



RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, SINGAPORE
Preliminary Examination II
Higher 2

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

9727/01

Paper 1 Analysing Language Use

15 September 2014

3 hours

Additional Materials: Writing Paper and Cover page

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your class, index number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer Question 1 (Section A) **and** Question 2 (Section B).
At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
Both questions carry equal marks.
You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

A reference chart of IPA Phonemic Symbols is provided at the end of this Question Paper.

This document contains **10** printed pages and **2** bank pages.

[Turn Over

Section A: Analysis

Both texts, Text A and Text B, relate to sleep disorders

Text A is extracted from an academic research paper on chronic sleep loss

Text B is a transcript of a radio talk show with one presenter and three guests.

Read both texts and answer the following task:

- 1 Compare the linguistic features of Text A and Text B, considering the relevant contextual factors

In your analysis, you should make relevant reference to the following:

- differences between spoken and written language
- lexis, grammar and discourse structure
- how the context affect the way language is used

[25]

Text A is an introduction of an academic research paper that investigates effects of chronic sleep loss.

Uncovering Residual Effects of Chronic Sleep Loss on Human Performance

The capacity to sustain alertness and attention is essential for survival, yet it is a finite resource that progressively declines over consecutive hours awake. Homeostatic physiologic processes that occur during sleep replenish this capacity, but how much sleep is required for satisfactory alertness and performance continues to be debated. There are two types of sleep loss: acute sleep loss consisting of one continuous extended wake episode and chronic sleep loss consisting of insufficient sleep over multiple days. A parsimonious account of sleep homeostasis is that the degree of impairment reflects the accumulation of excess wakefulness independent of whether the accumulation occurs acutely or chronically. However, recent animal data suggest that acute and chronic sleep loss have distinct homeostatic mechanisms. Understanding fundamental properties of the sleep homeostatic regulation of alertness and performance in humans has both public health relevance for occupational policy and therapeutic implications for the discovery of novel wake-promoting therapies.

A significant experimental limitation in studying the homeostatic regulation of performance based on the prior sleep-wake history is the confounding influence of circadian rhythms. Endogenous circadian rhythms are coordinated by pacemaker activity of the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) of the hypothalamus. The circadian system promotes wakefulness and performance during the circadian day; this alerting signal dissipates during the circadian night at which time the circadian pacemaker promotes sleep. However, acute sleep loss can directly influence neural activity in the SCN, and the amplitude of the circadian oscillation in performance increases with longer consecutive hours awake. As a result of these non-linear interactions, the circadian influence on performance during acute sleep loss is small early in a waking bout, but after many consecutive hours awake, performance and alertness become increasingly dependent on the circadian phase. In previous chronic sleep loss protocols, waking performance was only assessed at restricted combinations of homeostatic pressure and circadian phase. In order to determine fundamental properties of sleep homeostasis, it is necessary to account for the confounding influence of circadian phase by distributing the sleep-wake schedule across the full circadian cycle.

[Turn Over

Text B is a transcription of part of a radio programme about sleeping disorders. The presenter, Peter is talking to David, a sleep disorder patient, together with Donna, a doctor, Lisa, a sleep therapist.

- Peter david (1) you've fallen asleep at odd times (.) you've had problems doing shift work and working nights ↘
- David that's right
- Peter falling asleep at inappropriate times ↗
- David Yeah (.) very rarely and very rarely whenever I drive (1) In fact if if at any time if I felt as though I was going to be a hazard (.) I would pull over for a few minutes 5
- Peter so (.) you were afraid of falling asleep ↗
- David OH definitely
- Peter mmm (2) now (.) why not just give people a sleeping pill so they get the sleep they need ↗ 10
- Lisa no
//
- Donna NO
- Peter massive no-s here (1) why
//
- Lisa you're putting a band (.) band aid on (1) you know(.) a long term ulcer (.) it's like [laughs] 15
- Donna well yeah (.) that's what we do in medicine (1) we treat the symptoms
//
- Lisa you want quick fixes
- David You know (.) I have no quick fixes=
- Donna =and there are side effects to sleeping pills 20
- Peter what are the side affects ↗
- Lisa in case someone is using alcohol (1) you don't want to combine alcohol with sleeping pills
- Peter well (.) tell them to stop (.)
- Lisa ok you tell them to stop and they
// 25
- David tell me to stop drinking OR taking pills? [laughs]
- Donna so it can be a chronic nightly thing and you know what ↗ (2) put this person on er (.) sleeping pills for the rest of their life ↗
- Peter it's a much easier thing to put somebody on a pill or a tablet than to get them to (.) you know (.) change lifestyles or habits 30
- David that's right
- Peter ok (.) so (.) what do you think the real problem is due to ↗ (1) what's causing people
//
- Lisa the way we are living

Peter that's life=↗
 Lisa =style↘ 35
 Donna It's the shift work (.) it's the insomnia (.) it's the alcohol
 //
 David medications (.) right
 Peter everything↗
 Donna everything(2) life (.) lifestyle (.) that's where the problem is (2) at night with
 stimulating television and stimulating email and you know (.) sort of reading 40
 things that are disturbing to us
 Peter EVERYTHING

TRANSCRIPTION KEY

(.) micro-pause
 (1) pause in seconds
 // speech overlap
underlining stressed sound/syllable(s)
 [laugh] paralinguistic feature
 CAPTIALS to indicate a word/phrase/syllable is said loudly

[Turn Over

Section B: Adaptive writing and commentary

Text C and Text D relate to the public transport in Singapore

Text C is taken from a media release from, SMRT, a transport provider in Singapore.

