



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Level Examination
June 2012

English Language (Specification A)

ENGA3

Unit 3 Language Explorations

Monday 11 June 2012 1.30 pm to 4.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 2 hours 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black 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 ENGA3.
- Answer **two** questions.
- There are **two** sections:
Section A: Language Variation and Change
Section B: Language Discourses.
- Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2 from Section A. Answer Question 3 from Section B.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets. There are 45 marks for either Question 1 or Question 2 and 45 marks for Question 3.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 90.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- It is recommended that you spend 30 minutes on the reading and preparation of the data to be analysed in answering the questions. It is recommended that you then spend 60 minutes writing your Section A answer and 60 minutes writing your Section B answer.

Section A – Language Variation and Change

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

EITHER**Question 1**

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Text A, below, is from a dating website for “successful men who have financial security and confidence” and “attractive single women”.

Text B, on page 3, is from a website *www.eHow.com* which is subtitled “How to do just about everything”.

- Analyse how the language used in **Text A** and **Text B** suggests meanings for the term ‘Trophy Wife’.
- Referring to **Text A**, **Text B** and your own studies, evaluate the significance of the changing words used to refer to different social groups.

(45 marks)

Text A

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Text B

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OR

Question 2

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Text C, below, is an extract from a novel. The narrator, Ebenezer Le Page, is an old man telling the story of his life on the Channel Island, Guernsey.

Text D, on page 5, is an extract from a newspaper article about dialect use.

- Analyse how the writer of **Text C** uses language to represent Ebenezer's voice and dialect, and to convey his memories and views.
- Referring to **Text C**, **Text D** and your own studies, evaluate the factors that affect people's use of regional dialects.

(45 marks)

Text C

I mustn't complain. I have never had a day's sickness in my life. I put that down to the good food my mother made me eat.

Fish she was very particular about. It had to be fresh from the boat. She wouldn't cook a mackerel unless it had its tail up. I liked the long-nose better. The English are funny about the long-nose; or orfi, as we call it. They say it is poison because it got green bones. Well, I've eaten orfi all my life and I'm still alive. 5

My father had crab-pots out and we had plenty of crabs; and sold some. We used to have a chancre for supper of a Saturday night when we came home from Town. It was cooked on the Friday in the copper in the wash-house. It gave a scream when it was dropped in the hot water; but my father was funny about that and wouldn't let my mother put it in cold water and bring it to the boil. He said it suffered. If it was dropped in boiling water, it died outright. It was one of the few things my mother had to do as she was told. She didn't like having to cook it that way, because sometimes the claws came off from the shock and the water got in. The crab I like best, me, is the spider crab. I like to see him on the table in a dish: round and with his legs out like a spider, and knobs and spikes sticking up on his back. 10 15

The food I like best of all foods is ormers; but you can't always get them. My father used to take me with him ormering. It was always at the spring tide when the sea was right down; and you had to go in up to your knees to get to them. [The ormer]'s a funny creature when you see him close to. He have holes in the shell on his back, but I don't know what for.

My mother knew how to cook ormers. When she had cut the part you eat out of the shell, she would scrub the black edges with a scrubbing brush until they was perfectly clean; and that took some doing. Then she would put them between two towels and beat them with a flat iron for half an hour, or more. They are hard as leather, but she'd roll up her sleeves; and she had muscles on her arms, my mother. That was when she was happy. She'd be singing hymns all the time and you could hear her all over the house. When they was properly broke up and soft, she'd fry them over the fire in the iron frying-pan; and then stew them in the oven to finish up with. Some people stew them with onions, but my mother didn't believe in that. She said it take the taste away and spoil the gravy. She liked them with just boiled potatoes. 20 25

When there was a lot to be had, she would pickle some. They was fourpence a dozen, if you bought them; but they was worth it. After they had been scrubbed and beaten, they was boiled for a long time; and then pickled in the best vinegar with bay leaves in an airtight jar. We didn't have no bay leaves in our garden; so I had to go and steal some from Mr Dorey of Oatlands. He had a bay tree with leaves hanging over the road. Mr Dorey would have given us as many bay leaves as we wanted, if we'd asked him: but my mother wouldn't let me. She was proud, my mother. She would rather steal than beg; and I'm the same. 30 35

Source: © Professor Edward Chaney: from G.B. EDWARDS (1981). *The Book of Ebenezer Le Page*. New York: New York Review Books.

