

**PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE  
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2014  
GENERAL PAPER  
P2 ANSWER KEY**

1. What does the word 'insatiable' (line 2) tell you about people's desire to learn English? [1]

From the Passage	Inferred / Paraphrased
Internationally the desire to learn it is <u>insatiable</u> . (lines 1-2)	<p>People's desire to learn English is unquenchable / cannot be quenched / unending // People are always wanting to learn English // cannot be satisfied // the desire to learn EL is bottomless. // cannot be appeased</p> <p>Accept: cannot be stopped easily</p>

2. Explain what the author means by 'the propagation of English is an industry, not a happy accident' (line 7). [2]

From the Passage	Paraphrased / Inferred
<p>1. The <u>propagation of English</u></p> <p>2. is an <u>industry</u>,</p> <p>3. not a <u>happy accident</u>. (lines 7)</p>	<p>1. proliferation / growth / spread of English is for...</p> <p>2. practical / pragmatic / economic / commercial / business needs (accept business without needs)</p> <p>3. ... did not happen by chance/ Not random</p> <p><b>Note:</b> <u>Happy</u> accident is embodied in the propagation of English as propagation connotes positivity.</p> <p><b>DO NOT ACCEPT</b> People learn English for the fun of it</p> <p>1-2pts – 1m 3 pt – 2m</p>

3. Why does the writer use 'cannibalism' in line 12? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the Passage	Paraphrased
They marginalised them and in some cases eventually drove them to <u>extinction</u> . (lines 10-11)	Indigenous / native languages are devoured / wiped out / destroyed completely / cease to exist / no longer exist / Other languages are eaten up. /  <b><u>Do not accept</u></b> the paraphrased answers for 'marginalised'  <b><u>Do not accept</u></b> 'replace' / 'destroy' / 'usurp' / take over ... <u>without</u> 'completely' / the idea of how something no longer exists

4. What does the word 'still' in line 12 suggest about the legacy of the English language? [1]

From the Passage	Inferred / Paraphrased
The colonists' languages practised a sort of cannibalism, and its legacy is <u>still</u> sharply felt. (lines 11-12)	Enduring / up till now / lasting  As long as there is an understanding of past to present, award the mark.

5. How do critics attempt to 'promote a neutral form of English' (line 20)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [3]

From the Passage	Paraphrased
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>rather than one freighted with "Anglo" values, to form a part of a <u>larger</u> community, without territorial <u>boundaries</u>;</li> <li>to make its use <u>prestigious</u>;</li> <li>and to market it as a language of <u>opportunity</u>. (lines 20-23)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make English not exclusive to the native speakers // To make English as a language belonging to the whole world // to connect everybody</li> <li>To make English respected / impressive / high-status / highly esteemed</li> <li>To market it as possibility / chance / a stepping stone to success (accept language of possibilities/ chances)</li> </ol>

6. What do you understand by English as a 'second first language' (line 28)? [1]

From the Passage	Inferred
Yet its presence shifts the <u>cultural emphases</u> in the lives of those who adopt it, altering their aspirations and expectations. English seems, increasingly, to be a <u>second first language</u> . It is possible to imagine it merely coexisting with other languages, but easy to see that coexistence turning into <u>transcendence</u> . (lines 26-30)	<p>Non-native speakers of English are so good in English that they are as proficient in it, <i>if not more <u>proficient</u> than their Mother Tongue/ native language.</i></p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>English is just as <u>important</u> as one's mother tongue</p> <p><b>IDEA:</b> <u>Proficiency / skills / command</u> of English</p> <p><b>DO not accept</b> answers that say as proficient as their official language (because some countries' official language is English)</p>

7. How does the author illustrate 'the lengths people will go to in order to learn English' (lines 39-40)? **Use your own words as far as possible.** [1]

From the Passage	Inferred / Paraphrase
In some cases the devotion appears religious and can involve what to outsiders looks a lot like <u>self-mortification</u> . (lines 33-34)	<p>People are willing to subject themselves to humiliation and shame caused by something that wounds one's pride or self-respect (Psychological)</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>Modification/ Alteration / Change of the body (parts) / operation / (plastic/cosmetic/ aesthetic) surgery on the tongue</p> <p>Accept the lifting for tongues, and 'self' (physical)</p> <p><b>Note: As long as the idea on 'operation' OR 'lengthening' of the tongue is expressed in the answer – award the mark.</b></p> <p><b>DO NOT ACCEPT</b> modification of the '<u>self</u>' – too vague as an answer</p>
According to Mark Abley, some rich Koreans pay for their children to have an <u>operation</u> that <u>lengthens</u> the tongue because it helps them speak English convincingly... (lines 35-36)	
... Still, it is a powerful example of the lengths people will go to in order to learn English, seduced by the belief that linguistic capital equals economic capital. (lines 39-41)	

8. Why do native speakers find the changes in English language 'disconcerting' (line 75)?  
**Use your own words as far as possible. [3]**

