

General Certificate of Education
June 2006
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SPECIFICATION A)
Unit 1 Discovering Language

ENA1

Tuesday 23 May 2006 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- 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
- Answer Question 1 from Section A and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 from Section B.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 70.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose. Quality of Written Communication will be assessed in all answers.

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 a feature article written about the winner of the television quiz show *Mastermind*.

- 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 expresses ideas and opinions about Shaun Wallace's victory

how the language addresses the reader and tries to shape their response.

(45 marks)

Text A

LIVE & KICKING

BY TONY SEWELL

Mastery of the mind game is crucial step

Watching Shaun Wallace win Mastermind – the first black person to do so – felt like going back in time. In the mid-70s if you saw a black person on television, you called friends to come and watch this unusual phenomenon.

Post-MTV, we frequently see black people on the box, but rarely on a show demanding total brain power.

It was interesting that Wallace's victory followed on the heels of the Beeb's Hard Spell competition, which had two Asian girls in the final head-to-head.

The BBC diversity unit must have been partying into the early hours of the morning. What a coup! It was like three buses coming at once.

What was significant about Wallace's victory was his specialist subject. He could have easily chosen 'black uprisings in Britain from 1981' or 'the history of reggae music in Britain'. Instead, he went for good old, very British football.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with looking at specifically black subject areas. But I felt Wallace's victory was all the sweeter because he literally beat his rivals at their own game.

Here was a black Englishman who loved football, but also had a fine head for facts about his subject.

In many ways he was similar to the two Asian girls who were first and runner-up in Hard Spell. They triumphed in the very heart of England – its language.

SIGNIFICANT

For me, these two victories are significant because white people still dominate the screen when it comes to displays of 'British' cultural knowledge.

Wallace said he could draw a parallel between appearing on Mastermind and his career in the law, where he struggled to avoid being pigeonholed as "a black barrister", working only in a black chambers and getting poorly paid criminal work. Now he works in a mixed chambers.

**Bowled over: Shaun Wallace's Mastermind win was a victory for black brain power**

He could have viewed Mastermind as many people view law – as an arena for white people, where the best he could do would be to set up an alternative competition called 'Nubian Mastermind'.

In many ways, our experience in Britain has meant that we were forced to set up our own institutions because the mainstream simply blocked us from access.

Today we need more Shaun Wallaces who will go out and test those institutions. I am not convinced that many of us have the courage to make that step. We simply think it isn't for us.

The thing that I love about Mastermind is that it still has a touch of class about it. People do not take part in it for the money or for a prize car or holiday, but simply for the honour of winning that glass bowl and sitting proudly in that black chair.

One of the reasons why so much fuss has been made of Wallace's victory is that black men are still perceived as cognitively inferior to other groups. Put simply, we are rarely celebrated for our brain power.

As I have argued recently, that is partly because it's the way society likes to look at us – but we have also been acting the fool.

One of our problems is our constant desire to project a cool image. Intellectual endeavour has been lost in our communities.

We watch too much TV, eat the wrong food for our brains and listen to too many conspiracy theorists.

The black brain has taken a beating over the years and much of it has been self-inflicted.

Instead we have seen the rise of the black body, tattooed and shiny. It runs around like Mike Tyson on speed.

The black mind is a wonderful tool and the world needs it more than ever.

Source: Dr TONY SEWELL, *The Voice Online*, 14 December 2004

SECTION B – Language Issues

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

EITHER

- 2 Discuss the connections between English vocabulary and attitudes to **one or more** of the following:

gender
race
disability
sexuality.

(25 marks)

OR

- 3 Discuss some examples of children's early uses of language. How far do these uses of language support different theories about how children learn language?

(25 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS