

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/41

Paper 4 Language Topics

May/June 2015

2 hours 15 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **two** questions.

You should spend about 15 minutes reading the passages and questions before you start writing your answers.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.



This document consists of **7** printed pages, **1** blank page and **1** insert.

1 Spoken language and social groups

The following text is a transcription of part of a conversation involving three women in their mid-twenties talking about their careers. Eve is uncertain about her future: she is near the end of training to become a nurse, but she is also thinking about taking up a career involving horses.

Discuss how the three speakers use language here to explore Eve's situation. You should refer to specific details from the transcription, relating your observations to ideas and examples from your wider study.

- Eve:** theres something (.) something ive got to do (1) i need a bit of a push to do it
- Ajita:** but theres something that you want to achieve (.) theres something youve got to do
- Denise:** got to knit a jumper [*laughs*]
//
- Eve:** got to get on and do it
- Denise:** [*laughs*] 5
//
- Ajita:** well (1) youve got to qualify (.) youve got to pass these exams
- Eve:** that is EXACTLY (.) what its NOT [*laughs*]
- Ajita:** yeah
- Denise:** its your RIDING
- Eve:** well (.) thats what everybody says (.) yeah 10
- Denise:** or its having a baby
//
- Eve:** well i dont think it IS
- Denise:** [*laughs*]
- Ajita:** its probably getting married
- Denise:** [*laughs*] its getting married (.) yes 15
- Eve:** i dont think it is
- Ajita:** well (.) whats your main ambition
//
- Eve:** i think
//
- Ajita:** your MAIN ambition in life

- Eve:** i think its (.) its to do my riding exams (1) but i cant (.) as i said (.) because laura (.) 20
you know (.) the girl whose horse i ride up at (.) the stables (.) you know (.) i
was telling her and (.) she said (.) why would (.) why are you getting in such a
state about
//
- Ajita:** about a riding exam
//
- Eve:** about doing a riding exam (1) she said (.) eve (.) she said 25
(.) which would (.) what would happen if you got your riding exam
//
- Ajita:** yeah
- Eve:** i said (.) well (.) when i qualify nursing (1) i said well i'll probably choose
//
- Denise:** yeah
- Eve:** i'll probably choose riding 30
- Denise:** i wouldnt know what to
//
- Eve:** she said well really (.) what if (.) for some reason (.) you ought
not to be a nurse (.) i mean (.) you know how the (.) if you believe in fate (.) and
is is there any control over it or
//
- Ajita:** yeah 35
- Eve:** or is it all planned out for you and
- Ajita:** mm
- Eve:** and this kind of thing (.) is is someone trying to steer your (.) your career or your (.)
the rest of your life
//
- Denise:** away from 40
//
- Eve:** the rest of your life
//
- Denise:** away from something
- Eve:** which it would be (.) away from something (.) so (.) i dont know (.) i mean (.) im
very open minded

TRANSCRIPTION KEY

(.) = micro-pause

(1) = pause in seconds

// = speech overlap

[italics] = paralinguistic feature

UPPER CASE = words spoken with increased volume

2 English as a global language

The passage on page 5 is from a web-site devoted to discussion of the scientific and historical study of human language.

Discuss what you feel are important issues raised here relating to the use of English as a global language. You should refer to ideas and examples from your wider study as well as to specific details from the passage.

English – the Universal Language on the Internet?

Generally speaking, English is the universal language on the Internet, but it has no official status, and it will never have. The reasons for the position of English are the imperialism and economical and political importance of English-speaking countries. Linguistically, English is extremely unsuitable for international communication, and the actual wide use of English tends to polarize the world into Internet users and Internet illiterates.

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The position of English can only be altered by major world-scale political and economical changes, such as increasing importance of the European Union or a coalition between Japan and China. Such powers might wish and be able to promote a language other than English, possibly a constructed language, for international communication.

Alternatively, or in addition to this, the technology of machine translation may allow people to use their own language in international communication.

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The impulse to writing this article was a discussion in a newsgroup. The original question was “whether or not English should be made the universal language of the internet”.

The current situation

In general, the universal language on the Internet is English, or more exactly a vague collection of languages called “English” because their common origin is the national language spoken in England by the English. That national language has spread over the world, and several variants such as American (US) English, Australian English, etc. exist.

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A great number of people – whose native language is not one of these variants – know English as a foreign language. They typically use a more or less simplified variant, e.g. excluding most of the idioms of British, American, Australian English, etc. Of course, they make mistakes, and sometimes the “English” used by people as a foreign language on the Internet is almost incomprehensible to anyone else. In addition, some people who use English as their native language do not know how to spell difficult words, since they basically know English as a spoken language.

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Thus, roughly speaking, the universal language of the Internet is clumsy, coarse and mis-spelled “English”.

There are exceptions, most importantly national newsgroups in countries where English is not the native language of the majority. Even in such groups English is used, for instance when people from other countries wish to participate.

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3 Language acquisition by children and teenagers

The following is a transcription of conversation between a girl (Claire) of age 1 year 8 months and her mother, in the kitchen of their home.

Discuss ways in which Claire and her mother are using language here. You should refer to specific details from the transcription, relating your observations to ideas from your studies of language acquisition.

- Mother:** will you please sit on your stool (.) youre in my way (.) please sit on your stool
- Claire:** on stool mommy way
- Mother:** youre in my way (.) yes (.) put your foot on your own stool
- Claire:** own stool
- Mother:** thats right (.) this is my stool and that belongs to you 5
- Claire:** mommy (2) help
- Mother:** help(?) (.) what do you want(?)
- Claire:** mommy help
- Mother:** help you with your water(?)
- (Claire tries to get down from her stool) 10
- Claire:** claire help (2) claire help
- Mother:** you can get down by yourself (3) big girl (.) yes you did it all by yourself
- Claire:** again
- Mother:** again (?) (.) alright
- (Claire climbs back on her stool and then gets down from it again) 15
- Claire:** big self
- Mother:** by yourself
- (Mother rests her foot on the side of Claire's stool)
- Claire:** mommy sit CLAIRE stool
- Mother:** what(?) 20
- Claire:** mommy sit claire stool
- Mother:** im sitting on your stool (.) im on your stool
- Claire:** my claire stool

Mother: oh my FOOT(?) (1) you want me to move my foot (?)

Claire: yep

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TRANSCRIPTION KEY

(.) = micro-pause

(1) = pause in seconds

UPPER CASE = increased volume

underlined = stressed syllable

(?) = questioning intonation

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