

General Certificate of Education  
June 2005  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE (SPECIFICATION B)**  
**Unit 2 Language and Social Contexts**

**ENB2**

Tuesday 24 May 2005 Afternoon Session

**In addition to this paper you will require:**  
an 8-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 ENB2.
- Answer **two** questions.

**Information**

- 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.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 70, which will be scaled to give a mark out of 35.
- All questions carry equal marks.

Answer **two** questions.

Each question carries **35** marks.

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### **1 English Dialects of The British Isles**

The following text is from a webpage published in September 2003. It reports a recent survey of accents carried out in The British Isles by a communications consultancy firm.

Discuss how the text reflects attitudes to accents within society today.

You may wish to comment on **some** of the following:

- popular attitudes to accents including stereotyping;
- specific features of any accents you are familiar with and the impressions they convey;
- relevant ideas from language study.

**The Aziz Management Communications Index 2003****NEW SURVEY FINDS ENGLISH REGIONAL ACCENTS A DISADVANTAGE IN BUSINESS**

When it comes to doing business, the majority of British company directors would rather deal with someone who sounds like Gordon Brown or J.R. Ewing than someone who sounds like Ringo Starr or Del Boy Trotter, according to a survey in the latest Aziz Management Communications Index.

The survey found that businessmen with an accent from the Home Counties or Scotland, or with an American or Continental European accent, are perceived as being more successful than businessmen with accents from any of the English regions. In particular, having a Liverpudlian, Birmingham or West Country accent appears to be a distinct disadvantage. The research clearly suggests that there is still a prejudice about business competence based on accents.

The survey by The Aziz Corporation, the UK's leading independent executive communications consultancy, reveals that over half (57%) of UK directors still perceive a businessman from the Home Counties, who speaks in the 'Queen's English', to be more generally successful than one with another UK regional accent. However, 47% of directors also consider businessmen with an American accent to be more successful compared to those from the other UK regions.

The research was based upon asking directors how they judged different accents in terms of how successful a businessman might be, how hardworking and reliable they were, and the level of trustworthiness they displayed.

Those with a Scottish accent scored highly across the board with 43% judging them as likely to be successful. They also came out on top for being hardworking and reliable (40%) and for their level of honesty and trustworthiness (31%). Liverpudlians came out worst with only 15% believing they are generally successful, while only 9% said they were hardworking and reliable and with only 8% regarding them as honest and trustworthy.

## **2 Language and Technology**

The following text is the first half of an Internet webpage, one of a series concerned with the home, parenting, health and related topics.

Discuss how the language of this text is organised for the Internet user.

In your answer you should pay particular attention to discourse, grammar and lexis as well as to any relevant ideas from language study.

The text is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

### 3 Language and Power

The following transcript is part of a cross-examination in a Scottish court. In this extract the barrister is questioning a witness (Mr Neil) about his involvement with the man on trial (Mr Peterson).

Discuss some of the ways in which the language used by the barrister and the witness reflects their different roles in the courtroom.

In your answer you should refer to any frameworks you consider appropriate and to any relevant ideas from language study.

**Key:** (.) indicates a brief pause;  
numbers within brackets indicate length of pause in seconds;  
underlining indicates emphasis in speech;  
words between vertical lines are spoken simultaneously;  
relevant contextual information is given within square brackets;  
Bar = barrister;  
Mr N = Mr Neil.

- Bar: according to you Mr Neil (.) this ill feeling (.) this grudge on Mr Peterson's part towards you stemmed from an incident (.) months previously (.) when er you had er (.) done something to- to a gate he wanted you to repair a gate?
- Mr N: yes
- 5 Bar: is that right? what happened to this gate?
- Mr N: er I accidentally (.) bumped it slightly with er the rear of my car
- Bar: the rear of your car (.) now (.) did anything happen to you (.) as a result of driving your car that day?
- Mr N: (2.5) no
- 10 Bar: did the police come to see you?
- Mr N: no I can't remember 'em s-seeing me no
- Bar: you can't remember whether they came to see you | or not? |
- Mr N: | I don't | think they did no
- Bar: is that because the police have been to see you so many times Mr Neil that you can't remember
- 15 what they were up to see you about one incident (.) as compared to another incident?
- Mr N: [*laughing quietly*] that's not true no
- Bar: and you know very well that the reason why there is ill feeling (.) between you and Mr Peterson is that you believe Mr Peterson shopped you to the police (.) at the time you ran into his garden gate and the police claimed that you were driving with no insurance at the time (.)
- 20 isn't that right?
- Mr N: (1.0) no it's not right
- Bar: so nothing like that happened at all?
- Mr N: I was prosecuted (0.5) possibly a week or so later I believe
- Bar: what for?
- 25 Mr N: for having no insurance on the car
- Bar: you put two and two together Mr Neil and made five and suspected Mr Peterson of having shopped you to the police for driving a car without insurance
- Mr N: that's not true it's not what I thought no
- Bar: that didn't cross your mind | at all? |
- 30 Mr N: | no |

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**THERE ARE NO QUESTIONS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE**

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**Question 1** *Source:* New Survey Finds English Regional Accents a Disadvantage in Business: The Aziz Management Communications Index 2003 (The Aziz Corporation). Reproduced by kind permission of KHALID AZIZ of The Aziz Corporation.

**Question 2** *Source:* Symptom Solver, [www.ivillagehealth.com](http://www.ivillagehealth.com)

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