Text D

From *The Sunday Times*
August 14, 2005

Britain's dialect revival is right up our twitten

RICHARD BROOKS, ARTS EDITOR

FORGET the bland uniformity of estuary English. Britain has seen a flowering of dialects over the past 50 years. Research has found that linguistic variation has survived and flourished despite the onslaught of mass media, Americanisation and rapid communications. Whereas similar work in the 1950s found that there were 84 different regional expressions meaning left-handed, the new study found there are now 240. There are 480 different expressions for cold. 5

"Before I came to this project I had the idea that dialect words were dying out," said Mick Ord, director of the BBC's Voices project. "Nothing could be further from the truth. There are far more accents than there used to be. Although some rural dialects are dying out, not all dialect words disappear." 10

Questionnaires were sent to 32,000 people around the country, asking them about the words they use, to produce a word map of Britain. Although the study confirmed that many rural dialects have died out, other variants have survived and new ones have emerged. 15

Expressions for left-handed include "cuddy-wifter" from Northumbria, "molly-dukered" in central Scotland, "gammy" in Cumbria and "keggy" in the east Midlands.

Such regional differences can also be heard in the many different names for children's shoes worn for gym at school. "Daps", a mainly West Country word, was the most common found in the study. "Penny blacks" was widespread around Glasgow, "pumps" in much of the Midlands and the north. 20

Even in the largely suburban southeast England, local dialects are far from extinct. Daps are known as "tackies" in Southend, Essex, and in Bromley, south London, while "twitten" is commonly used in parts of Sussex for an alley.

Source: Brooks, R. © The Sunday Times 08 2005. *Britain's dialect revival is right up our twitten*.
<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/uk/article555095.ece> [accessed 19 September 2010].

Turn over ►

Section B – Language Discourses

Answer Question 3.

Question 3

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Read **Text E**, below, and **Text F**, on page 7. They are from *The Queen's English Society* website and argue the need for an English Academy.

- Analyse and evaluate the ways these two texts use language to present their ideas about the use of English.
- Evaluate the ideas of the Queen's English Society, drawing on your knowledge and study of language variation and change.

(45 marks)

Text E

Why The QES is PRESCRIPTIVIST

The **Prescriptivists** prescribe how the language *should* be used. They insist on the application of certain time-proven rules of usage that have developed over the ages and have been found to give the language form and style.

The **Descriptivists** describe how the language *is* used. They consider to be correct anything that is said or written. For them, if that is how the language is generally used at any given time, that is deemed to be correct English.

So fundamentally, for the Descriptivists, any liberty that is frequently and widely enough taken with the language is acceptable. The power of numbers carries the day regardless of the effect. It is fairly obvious to anyone with a "feel" for the language that the "prescriptivist" version is immeasurably less clumsy and more elegant. However, the barrier between the "descriptivist" and "prescriptivist" perception is not impermeable. Through a process of osmosis, the "prescriptivist" language, in time, absorbs elements of the "descriptivist". This is what is loosely called the "evolution" of the language. The question is, how rapidly should this process be permitted to occur? The answer to this question is, in other languages, provided by academies of the language. Unfortunately, English has never had any such academy and that is the omission that The Queen's English Society hopes in time to make good.