From the Passage	Paraphrased
1. The "English-ness" of English is being <u>diluted</u> .	English language is now a watered down / weakened version/ less authentic / more adulterated
2. More surprisingly, is its American flavour / English's <u>centre of gravity is moving</u>	Native speakers of English no longer hold sole authority / main force / focus of English is shifting
3. Native speakers may find themselves at a <u>disadvantage</u> (lines 76-79)	They find themselves at the losing end/ They would have some handicap (when communicating with others) / they face some obstacles / hinder their progress/ communication/ their own position may be challenged
	NOTE: Focus is on the <u>perspectives OF native speakers</u>
	1pt- 1m
	Note: the trend of English being having an American flavour is an illustration of the centre of gravity

9. From paragraph 9, what difficulties do non-native speakers have when communicating with native speakers of English? **Use your own words as far as possible. [2]**

From the Passage	Inferred / Paraphrase
1. Native speakers freight their use of the language with all manner of <u>cultural baggage</u> .	Non-native speakers do not understand the customs/values of the native speakers/ (accent/pronunciation as part of cultural baggage)
2. To non-native speakers, <u>quirks and elaborations</u> .	Connotations of the language/ Nuances/ subtlety / idiosyncrasies / slangs/ idioms vernacular / jargons / do not understand the words <u>unique/strange</u> to English
...(lines 79-81)	Answers that simply state – it is 'difficult to understand' W/O additional reason – no credit.
	Answers that merely show pt1 and/or pt 2 w/o reflecting that non-speakers don't understand them – award up to 1 m only.

10. Suggest two ways in which English can take on 'more local colour' (line 94) in different places where it is used. [2]

From the Passage	Inferred / Paraphrase
The consequences are complex. Some, it would seem, are not as intended. Even as vast amounts are spent on spreading British English, the reality is that English is taking on more and more local colour in the different places where it is used. Accordingly, while the number of languages in the world is diminishing, the number of Englishes is increasing. (lines 92-95)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. New vocab incorporated in English</li><li>2. Adaptation to new linguistic structure</li><li>3. Slang</li><li>4. Different versions of English appearing</li><li>5. New accent</li></ol> <p><u>Any two reasonable</u> ways where English has taken on 'more local colour'</p>

# 11. Summary Question

Using material from paragraphs 5-8 only, summarise the strengths and challenges of English becoming the dominant world language and cultural force.

Write your summary in **no more than 120 words**, not counting the opening words which are printed below. **Use your own words as far as possible.**

*As the language of the world, English language is...*

#	Strengths	Lines	Paraphrase
<b>Para 5</b>			
1	... free_from the <u>limitations</u> of their native languages	42	... able to allow one to pursue beyond what native language speakers can achieve.
2	... associate it with <u>power</u>	43	... associate with supremacy / dominance / authority
3	...and social <u>status</u>	43	... and higher rank / hierarchy / position
4	<u>nimble</u> ...	44	flexible...
5	medium for <u>self-expression</u>	44	medium for voicing opinions / individualism
6	...symbolises <u>choice</u>	44	...symbolises opportunities
7	<u>and liberty</u>	44	freedom
	As a language of threat, <u>desire</u> , destruction and <u>opportunity</u>	48	<b><i>Repetition of Points 2-6</i></b>
8	<u>Homogenising force...</u>	49	<u>Standardising force / no diversity / creation of sameness</u>
9	<u>eroding the integrity of other cultures</u>	50	<u>destroying / diluting other cultures</u>
10	... the language is <u>appropriated</u> locally in quite distinct ways	51	Assimilation of English into
11	to pursue their <u>global ambitions</u> . Want to differentiate into two parts?	70	to seize / chase / follow / achieve their dreams / opportunities / aspirations worldwide / elsewhere / beyond their shores
12	In China the number of students learning the language is increasing rapidly. China's English Fever is caused by the ardent conviction that learning English is the essential skill <u>for surviving</u> in the modern world	70	Belief that English is necessary to exist / live today // to withstand competition

Challenges			
13	Instrument of <u>oppression</u> ...  not only associated with imperialism... but also with the predations of capitalism and Christianity	46	Instrument of suppression  <b>DO NOT ACCEPT</b>  imperialism, capitalism and Christianity per se these are examples.  <b>IDEA:</b> oppression
	As a language of <u>threat</u>	48	<b><i>Repetition of Point 10</i></b>
14	...used <u>against the very powers</u> and ideologies it is alleged to represent  Anti-english ends	51  64	... English is used to counter / show dissent towards native speakers' ideologies  <b>ACCEPT</b>  Against (functional word)
15	Come from Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese  ... both have <u>more first-language users</u> than English	56  56	Other languages spoken by greater number of / more people  <b>Do not ACCEPT</b>  lift of Spanish and mandarin w/o 'other languages', 'other challengers'
16	creative artists and political figures <u>asserting</u> in English their <u>distance</u> from Englishness or Britishness or American-ness.	65	Some are dissociating / move away themselves from
17	Many writers whose first language has not been English have infused their English writing <u>with foreign flavours</u>	66	rise of other forms of English / pidgins
18	Parade their own <u>heritage</u>	68	... While extending their own culture
19	...to reach a <u>wide audience</u>	69	to more people

Pt 8 and 9 can be seen as strengths or challenges.

