

Wednesday 25 January 2012 – Afternoon

A2 GCE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

F653/RB Culture, Language and Identity

READING BOOKLET

Duration: 2 hours
(+15 minutes reading time)



- **The first fifteen minutes are for reading the passages in this Reading Booklet.**
- During this time you may make any annotations you choose on the passages themselves.
- The questions for this examination are given in a separate booklet.
- **You must not open the Question Paper, or write anything in your Answer Booklet, until instructed to do so.**
- The Invigilator will tell you when the fifteen minutes begin and end.
- You will then be allowed to open the Question Paper.
- You will be required to answer **the question from Section A** and **one other question** from Section B **or** Section C **or** Section D.
- You will have **two hours** to work on the tasks.
- This document consists of **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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The material in this Reading Booklet relates to the questions in the Question Paper.

You will be required to answer **the question from Section A** and **one other question** from Section B **or** Section C **or** Section D.

CONTENTS	Pages
Section A – Language and Speech Passages a, b, c and d	3
Section B – The Language of Popular Written Texts Passages e, f and g	4–6
Section C – Language and Cultural Production Passages h, i and j	7–9
Section D – Language, Power and Identity Passages k, l and m	10–12

Answer **the question from Section A** and **one other question** from Section B or Section C or Section D.

Section A – Language and Speech

Compulsory Section

- 1 Passages (a), (b) and (c) are about variation of accent. Passage (d) is an example of such variation, written in orthographic script.

Passage (a) is from an editorial response in *The Times* newspaper to a government proposal to improve children’s spoken language skills. (2009)

Wotcher, Miss! We is no tort proper. You dunnit. No wotimean? Chiz. The government review published on Thursday proposes to teach underprivileged children language skills. It sees the inability to speak clearly as a permanent handicap. The project is not to train all children to speak with cut-glass pronunciation (RP) considered to be elite and posh by some; by others as the clearest and best way of speaking. The review recognises that children speak in different registers for different contexts. In pronunciation a thousand accents may boom, including Belfast Speak, in which a lake means a hole in a kettle. 5

Passage (b) is from the feedback page of the *Radio Times*, a BBC publication. (2010)

Regional accents are much to blame for the low standards which occur also in written English. If you are mispronouncing a word, how can you spell it correctly? And if you regularly mangle your grammar in speech, you will make the same mistake in writing. It is time for people to lose the chip on their shoulder about correct spoken English and expecting to stop society to come down to their level. Although we have one of the most expressive languages in the world, most British people cannot master speaking it. 5

Passage (c) is from an article by a critic discussing a proposal by the BBC to introduce more regional accents on the radio networks. (2010)

We had a big Asian audience living in Bolton and Blackburn. They wanted to hear neutral English speech, the English of the Raj¹. They did not want authentic regional sounds. I was once helping some Russians with spoken English. I used Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* as an introduction, pronounced it in modified RP. They approved. I then did it in pure Scouse and authentic Dudley². In astonishment they thought I was speaking Serbo-Croat. As an international language English must be spoken in a clear recognisable tongue. 5

¹*Raj*: a reference to the English rule of India which ended in 1947

²*Dudley*: a town close to Birmingham

Passage (d) is an example of a Black Country¹ accent in which a local resident responded to an academic survey being undertaken on the sounds of local dialect speech. (2010)

‘Arve bin exiled frum th’Black Country f’ ’moast o ’me loife now. But yaow neva lose the dialeck an Ar wouldn’wana. It’s grate to ’ear it when Ar cum wum. On a reacent visit Ar went ter visit me uncle ooz real broad ’n when you rioght it down yao cor ’ear the proper sing-sung towan o’ the dialeck which sets it apart frum the Brummagem² wun’.

¹*Black Country*: a region of England close to Birmingham

²*Brummagem*: regional accent of Birmingham

Answer **one** question from Section B or Section C or Section D.

EITHER

Section B – The Language of Popular Written Texts

2 Passages (e), (f) and (g) are about crime and detection.

Passage (e) is from a series of magazine articles written in 2010 entitled *Cases We Can't Forget*. In the passage an investigator recalls a memorable case.

THE CASES WE CAN'T FORGET

VANESSA, INVESTIGATOR
CHRISTMAS DRUGS STING

A few years ago, lead investigator Vanessa (not her real name) worked on a major drugs case which led to the seizure of 30kg of heroin and the arrest of four members of an organised gang. They received sentences totalling 49 years. The timing of the case meant Christmas was ruined for everyone involved.