Now where does the QES stand on this issue? Consider for one moment the name of the Society — The Queen's English Society. It is not a society that is concerned with English in all its many registers, forms and varieties although it does, for the sake of completeness, devote space to considering American English, Other English and Foreign English. This society promotes "The Queen's English". What is the Queen's English? It is a form of cultured English considered to be that used by the English Monarch — formerly The King's English, currently The Queen's English and, at some time in the future, it will probably again become the King's English. Certainly, our present Monarch does the language justice and Prince Charles will, if he succeeds her, continue to do so. Whether this style of English will survive the reign of Prince William is something that only a future generation will know for his speech currently carries heavy overtones of the relatively new Southern English accent known as Estuary or Essex English.

The fact remains that the QES defends The Queen's English and therefore prescribes that style of usage. That is why even learned linguists cannot necessarily subscribe to the principles of the Queen's English Society if they are "Descriptivists" at heart. But the QES cannot change its approach or its whole purpose would be lost and it does, at least, as it stands, provide a yardstick by which other forms of English can be measured. That is why it deserves to have "**Academy**" status. Once established and recognised as such, it will, from that position of authority, be able to consider how the language can be cautiously allowed to evolve in order to absorb into its accepted usage some of the innovations and deviations proposed by the "Descriptivists".

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Source: <http://www.queens-english-society.com/prescriptivist.html>
www.academy-contemporary-english.org.uk [accessed 21 July 2010].

Text F

THE PEOPLE'S ENGLISH

IGNORANCE OR CARELESSNESS?

The Queen's English Society devotes considerable time and effort to promoting the use of good English. It also bemoans the decline in educational standards. This is not a vain endeavour. The standard of English among the populace gives cause for grave concern.

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While the Rogues' Gallery aims to name and shame public figures, trend-setters and others who should know better, this page simply provides a number of examples of the absolutely appalling level of English used by "ordinary" people. A very revealing source of such language is the "Letters to the Editor" section on the Internet sites of some of the popular British tabloid newspapers.

It may be argued that some of the errors are just "typos" – typing errors – and that the writers would have known that they were wrong had they only reread their text. And there lies one of the reasons for the shoddy standard of written English. People are far too careless and do not reread what they have written. Everyone – even the most accomplished person – is prone to committing errors when writing but the educated person will pick up and correct those errors on rereading the text. Indeed, the author of this piece (and of many other contributions to this site) found many typos and spelling mistakes on rereading his own work which, by careful spell-checking and scrutiny, he removed before publication. This is nothing to be ashamed of – it is normal, to err is human – but to let such errors pass is inexcusable.

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However, many of the worst errors are not misspellings but are gross grammatical errors – breaches of the very basic rules of English that any child should have learnt at school by the age of 15. Yet the letters that are published presumably come from persons well over that age. No-one expects or requires average citizens to be literary geniuses but a minimum level of respect for the conventions of the language – and for the readers can be expected! If a statement is worth making, it is worth making in a clear, correct and coherent manner – or it should not be made at all for the message will be lost in the medium!

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Example Number 1

Original version

how many poor hardworking people have through no fault of their own had their homes repossed in the past 12 months? how many elderly people during last winter went cold because they could'nt afford their gas bills? GREED is the word i think we are all looking for, GREED GREED GREED one of the seven deadly sins, i work many hrs on minimum wage to pay my way in this crappy country and im so glad i can sleep at night knowing that i am an honest person

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Corrected version

How many poor hardworking people have, through no fault of their own, had their homes **repossessed** in the past 12 months? How many elderly people **during** last winter went cold because they **couldn't** afford their gas bills? GREED is the word **I** think we are all looking for, GREED GREED GREED, one of the seven deadly sins. I work many hours on a minimum wage to pay my way in this crappy country and **I'm** so glad I can sleep at night knowing that **I** am an honest person.

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Explanation:

Too lazy to capitalise the 1st letter of a sentence or the pronoun "I". Spelling. Apostrophe problems: im (I'm) and could'nt (couldn't). And punctuation just does not exist in this writer's world.

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Source: <http://www.queens-english-society.com/peoplesenglish.html>
www.academy-contemporary-english.org.uk [accessed 21 July 2010].

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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