

396/01

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ELang6: Analysing and Evaluating Language

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 27 June 2007

(2½ Hours)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **both** questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Both questions carry equal marks.

In this unit you will be assessed on your ability to:

- communicate clearly the knowledge, understanding and insight appropriate to the study of language, using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression;
- apply and explore frameworks for the systematic study of language at different levels, commenting on the usefulness of the approaches taken;
- understand, discuss and explore concepts and issues relating to language in use;
- analyse and evaluate variation in the meanings and forms of spoken and written language from different times according to context.

Remember that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

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Answer both Question 1 and Question 2.

1. The two texts printed on pages 4 and 5 are transcriptions of two TV commentaries on royal state events.

Text A is from a commentary by David Dimbleby for the BBC on the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, in September, 1997. This extract describes the journey of the hearse after it had left Westminster Abbey, following the funeral service held in the Abbey. (Princess Diana had died in a car crash along with her friend Dodi Fayed.)

Text B is from a shared commentary by Michael Buerk and Sue Barker for the BBC in 1999 on the wedding in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, of HRH The Prince Edward, the Queen's youngest son, and Miss Sophie Rees Jones (later Countess of Wessex). In this extract, guests are still arriving for the service.

Using some of the key features of the language frameworks you have studied, explore and analyse the spoken language of the texts.

You should include in your answer some discussion of the following:

- comparisons and contrasts in the use of spoken English;
- the tenor (degree of formality or informality);
- the degree of fluency of the speakers;
- differences in approach between the single and the shared commentaries;
- the appropriateness of the language for the occasion;
- (briefly) features that indicate that these are examples of spontaneous speech.

(50%)

KEY TO TRANSCRIPTIONS

(.)	micropause
(2.0)	pause for time shown in seconds
// //	overlaps in speech of participants
=	latch-on
{ <i>laughs</i> }	paralinguistic features
you	words in bold show emphatic stress
th.	incomplete word

In Text B: S: = Sue Barker M: = Michael Buerk

TEXT A (from the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales)

5 London has seen many funerals (2.0) far grander than this (1.0) conducted (1.0) with (.)
 spectacular ceremonial but I dare say (1.0) there has never been a funeral (1.0) at which so
 many mourners have been present (.) at which so many of the people of this country have
 come (1.0) to pay their respects and it's made it (2.0) unique (.) in a way perhaps that those
 who said at the start of the week that it would be a unique funeral for a unique person (1.0)
 could never have imagined (2.0) estimates (.) of between (.) one and two million people (.) in
 the capital city (1.0) today

[Edit]

now (1.0) up Constitution Hill (1.0) towards Hyde Park Corner (*long pause*)

10 London bathed in sunlight (1.0) the grounds of Buckingham Palace (.) and the lake on the left
 there (5.0) and it's along (1.0) the north side of these gardens (2.0) towards the Wellington
 Arch in the corner there (3.0) that the hearse is now moving (.) and then it'll go up the side of
 (1.0) Hyde Park (.) along Park Lane (47.0)

15 Princess Diana (.) once (.) memorably said (.) that she wanted to be the queen (1.0) in
 people's hearts (3.0) perhaps what we're seeing today on the streets of London (1.0) is the
 coronation (.) of that queen (38.0)

the hearse now comes (.) up (.) Park Lane (1.0) past the (.) grand hotels (3.0) that line the east
 side of the street where (.) Dodi Fayed himself (.) had an apartment (4.0) and on up towards
 (1.0) Speaker's Corner (.) and Marble Arch (*long pause*)

20 Hyde Park (.) with (.) crowds of people still watching (.) in the warm sunshine the television
 (.) set (.) dominating the scene at the left there (1.0) many of them will have gone across (1.0)
 to the side of the park (1.0) thinning out the crowd there to watch as the hearse goes past (6.0)
 Marble Arch (6.0) and round (.) into (.) a short stretch of Oxford Street (3.0) before her
 journey takes her (.) due north up (.) Gloucester Place (4.0) towards Regent's Park (2.0) and
 25 out of London to the north (31.0)

the crowds in the Mall (2.0) now that the processions have passed (1.0) with no destination to
 go (1.0) milling around perhaps going down to Buckingham Palace or back up to Horseguards
 (21.0) though there's nowhere left for them to go now the service (.) and the funeral cortège
 30 having passed (.) I doubt that many of these people will be hurrying (1.0) back home (.)
 perhaps going to look at the (.) flowers (1.0) at Buckingham Palace perhaps still with flowers
 in their hands to lay perhaps going to (1.0) Kensington Palace (.) obviously recording (1.0)
 foreign visitors (.) the moment that they were here (5.0) and no doubt among (.) many of them
 a feeling (.) despite the difficulties of getting here (1.0) the (.) cold night that many of them
 endured (.) that they have taken part in a (2.0) a great (1.0) moment of ceremony and a (1.0)
 35 expression of (1.0) appreciation (.) for the life of the Princess who so many people loved (.)
 flowers (.) striking the bonnet of the hearse (2.0) as it carries on up Gloucester Place

Adapted from David Dimbleby's commentary on the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, BBC, 1997

