

General Certificate of Education
June 2004
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SPECIFICATION A)
Unit 1 Discovering Language**

ENA1

Tuesday 25 May 2004 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is ENA1.
- There are **two** Sections:
 Section A: Language Analysis
 Section B: Language Issues
- You must answer the **compulsory** question in Section A and choose **one** question from Section B.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 70.
- Mark allocations are shown in brackets.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

Advice

- It is recommended that you spend 10 minutes on the reading and preparation of the data to be analysed in answering Section A.

SECTION A – Language Analysis

Answer Question 1.

1 Read carefully **Text A**, which you will find on page 3. **Text A** is an article written by Vanessa Feltz for the *Daily Express* about the Miss World competition.

- Comment linguistically on the significant features of the article.
- Explain how these language features contribute to the text's meanings.

In your answer you should consider:

vocabulary and meanings
grammatical features and their effects
how the language conveys ideas and opinions
how the language is designed to shape the reader's response.

(45 marks)

Text A

Miss World dinosaur should be put to sleep

5 **E**IGHTY Miss World contestants fleeing riot-riven Nigeria descend on Britain. What could be more cheering, you ask, than a bevy of firm-breasted beauties flying in to provide an oasis of much-needed diversion as we hunker down for the umpteenth winter of our discontent.

10 I'm also tempted to agree with you. Political correctness is such a bore. Is there truly anything contemptible about 80 finely honed vital statistics wending their bikini-clad path up the catwalk and gurgling about animal welfare and world peace?

15 I'm tempted to say what the heck! Let cleavage commence. I'm tempted to trot out the old canard about these being adult women and it being their God-given right to wiggle and giggle for personal and financial advancement if they so choose. I'm tempted but, as the mother of two daughters aged 13 and 16, I can't quite manage to laugh off this flesh-based cattle market as innocuous. It isn't.

20 The idea that there is only one kind of desirable woman – the kind who can squeeze the largest acreage of chest into the smallest bikini without tripping on her stilettos – is pernicious and destructive. It sends out an overwhelmingly resounding message to our kids. Personality, hard work, talent, tenacity, compassion and simply being part of the human race are not nearly enough. If your gene pool equips you with short, dumpy legs, a pigeon chest, protruding stomach or a pendulous derriere, forget it. You're already behind in the race and you haven't even started yet.

40 You try suggesting that for every 20 men who gravitate, panting, towards Barbie Doll, Miss World contestant-style women, there will be one or two who would genuinely prefer to swap a perfect curve or

45 two for freckles, cellulite and some decent conversation.

You try feeding your children a balanced meal when they see exaggerated slimness promoted as the only permissible shape. 50 You try instilling in them the notion that external appearance is only one ingredient of the many needed to create a whole, loving worthwhile person. There's little point even attempting to extol the virtues of, for example, diligence or persistence when all about them are shaking their booty, strutting their stuff and galloping home with shed-loads of prize money.

55 I never thought I'd join the band of humourless, dungareed battle-axes who call for Miss World to be banned. That is, until I realised how much more interesting, accomplished and stimulating these crusaders are than the tycoons who make 60 cash out of showing young flesh and the women who allow them to do it.

I'M NOT ashamed to align myself to the anti-Miss World lobby. This so-called pageant degrades all our 70 daughters: those who participate, those who view and those who simply absorb the fall-out. Miss World belongs with bear-baiting and cock-fighting in the archive of unacceptable entertainment.

75 How can this generation of women convincingly shatter the glass ceiling when their sisters are simpering in their smalls in front of drooling male judges?

80 For heaven's sake, let's move on and leave this televisual dinosaur to its death throes.

Source: adapted from Daily Express

SECTION B – Language Issues

Answer **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

EITHER

- 2 To what extent have you found that the vocabulary of English reflects social prejudices?
(25 marks)

OR

- 3 It has been suggested that children’s language acquisition is a more interesting process than the simple imitation of adult speech.

What have you found interesting about the ways children acquire language?
(25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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