No. of Points	Marks Awarded
1-2	1
3-4	2
5-6	3
7-8	4
9	5
10-11	6
12-13	7
≥14	8

## 12. Application Question

In this article, Henry Hitchings argues for the popularity and importance of the English language despite the challenges it faces as a medium of communication among people. To what extent do you agree or disagree with his views? Relate your opinions to you and your society.

#	Point	Line	Explanation / Evaluation / Examples
1	English serves as the lingua franca of business and popular culture	3	<b>Agree</b>  English is one of the official languages (CL / ML / TL) in Sg, but it is the most popularly used.
2	Wherever English has been used, it has lasted. Cultural might outlives military rule. In the colonial period, the languages of settlers dominated the languages of the peoples whose land they seized.	8	<b>Agree</b>  The legacy of Sg's colonial past continues, hence, the established use of EL.
3	They marginalised them and in some cases eventually drove them to extinction.	10	<b>Disagree</b>  Sg believes in bilingualism; the govt pursues bilingual policies.
4	The colonists' languages practised a sort of cannibalism, and its legacy is still sharply felt.	11	
5	There is an attempt to promote a neutral form of English	20	<b>Agree</b>  There are attempts to encourage a standard EL as a tool of opportunity, to see it as a functional tool without any association with any group.
6	English seems, increasingly, to be a second first language.	28	<b>Disagree</b>  Sg believes in bilingualism; the govt pursues bilingual policies. EL is in fact, Sg's 'first' first language, where EL is taught at first language level in schools.
7	Still, it is a powerful example of the lengths people will go to in order to learn English, seduced by the belief that linguistic capital equals economic capital.	39	<b>Agree</b>  Enrichment courses in EL for all ages are widely seen in Sg.  'My English School', a private EL enrichment centre for pre-schoolers and primary school students. There are at least 6 outlets in Sg.



			<p>British Council offers EL courses for all ages (corporate training, free online courses, etc).</p> <p><a href="http://www.britishcouncil.sg/">http://www.britishcouncil.sg/</a></p>
8	They associate it with power and social status, and see it as a nimble medium for self-expression.	43	<p><b>Agree</b> EL as a gateway to economic success be it the past or present.</p> <p><b>Disagree</b> While EL has become commonplace, the use of EL might have limited leverage if one wants to truly expand into the Chinese market.</p>
9	It symbolises choice and liberty.	44	
10	<p>Its spread can be seen as a homogenising (some would say, Americanising) force, eroding the integrity of other cultures.</p> <p>vs</p> <p>creative artists and political figures asserting in English their distance from Englishness or Britishness or American-ness.</p>	<p>49</p> <p>65</p>	<p><b>Disagree</b></p> <p>English is used in the world as a globalising force, yet in Sg, while globalisation is embraced, rootedness (culture) is maintained and not eroded.</p> <p>Overseas Singaporean Unit plans and co-ordinates multi-agency programmes and initiatives to engage Overseas Singaporeans (OS) and strengthen their connection to home and fellow Singaporeans.</p> <p>For example, 'Sg Day', a day to celebrate being a Singaporean, is celebrated in other cities across the world, such as New York City, London, Sydney. Food, icons of Sg (ERP, etc) are featured during the celebration.</p> <p><a href="http://www.overseassingaporean.sg/">http://www.overseassingaporean.sg/</a></p> <p>Thus, local cultures are not eroded as many traditions are still practised. Local writers, such as Haresh Sharma, Simon Tay, Catherine Lim, Russell Lee, Philip Jeyaretnam, etc, infuse local flavours into their works.</p>
11	Yet it is striking that the language is appropriated locally in quite distinct ways.	50	<p><b>Agree</b></p> <p>Singlish flourishes.</p>
12	Yet, English is important for countries to pursue their global ambitions.	70	<p><b>Agree</b> EL is the lingua franca, a language used among people who speak various languages, that allows us to tap global opportunities.</p> <p>For instance, <i>BreadTalk</i> pursues their global ambitions by setting outlets in Malaysia,</p>

			Indonesia, Thailand, Australia, China etc. Although many of these countries do not use EL as their dominant language, EL is nonetheless employed as a business language.
13	The “English-ness” of English is being diluted.	76	<b>Agree</b> No one is expecting people to speak like native speakers from England, use their lingo, idioms, etc.
14	English’s centre of gravity is moving	77	<b>Agree</b> Other experts in the English language and culture can be found elsewhere, even amongst Asians.
15	Native speakers freight their use of the language with all manner of cultural baggage.	79	<b>Agree</b> Nuances of slangs used by native speakers are not understood.
16	Non-native speakers of English often comment that they find conversing with one another easier than sharing talk with native speakers.	81	<b>Disagree</b> We have the ability to code-switch between standard EL and Singlish, hence allowing us to communicate with the native speakers.
17	English is taking on more and more local colour in the different places where it is used.	93	<b>Agree</b> Sg’s standard EL and Singlish flourish.