TEXT B (from the Royal Wedding)

- 5 S: we've been just sitting here watching so many of the buses arrive (.) haven't we (.) and the cheers coz everyone wants to see them walking through don't they all the guests (.) that er (.) there they are they've been sitting there for so many hours and the minibuses that have been (.) it's a sort of a park and ride system for the guests arriving here coz they have to park their cars (.) in a specially created car park er within the er grounds of Windsor and then they get bussed in (.) on this park and ride and they've been trying to get the drivers to stop so that the guests could walk // polite past //
- 10 M: // and e. every time // they **do** stop so that they can get a good look at what the guests are wearing they (.) they give a cheer (1.0) actually they gave **you** a cheer // as you walked // past (1.0)
- S: // w. {laughs} //
- S: I don't think they actually knew who I was {laughs} did they=
- 15 M: =anyway **these** people (.) there's er six thousand of them (.) ah er not these who are going into the (.) chapel as actual guests of the wedding but the people out **there** (.) er in (.) Castle Hill here (.) actually have to write in and ask for tickets and they went I think within a couple of hours or so
- S: there's also some specially um (.) created scaffolding in some of the cottages here as well
- 20 M: yes (.) I mean I think er that's the Knights of the (.) er (.) the military Knights here in the castle who've got grace and favour residences up the (.) up the side there (.) and they can watch these buses as they come (.) back and forth (5.0)
- S: ah // you see **that** // that minibus you see they they've gone too far // should've //
- M: // that **is** nice // // yes yes //
- S: dropped the guests off a little bit earlier (1.0)
- M: sh. (.) she looks particularly disappointed (2.0) ah there's another cheer going up
- 25 S: {laughs}
- M: {laughs} (1.0)
- S: it is lovely even just walking around the town this morning looking in the windows an. and the effort so many of the shops have gone to an. and all the children out and they've been standing there for so long (.) absolutely er tremendous to see (.) er
- 30 // such a reaction // (1.0)
- M: // yes they said // they said beforehand that there wasn't much interest in this wedding yet the atmosphere in the town is really quite extraordinary isn't it people were queuing up there about sort of (.) six o'clock this morning // when// I
- S: // yes //
- 35 M: came out of the hotel here (1.0)
- S: it's a nervous time now isn't it it's getting very close=
- M: =yeah (.) well it's (.) of course particularly er er you know you can't afford to be late because (.) um (.) under the law of the land still under the law of the land if the marriage vows don't take place (1.0) um (.) er (.) until six o'clock (.) er it would be invalid if it happens **after** six o'clock so they've got to get it over with // //
- 40 S: // {laughs} //
- M: rather grim thought (.) we're looking at the Long Walk now er towards um (.) the (.) copper horse statue (.) and (.) the royal lodge is off to the left behind those trees (.) and the first car we're expecting is (.) er is the car containing (.) um (.) Sophie's mother (1.0) er (.) which will be coming down from the left (.) turning right at the top there of Long Walk which is this great long (.) straight (.) road that was built on the orders of Charles the Second (1.0) right up to the (.) gates of Windsor Castle
- 45

Adapted from Michael Beurk & Sue Barker's commentary on the wedding of HRH Prince Edward & Miss Sophie Rees Jones, BBC, 1999

2. The three texts printed on pages 7 - 9 are all examples of letters sent home by sailors or soldiers serving in time of war.

Text A is a letter sent from on board H.M.S. Victory at Portsmouth on 5 November 1805, by Benjamin Stevenson, a Quarter Master, aged 24, to his sister. The Battle of Trafalgar, in which the British fleet, led by Lord Nelson on H.M.S. Victory, had beaten the combined fleets of France and Spain, had taken place on 21 October.

Benjamin Stevenson was born in Berwick, and had been pressed into service in the Navy in May, 1803.

Text B is a letter written in 1862 during the American Civil War, by Edward Nicholas Boots, aged 29, to his mother. He was a Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant serving with the 101st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

Text C is a letter written to his mother in 1917, during the First World War, by Wilfred Owen, the famous poet. Owen, aged 24, was serving as an officer in the British Army on the Western Front.

Analyse the use of language in the three texts.

You should apply relevant frameworks that you have studied, including lexis, grammar, syntax, and semantics.

Your answer should include some consideration of the following:

- comparisons and/or contrasts between the texts;
- uses of language that differ from present day Standard English;
- their differing styles of letter writing;
- ways in which attitudes, opinions, views, etc. are expressed;
- any other points that you find interesting in the use of language in the extracts.

(50%)

TEXT A (Benjamin Stevenson on board H.M.S.Victory)

November 5th 1805

DEAR Sister I am happy to inform you of my being in good health - and of A Verrey hard ingagement with the French and Spanish Fleet on the 21st of October. Dear Sister we had Verrey hard ingagement with them inead it lasted for 4 hours and a half
 5 constant fire but thank god we had the great Fortune to gane the Victory. it was thare whole intention to to Sink or Destroy the Victory one way or another and she being Van Ship of the wether line and it being little wind it was A long time before any Ship could come up on us to assist us. we had Seven Ships upon us all at once and we made Five of them strike to us.