Just before Christmas we were working on an operation involving an organised gang and had intelligence to say a lorry was coming into Dover carrying drugs. We sat for three days and waited and waited. It was freezing and also pretty fraught because this particular Christmas was my first married one, and my in-laws were coming to stay. I had to make sure the house was at a certain standard, the washing done, that there was food, so I had to relay the whole list to my husband – the shopping, changing the beds and all the things we would have done together. He had to do them on his own, plus his own job.

When the lorry finally came in we followed it to an industrial site in east London. People think it's easy to follow a vehicle, but it takes a team and a lot of thought. I defy anyone to just follow a car. Then, because lorry drivers can only legally drive a certain time before they have to stop, he bedded down for the night at 11pm, so we had to as well. It was hard to sleep.

Finally the word was given to arrest, we jumped out and each arrested whoever was nearest. It's interesting to watch the suspects' faces. They're unloading drugs, then all of a sudden you can see that they know their liberty's going



**“If my husband knew where I was going at 2am, he probably wouldn't sleep”:
from gathering surveillance to making arrests, Vanessa rarely works office hours**

– it crosses their faces. Some are so shocked that they've been caught that they freeze – they're easy to arrest. Others are more quick-witted and that's when it can turn ugly. It can be good being female in that situation. If someone resisting arrest has a code that they don't hit women, you can get them under control.

This was the afternoon of 24 December and my husband kept calling: “You will be coming for Christmas, won't you?” I told him not to worry, but that wasn't what I was thinking, because once the arrests are done the work doesn't stop – searching, interviews, taking exhibits to labs. On this occasion I was assigned to searches at the home and business addresses of the people who'd been arrested. We had to knock at one home at 2am. The suspect's wife came down and wanted to know who we were. We explained what had happened

and asked to search the house. She got so upset that the kids woke up. Then she called her mum and she came over and got upset. It was really emotional – importing drugs carries a big sentence and you don't know if the wives are aware of the situation. Because it was Christmas there were presents under the tree and we had to unwrap them all to make sure they weren't stashes of money or heroin. The kids were so confused, asking where Daddy was, where Father Christmas was,

“We had to unwrap the kids' presents to make sure they weren't stashes of money or heroin”

as we unwrapped their presents. It was difficult to leave them after we finished the search.

Passage (f) is from a novel written in 1985. In this extract we meet a detective sergeant who deals with unglamorous low level crimes.

I work on the second floor of the Factory when I'm in. Everything has to have an official name in the police, and my room is Room 205. The listed name of the Factory is Poland Street Police Station, London W1, but it'll never shake off the name of the Factory. The name sticks to the men and women who work there, also to the people who get worked over there, downstairs. I don't go in to the Factory much. If you're with A14 you work your cases on your own. We're too undermanned to do otherwise, and we work only on cases where the victims have been written off upstairs as unimportant, not press-worthy, not well connected and not big crime. I don't do much interviewing in 205. I do all that in my own way, catching the man I want to see on his manor – as often as not at his own place; if not, it might be in his local boozier or else through a grass. Most of the work we get is passed to us from Serious Crimes at the Yard, and the man I generally find myself dealing with there is Charlie Bowman, a cheeky chief inspector of thirty-three with not much on top of his head nor a lot inside it in my opinion, apart from ruthlessness, ambition and drive. To me, Bowman's the other kind of copper, and he's only just got back to work again after a rest.

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Passage (g) is from an online review of a crime series broadcast on television in 2010.

'WHITECHAPEL' 2.1

Tuesday, October 12, 2010



Welcome

I'm Dan Owen (a freelance writer, film buff, and TV "obsessive" from England) and this is my personal blog **DAN'S MEDIA DIGEST** (DMD). A corner of the internet where I've been reviewing TV/film and writing about UK/US media I enjoy since 2006.

Feel free to get in touch about writing-related opportunities. I also write for **Obsessed With Film**.



Whitechapel had a compelling if unoriginal premise that captured the imagination of ITV audiences in 2009; a modern-day Jack The Ripper copycat stalking the same London streets, killing women in the same manner as his 19th-century hero. A mismatched detective duo were tasked with capturing the felon: fastidious, upper-class DI Chandler (Rupert Penry-Jones) and shambolic, working class DS Miles (Phil Davis), who clashed over how the investigation was done, but came to admire and respect each other. Whitechapel was very predictable fare, but the concept was so juicy and fun that you could overlook its many faults. A sequel didn't feel likely, necessary, or even possible ... but here it is, and it left me unimpressed.

