

Assessment Schedule – 2025

Korean: Demonstrate understanding of a variety of extended written and/ or visual Korean texts (91561)

Assessment Criteria

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<p><i>Demonstrating understanding</i> involves making meaning of relevant information and varied perspectives in the texts.</p> <p>Responses as a whole show an understanding of the general meaning (gist) of the texts.</p>	<p><i>Demonstrating clear understanding</i> involves selecting relevant information and varied perspectives from the texts and communicating them unambiguously.</p> <p>Responses as a whole show a clear understanding of the content of the texts. Information is selected and connected to provide responses supported by relevant detailed examples from the texts.</p>	<p><i>Demonstrating thorough understanding</i> involves expanding on relevant information and varied perspectives, and communicating meanings or conclusions implied within the texts.</p> <p>Responses as a whole show a comprehensive understanding of the content and underlying meaning of the texts, including nuance and meanings not obviously stated in the texts.</p>

Evidence

N1	N2	A3	A4	M5	M6	E7	E8
Shows very little understanding and does not communicate the general meaning of the text.	Shows little understanding and does not communicate the general meaning of the text.	Demonstrates some understanding and communicates some of the general meaning of the text.	Demonstrates understanding and communicates the general meaning of the text.	Demonstrates clear understanding and unambiguously communicates some of the meaning by selecting and using relevant supporting detail from the text.	Demonstrates clear understanding and unambiguously communicates most of the meaning by selecting and using relevant supporting detail from the text.	Demonstrates thorough understanding and communicates some of the implied meanings by providing supporting detail from the text to justify conclusions.	Demonstrates thorough understanding and communicates most of the implied meanings by providing supporting detail from the text to fully justify conclusions.

N0 = No response; no relevant evidence.

Cut Scores

Not Achieved	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
0–8	9–14	15–19	20–24

Sample Evidence

What follows is not a complete list of all acceptable responses, nor is it an indication of the exact wording required.

Assessment judgments are based on the level of understanding shown, rather than knowledge of individual lexical items.

Quoting or direct translation alone are not sufficient evidence that the candidate understands the meaning of the text **clearly** or **thoroughly**.

The overall grade for a question must be judged after considering how much of the text as a whole has been understood, and to what depth. Refer to the Evidence statements above.

Question ONE	Sample evidence	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
(a)	<p><i>How does Moana feel about learning the Korean language, and why?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moana finds learning Korean challenging, due to its inconsistent rules. Slang expressions like ‘노잼’ (boring) and ‘꿀잼’ (very fun) confuse her, as does the mix of English-Korean words and Korean-Korean words. She compares this struggle to learning English, that even New Zealand students find difficult, especially when it comes to reading and writing. However, she is finding English easier than Korean. She mentions that she improved her English by reading books, but she worries that many students today dislike reading due to distractions like the internet and smartphones. Moana is also surprised to hear from Myung Soo that even native Korean speakers sometimes struggle with reading and writing. She learns that some Korean parents were unable to understand school emails, which led to communication issues. This makes her more aware of how language proficiency can be a challenge for both learners and native speakers, especially in an era where digital media is replacing traditional reading and writing practices. Also, modern technology may be making language learning harder, as fewer people engage with written texts. 	<p>Describes how Moana feels about learning Korean. Basic facts given.</p>	<p>Explains how Moana feels about learning Korean.</p>	
(b)	<p><i>Based on their chat, explain the best way to learn.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure to everyday speech is one of the most effective ways of learning a language. Moana picked up new Korean words simply by making conversation with others in Korean. Moana strongly believes that reading books provides a solid foundation for language learning, as it helped her improve her English skills. She suggests that reading is beneficial for both students and adults, despite the growing preference for watching videos instead of engaging with written texts. She worries that fewer people are reading due to the internet / smartphones. 	<p>Identifies some facts about learning a language.</p>	<p>Explains the best way to learn a language.</p>	<p>Provides a comprehensive answer about the best ways to learn a language, accurately reflecting the text and may infer meaning.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While Myung Soo prefers watching videos to learn, as the content can be watched quickly and a lot can be learnt within the short time frame, Moana argues that too much reliance on digital content may reduce opportunities for social interaction. She supports New Zealand’s decision to ban phone use in schools, as she believes it encourages students to talk and play together instead of passively consuming content. This discussion suggests that the best way to learn a language is through a balanced approach – combining immersive conversation, reading, and visual media, while ensuring that technology does not replace meaningful human interaction. 			
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Question TWO	Sample evidence	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
(a)	<p><i>What do Moana and Sung-Ho admire about each other’s cultures?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moana admires the successful influence of Korean culture nowadays, particularly through K-pop, dramas, and films, and how people now enjoy discussing Korean culture with one another. • Moana is also impressed by the positive impact of Korean fan culture, particularly how K-pop fans, known as ‘fandoms’, not only support idols, but also participate in charitable activities, such as donations to those in need. This demonstrates the potential for Korean culture to influence people in a meaningful and socially responsible way. Also, online content is bringing unity around the world to those with the same interests. • Sung-Ho admires the Māori haka, which he first encountered on the internet. He was particularly moved by the haka performances at significant events, such as a school principal’s retirement and a New Zealand wedding. • Sung-Ho appreciates the deep connection to people and traditions that the haka represents, especially the way it brings people together to show respect and emotion. He believes that the haka, as a crucial part of Māori culture, holds a powerful role in strengthening relationships, and should be more widely known around the world. 	Identifies some aspects from each culture.	Identifies aspects of each other’s culture and both admire. Gives a clear explanation given.	Identifies aspects of respective cultures that they admire. Gives a comprehensive answer and can infer meaning.
(b)	<p><i>How do Moana and Sung-Ho hope Māori cultural activities, such as the haka, will influence the world?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moana hopes that Māori cultural content, such as haka, will inspire people worldwide in a similar way to how Korean culture has gained popularity. People, like those in New Zealand, learn to enjoy and appreciate Māori culture and language, just as many have come to love Korean culture. She believes that the joy and entertainment found in New Zealand’s Māori cultural expressions can encourage more global interest in learning about the country’s traditions. 	Identifies a couple of ideas about how cultural activities will influence the world.	Identifies ideas in support of how cultural activities will influence the world.	Gives a comprehensive answer given about how cultural activities will influence the world.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sung-Ho hopes that the haka, along with other Māori cultural practices, will become more recognised globally. He emphasises the importance of the haka in fostering connections between people, whether through its display of respect or its role in various ceremonial events. He believes that as more people experience the haka, they will gain a deeper understanding of the values of unity, respect, and emotional expression, which could foster greater appreciation for Māori culture. Both Moana and Sung-Ho recognise the potential for cultural practices to bridge gaps between different societies and inspire a more connected, respectful world. 			
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Question THREE	Sample evidence	Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
(a)	<p><i>What is Hwacheon town doing to promote itself? How effective do you think it will be?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town promotion emphasises that, despite the fact they are in a rural area, which is different to Seoul, they are actually one of the top cities with a growing baby population. Families with babies can receive financial assistance, which is a critical consideration for many people who are hesitant to have children due to the high cost of living and child-raising expenses. The promotion stated this is a global issue – a decreasing birth rate and an ageing society. By stating that this is the problem, they show how they would like to tackle the issue by hearing other’s opinions. • The town understands the specific problems faced by people who are hesitant about having children. Feedback included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I only have to think about myself - it is hard to get a good occupation despite graduating from famous universities - there is insufficient income - it costs a lot to raise a child and get married - the distance to medical facilities can be far when a child is ill - working parents lack sufficient time to spend with their children - it can be hard taking children to restaurants, as people may presume the baby will be unsettled and noisy. 	Identifies some aspects of the Hwacheon town’s approach.	Identifies the aspects of the Hwacheon town’s approach and their effectiveness.	Identifies all the aspects of the Hwacheon town’s approach and fully explains why it is effective or not.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hwacheon town recognises these issues and addresses them by offering some concrete solutions. Despite the promotion, they did not fully solve the problems, e.g. improving awareness in restaurants. The promotion demonstrated the town's commitment to ensuring families do not have to face these issues alone, and that practical infrastructure is in place to support them.• The town promotes its growth as a place where the government actively listens to citizens and provides for their needs in a forward-thinking manner. The promotion highlights how Hwacheon town's initiatives aim to foster long-term development, ensuring that future generations have access to a supportive environment. The town's commitment offers a sense of security and stability for families, positioning the town as a place where both citizens and the future of the community are valued. | | | |
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