10 the Pride of (Spane) the Four Decker was on our larboard side she carried one hundred and 36 guns A French two Decker and a Spanish one on our Starboard side and they that could not get along sid of us was A bit under stem of us, and we made the Four Decker and four more strike to the Victory. after the Prisoners came onboard they sayed that the Deck locked the guns for it was impossable for men to load and fir
 15 as quick as we did.

Dear Sister I shall say but little more abought it for It is two cruall for your feelings sister but I Dare say you will here Anough of It in the Newspapers but I am sorry to say that Lord Nelson fel In the Action. It would be A good thing for a great many of us if he had lived but it was god almightys pleasure to call upon him. Dear Sister when you receive
 20 this I hope that you will wright by return of Post and let me know whither ever you got my Watch or not we have come from Gibraltar with (damaged) Masts and we will go into Dock as soon as possable. Dear Sister I cannot Express the Pleasure I would have of seeing you all Again I cannot Express it with Pen and Ink but the Sorrow layes all at my heart. but I trust to god that he will turn things into a better understanding between
 25 the two Nations and let us have a Pice once more for it is most time fore me to have a little pleasure in my life for this is A miserable one at Presant... Dear Sister be so kind as to give my best respects to your husband and I return him my Greatest of thanks for his kind behaviour towards me of trying to git me clear of this but If ever it is in my power to return his kindness I will do It with the
 30 greatest of pleasure.

Dear Sister I have but little more to say at presant but wish the War soon over. give my kind Love to my Sister Grace and her husband and my Brother Stephen and all my Sisters and Nieces and all Inquiring friends.

Dear Sister be shure to Wright as soon as you receive this for I long to here,from you ...
 35 from your ever Loving Brother Benjamin. Stevenson.

TEXT B (Edward Nicholas Boots)

Savages Station, June 3rd [1862]

Dear Mother,

I embrace the present opportunity of dropping a line to you, though letters from home are very scarce. Our Division was in a terrible battle on Saturday afternoon. We were the advance
 5 Division on the New Bridge road to Richmond & We had got within five miles of the city. Our Division did not number over six thousand men & we were attacked by three or four times that number. Our Division held its ground until it was nearly all cut to pieces when we were ordered to fall back behind Couche's Division, which shared fully much the same fate as our own. The rebels were repulsed towards evening and driven back & on Sabbath our troops
 10 attacked them & drove them still further, but our loss is fearful. The rebel prisoners admit that their force was sixty thousand strong, commanded by General Joe Johnston, but with all their force we whipped them. Their loss in killed is greater than ours. [Cousins] Ed & George have been rather unwell for some days back, consequently they were neither of them in the fight. They are not seriously sick. I have been unwell for some ten days & did not take part in the
 15 fight for I thought, that it would be like a skirmish, that I was in on Friday, merely a few volleys & a lot of shells thrown over our heads by the artillery of both parties, but though I did not take part in the fight, I saw plenty of rebel balls fly over my head & as I was trying to help move back the sick. The rebel cannon balls were flying over my head in a rather brisk manner, but I escaped through it all and am in quite good health. I expect that we shall have
 20 another big fight, before we get into Richmond, but you may depend, that we will be there some of these days. Give my love to all. [Brother] Horace in the last letter that I got from him, complained, that you did not get any letters from me. I have written at least half a dozen letters home in the last month. Write soon

Your son etc *E N Boots*

TEXT C (Wilfred Owen)

Apr 4 1917

Dearest Mother,

5 Know that I have cut my forefinger with a tin of Lobster, and that is why I write shaky. I have been 4 days caravanning from the CCS & have just found our HQ. Journeying over the new ground has been most frightfully interesting. The Batt. has just done something great, which will find its way into the Communiqué. I am going up to join them in an hour's time. They have lost one officer & many are wounded, Heydon among them. I shall no doubt be in time for the Counter Attack. I have bought an automatic pistol in the town (from which I sent a P.P.C.). By the time you get this we'll be out of the line again.

10 Tonight will be over.... My long rest has shaken my nerve. But after all I hate old age, and there is only one way to avoid it!

15 Last night I bedded down with a family of refugees, 3 boys, 2 tiny girls: a good class socially, and of great charm personally. I was treated as a god, and begin to suspect I have a heart as comprehensive as Victor Hugo's, Shakspeare's or your own. In 24 hours I never took so many hugs & kisses in my life, no, not in the first chapter even. They took reliefs at it. It would have astounded the English mind. – While, just the night before I was in blues as deep as the Prussian Blue. not having heard an affectionate spoken word since I left you – or rather since I left A. I am now in the Pink. No need to tell you where I am going up to fight. It is the town on which the hopes of all England are now turned. I must now dress up in Battle Order.

20 Your own W. XXXXX

PS Without your letters I should give in. What to I know not, but I 'sorter' feel I should 'give up the unequal contest!' – without a definite object for carrying on. And that object is not my Motherland, which is a good land, nor my Mother tongue, which is a dear language, but for my Mother, of whom I am not worthy to be called

25 The Son

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