Chandler's now part of the Whitechapel constabulary, but his team are lower down the pecking order because they didn't actually catch The Ripper. The new golden boy is DCI Casenove (Peter Serafinowicz), whose Organized Crime Division (OCD!) have reduced street crime to an insignificant level, which in turn means there are less "whodunit?" murders for Chandler's team to investigate. That is until a dead body is found floating in the Thames with injuries that remind Miles of The Krays; twin brothers from the 1960s who became notorious as Britain's first gangsters, unafraid to get their hands dirty to spread fear and intimidation amongst communities that made it difficult for the police to build a case against them. Is someone copying The Krays' style to build a modern equivalent of their crime empire?

My problem with Whitechapel's second series premier is simple: it feels ridiculous to me that anybody would copycat The Krays. You can understand why a psycho would want to mimic Jack The Ripper, who's become a legendary boogiemán, but why would anyone want to copy The Krays?

Answer **one** question from Section B **or** Section C **or** Section D.

OR

Section C – Language and Cultural Production

3 Passages (h), (i) and (j) are about the growing power of the internet.

Passage (h) was published in a broadsheet newspaper in 2009. It is reflecting upon the power of words in the 21st century and the growing influence of digital technology upon language.

Today, because of the internet and media, words can become current overnight, and perish almost as fast

5 Today, the digital revolution has prompted a tsunami of new words (the word “tsunami” had an extraordinary expansion after the Indian Ocean earthquake in 2004).

10 Google was added to the *Oxford English Dictionary* in 2006, and is probably the most powerful word in terms of its grip on the culture. But “Twitter” and “tweet” are giving Google a run for its money. Twitter, like
15 Obama, has become a fully fledged word-stem, spawning numerous offshoots: “Twitterati”, “Twitterature”, “tweetaholic”.

This year the *Oxford American Dictionary* selected “unfriend”, meaning to remove
20 someone as a “friend” on a social networking site such as Facebook, as its 2009 word of the year, demonstrating how far new technology has penetrated the language. “Unfriend” is the opposite of the ancient term “befriend”. “It has
25 both currency and potential longevity,” says Christine Lindberg, senior lexicographer at the *New Oxford American Dictionary*. “It assumes a verb sense of ‘friend’ that is really not used, at least not since maybe the 17th century.”

30 Some of the terms emerging from digital technology would not be regarded by purists

as real words: the shards of txtspk (“gr8 2 c u”, etc), the simplified message of the shorthand smiley-face (:), but these are nonetheless neowords, simultaneously indicative of the breadth and ease of digital communication and the pressure of time. 35

Television and Hollywood still have the power to generate words: “celebutard”, for example, blending the three words celebrity, debutant and retard, seems to have been born directly from reality shows such as *I’m a Celebrity* ... “Brokeback” has become a term for gay after the film *Brokeback Mountain*; similarly “slumdog”, for a poor urbanite, from *Slumdog Millionaire*. 40 45

The last time the language produced such a plethora of new terms was in the 1980s, another era of social ferment, which gave us yuppies, dinkies and Sloanes. The new coinages also reflect intense social awareness. The term “chav”, for example, derived from a Romany word meaning child (*chavi*), began its life as gentle mockery of Burberry-clad teenagers but has evolved into an intensely pejorative, catch-all term for the underclass. “ASBO”, initially an acronym for antisocial behaviour order, has become a general term of abuse signifying delinquency, ignorance and bad taste. Jeremy Clarkson of *Top Gear* refers to the Ford Focus ST as the “Ford ASBO”; Vicky Pollard in *Little Britain* uses the term “asbotastic”; “Asbo juice” is slang for cheap alcohol, as drunk by violent teenagers. 50 55 60

Passage (i) appeared in a cultural review section of a broadsheet newspaper published in 2010. It is part of a review of a recently published book about the power of the internet.

It's the internet, stupid

The web is a 'distraction machine' that profoundly alters our minds, argues a paid-up tech-head in this persuasive analysis

SAM LEITH

THE SHALLOWS: How the Internet is Changing the Way We Think, Read and Remember

by NICHOLAS CARR

Atlantic £17.99 pp278

A little under a minute ago, I sat down at my computer to write this review. First, I checked my email. Then I logged into Facebook to see if it was my move in one of my Scrabble games. While I waited for Scrabble to load, I opened Twitter, and then Word to begin work on this piece. While that loaded, I clicked back.

It's now 16 minutes later. I've just spent five minutes looking at vintage Tokyo subway posters, scored a nice bingo with INTONERS and answered four emails.

It's now 26 minutes later. Between "posters" and "scored" I made a cup of coffee.

This review, in other words, will take me hours to write. What's wrong with me? The answer, this boldly reactionary book seems to suggest, is that the internet is making me stupid. It's not simply that my short attention span means I am easily distracted by the internet: it's that the internet is making my attention span shorter.

