineers to build steel arches starting on either side of the harbour. This allowed the steel arches to meet exactly in the middle without additional support. It is about 500 metres, making it one of the longest steel-arch bridges in the world.

You are so lucky because today is a perfect day for a climb! There is not a single cloud in the sky, so when you reach the summit, you have a 360-degree view of the harbour. We think there's no better place to enjoy the view of Sydney Harbour. But we are biased, of course!

I know you are all keen to climb the bridge, why wouldn't you be? Since October 1998, more than four million climbers from 140 different countries around the world have climbed Australia's most famous landmark. And today, you will be one of them!

After your climb, take the time to look around our museum, where you will learn more about the beautiful and famous bridge we are so proud of.

We hope you have a fabulous day learning about the history, marvelling at the view, and enjoying the experience!

Question 3 – Reading and listening in [Language], responding in English

Text 3B (approx 1'30")

Anya: Hi Billy, welcome to our university! My name is Anya, and I work here at the university as a volunteer helping new students settle into Melbourne. I have been paired with you because we are both Lao. How are you finding it all so far? What has your experience been like?

Billy: Hi Anya, thank you for helping me. I'm so excited to explore this new city, but I am feeling a little apprehensive because it is all so overwhelming. My English is not good enough to make new friends in Melbourne. I worry that I will not know what to do if something goes wrong – if I get sick and need to go to a hospital. I also feel I am missing out on the university student life experience. Some days, I think I should just go back to Laos.

Anya: I know what you mean. When I first arrived here, I also found the first few months lonely and boring. At first, I didn't know how to meet others my own age who shared my cultural background. Have you heard of the Live in Australia website? It has chat groups so that different ethnic communities can meet each other. They helped me to connect with other Lao speakers.

Billy: That does sound nice, but I don't think that will help me improve my English or ability to meet people from other cultural backgrounds.

Anya: Don't worry! It's just a starting point to help you feel more comfortable. Once you have made some new connections, I'm sure they will introduce you to other young people both inside and outside of the Lao community. Thanks to the chat group, I'm now a member of both a Lao dancing group and a netball team that is made up of people from various backgrounds. Perhaps you will find a group that will teach you English?

Billy: That sounds great, Anya; thank you so much! Could you please send me the link to the website? I hope it will help me to become a more active participant in Melbourne.