The thesis of *The Shallows* is simple and persuasive. Brain scientists have known for decades about the phenomenon of neuroplasticity: in simple terms, that the things we do have a physical effect on the structure of our brains.

A survey in 2008 found that adults aged between 18 and 55 spent an average of 30% of their leisure time online (young adults gave only 49 minutes a week to print). Given what we know of neuroplasticity, then, it follows that this will change our brains quite profoundly. And the evidence marshalled here seems to confirm this.

Nicholas Carr, a paid-up tech-lover, is aware of the advantages the internet offers. But he thinks we are ignoring – at our peril – the things we lose in the trade-off.

His is not the old complaint about the internet being "dumbed down" – that is, full of lies, porn, madmen and lolcats. His argument is about the form, not the content, of the online experience. "One thing is very clear," he writes. "If, knowing what we know today about the brain's plasticity, you were to set out to invent a medium that would rewire our mental circuits as quickly and thoroughly as possible, you would probably end up designing something that looks and works a lot like the internet."

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Passage (j) is an extract from a blog published in 2010.

Angry Blackbird

24 September 2010 07:45:42

Does that mean I can't send flirtatious messages to the pope anymore? Oh, come on, get real – most so-called 'victims' of 'stalkers' are schitzzy no-lifers who are so desperate for attention that they invent imaginary 'admirers' – I mean, 'who'd want to stalk him/her anyway, I spend most of my time trying to avoid them' –

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Reply Report Abuse

doormat

24 September 2010 07:08:47

Facebook and other social networking sites have security settings to prevent unwanted people contacting you and even viewing your profile. I appreciate that being stalked is a huge step from receiving unwanted messages but the simple way to deal with it would be to block the people you don't want seeing your profile. I did that with someone who wouldn't stop messaging me. Agreed it was just a case that she wanted something I didn't but it stopped her even seeing me on there. I have to teach this basic e-safety message to KS3 pupils and it is quite clear that older users could do with a catch up too! The Government or CPS should instruct Social networkers who are worried or unsure to visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk, that would give them info to protect themselves online.

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Reply Report Abuse

cinom9B

24 September 2010 01:38:00

about time!! i had someone "look me up" after a longtime (theres yer clue, if they were a friend it wouldnt have been a 'longtime look me up' situation!) this person did a bad thing to me which i wont go into but lets say i couldve had him arrested and it had the nerve to send me a message on facebook and myspace sayin "longtime no see!" and then went into a surreal catch up biography of what id missed over the last 14 yrs!!! psycho...so yes its about time restrictions on loonies and stalkers were adhered to within cyberspace too...as a result of this situation of mine i no longer have either myspace or facebook and do not intend to open a bebo or twitter account!

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Reply Report Abuse

1-4 of 4

To add a comment, please sign-in

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Answer **one** question from Section B or Section C or Section D.

OR

Section D – Language, Power and Identity

4 Passages (k), (l), and (m) are about different aspects of celebrity culture.

Passage (k) appeared in a style magazine in 2010. The celebrity’s fame arose from her connection with a popular television programme and her fashionable Newcastle accent.



So, Cheryl Cole has come right out and said it – she’s a girl’s girl. “I relate to girls a lot more than I do boys,” she told Radio 1 DJ Sara Cox. “I’m not one of those sort of girls.”

By which Cheryl means, she’s not the sort who’s shoving

in an extra pair of fillets to give her boobs a boost, she’s not winking across the table as she tells a dirty joke, and she has never contemplated flirting with a mate’s boyfriend, not even for a second. And when it comes to a night out, she’ll take a bottle of Blossom Hill and a debate on Sarah Jessica Parker’s ability to rock a prom dress ahead of two pints of lager and a packet of crisps, any day.

But I think we knew this already – because for all her sweetness, dimpled prettiness and high-voltage screen appeal, you would never find Cheryl in one of those Top 10 Sexy Women lists. She’s no Marilyn, no Kelly, no Angelina. Boys can’t imagine themselves in the sack with her – they might break one of her nails or rip out a hair extension. And as for what she wears – well, it’s fashion not clothes, and boys just don’t get that. David Koma, Versus, Valentino, Daniel Vosovic – all that is lost on boys, who, quite frankly, think she sometimes dresses like an alien. Whereas girls are going, “Yes, she’s updating that YSL jumpsuit brilliantly, but maybe the Miu Miu heels are ruining the length a bit?” and mentally re-dressing her like she’s a real-life Barbie doll.

For boys, it’s too much make-up (“She doesn’t need it. Imagine it all over your chin”); whereas girls are forensically analysing her primer/illuminator/powder ratio. On the hair, we love the way she keeps us guessing, but boys are, “Red? You’ve got to be kidding! And what’s with the plait?” Whereas we girls are going, “That fishtail plait maybe doesn’t work so well with the bouffant top, Cheryl. Though liking the Alexander Wang catwalk reference.” Cheryl speaks our language – the language of fashion, beauty and grooming – which is nothing other than subtle code for the inner workings of our own self-esteem.

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Passage (I) appeared in a magazine published in 2010, dedicated to exploring the life styles of current celebrities. The article is about a singer, who is said to be facing both professional and personal problems.

Stressed-out Charlotte Church turns to food and fags as her album fails to reach No1

- 5 **C**harlotte Church has been left panicking over her music career, as her new album failed to top the charts.
- 10 Worried pals claim the singer, who released *Back To Scratch* last week, is comfort eating and chain smoking in an attempt to deal with the stress.
- 15 'Charlotte's been freaking out about the album,' says a source close to the 24-year-old.
- 20 'She's really upset that it didn't even make the top 10. Her songs are not being played on the radio and she's very concerned. As a result she's eating more junk food and smoking loads of cigarettes.'
- 25 This news comes as Charlotte was snapped looking washed out and bedraggled last Tuesday.
- 30 Wearing baggy, unflattering trousers and a scruffy shirt, the strain was clearly showing.
- 35 'That was the day Charlotte found out that she had only made number 19 in the charts,' says our insider. 'She was fuming about it. She had expected to do much better and can't understand what's going wrong.'
- 40 'On top of that she's been so busy running around for work and with her kids that the last thing she cares about right now is dieting.'
- 45 'She knows she's put a bit of weight on, but she's still quite small so it doesn't bother her.'
- 50 Before releasing her album, Charlotte was determined to kick her smoking habit because she had noticed the effect it was having on her voice. However, she's since stopped trying, telling pals cigarettes are helping her cope with the pressure.
- 55 'Charlotte really wanted to become healthier and quit smoking, but those plans have gone out of the window now,' says the source.
- 60 'She's so stressed that she's smoking even more than usual. But it's not good for her and she knows it could ruin her voice. She really does want to quit – but just not right now.'
- 65 The mum-of-two – who recently split with *Strictly* hunk Gavin Henson – admitted she's invested her own money in the album after falling out with her old record label, Sony.
- 70 She said: 'This is definitely the thing I'm most proud of in my career. I think I've found my niche. I would love my album to be No1 because it's all my own money I've put into it, which is slightly scary, but that's what you have to do in order to make the music you want.'
- 75 'I would love it to be successful but I'm so proud of what I've made, so at least I'll always have my integrity.'
- 80 The insider revealed that in order to fund her career, Charlotte even sold the yacht she bought for ex-fiancé Gavin when they were still together.
- 85 'Charlotte's put loads of money into this album,' says the source. 'Everything from the production to the marketing has all been paid for by her.'

Passage (m) is from a feature article in a Sunday broadsheet newspaper published in 2010. The article is about a middle-aged-man, who appears surprised at his celebrity status.

The nerdy one from Top Gear thinks the modern man is a useless, ham-fisted idiot – and his co-presenters are partly to blame

James May once let slip that he owns a Beretta shotgun and fantasises about shooting the dashboards of some of the cars he drives on Top Gear. Pretty shocking stuff from the reticent television co-presenter known as Captain Slow. Suddenly this gentle soul is spitting lead in all directions. 5

May’s target last week was the “useless” new generation of men – “morons” whose loss of practical skills will forfeit their usefulness to women, except as sperm donors. “They can’t put up a shelf, wire a plug, countersink a screw, iron a shirt,” he told Radio Times. It stirred quite a debate. 10 15

The 47-year-old motoring anorak was only starting to let his hair down. In fact, the length of May’s greying mane – the despair of many viewers – is a legacy of his Lord Byron phase as a 16-year-old. (“I can’t change it now in case we have to re-shoot. It would mess up the continuity.”) Surprisingly, May switched his aim to Top Gear, which he blamed for encouraging a laddish culture of incompetence. The popular series was no longer about cars, he lamented, but was focused on the trio of presenters – May, Jeremy Clarkson and Richard (the Hamster) Hammond – getting themselves into a pickle. 20 25

It looked like a case of May shooting himself in the foot. It is precisely Top Gear’s quirky format of “three blokes mucking about” that has won the show an estimated 350m viewers worldwide and transformed May from an obscure writer on technical magazines into a star with his own following of lookalikes. 30

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