Text D is extracted from a blog that discusses various concerns in Singapore.

Read both texts and complete the following tasks:

- 2 (a)** The public transport sector is concerned about the state of public transport in Singapore. It has been decided that there is a need to raise people's awareness of the changes and get them to contribute to create a better public transport.

Write a brochure of approximately 300-400 words. Base your brochure on the ideas and information which are contained in Text C and D, adapting them in ways which will be suitable for your audience.

and

(b) Write and evaluation of approximately 300–400 words of your adaptation for (a). Your evaluation should illustrate significant linguistic differences between your adaptation and the source texts, by considering:

- mode of address to the reader
- lexical choices and morphology
- grammatical and syntactical cohesion

and any other relevant linguistic features

[25]

Text C is taken from a media release from, SMRT, a transport provider in Singapore.

27 January 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SMRT introduces a mobile application that provides real-time train and bus arrival information

Commuters can now better plan their journeys

5

1. From today, journey planning becomes a real ease for commuters as SMRT’s latest mobile application – SMRTConnect – puts real time train and bus arrival information in their hands.

2. The free app serves as an essential tool for getting around, as it offers a range of journey related features for commuters’ convenience, apart from keeping them abreast of any train service updates. Users can

- access information about next and subsequent train and bus arrival times across the SMRT network;
- check first and last train timings;
- receive train service status alerts;
- search for locations on a map;
- locate the train stations and bus stops nearest to their current location or their destination;
- find out the available SMRT bus services around any location.

15

3. Commuters requiring a point-to-point service can also book a taxi by simply tapping on the SMRT Book a Taxi icon in the application.

20

4. To allow commuters to shop on the go from our recently-launched QR-coded advertisements in some of our train stations, SMRTConnect also carries a QR code reader, as an added feature. The poster advertisements carry QR codes for instant shopping, allowing users to scan and shop with their mobile phones, without having to step into a shop, queue, send an SMS or make a call.

25

5. SMRTConnect can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and is recommended for iPhone and iPod Touch with iOS 4.0 and above. Android app will be made available later this year.

- END -

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[Turn Over

Text D is extracted from a blog that discusses various concerns in Singapore.

So apparently, the MRT experience in Singapore hasn't changed much in the last two decades. Yeah, apart from the safety doors at open platforms, colourful reserved seats and the electronic signboards inside the MRT indicating which side to disembark, that is. That's all they can manage?? Ok *lah*, there are several small improvements here and there that don't require Land Transport Authority (LTA) bail-out but will make our lives so much better. If I am SMRT, maybe this is what I wanna do! 5

Overhead compartments for bags

People travelling with bulky items take A LOT of space. And guess what? There's a lot of space on the train above commuters' heads wasted *leh!* Put two and two together and *tadah!* More space will be created for commuters, especially the OCD ones too *niao* to put their bags on the floor. 10

Have countdown-timers to indicate when the doors will close

Now now now. How useful is the announcement: 'Train doors are closing. *toot toot toot toot toot*'? You know, some train drivers sometimes use it too early but leave the door open. You tell me, how many times have you stand outside the door worried that you kenna stuck when the door is closing? Why do you think people run across the platform as if there's a sale when they change trains at interchanges? They confirm no idea when the doors will close on them. Why not learn from the traffic lights and install a timer to say when the doors will be closing? No need to race like primary school kids *liao*. 15

Foldable seats

Cannot find space then create space in the train! If can lifted up the seats for wheelchair users or baby strollers, we won't be so *pek chek* all the time when they block us. If Singaporeans are really kind hearted, they may even keep the seats lifted up during peak hours to allow more people on the train. But then *hor*, hard *lah* but never say never... 20

Let people know which carriage is for standing only

Have you thought of wanting to board the train only to see that it is for standing only? First thought confirm is, *huat ah, win the lottery also not so zun*. If I'm SMRT, I can let you know which part of the train would be without the seats. Make sense right? Long trip must sit down, 2 stops still want to sit *meh?* 25

Display bus departure timings within MRT stations adjoining bus interchanges

Sometimes *machiam* play guessing game when you alight the train and try to rush to the bus interchange because no one wants to miss their bus. If you know what time your bus coming, you can quickly go toilet or buy a bread and eat before boarding the bus. Sometimes can try to make our lives easier right? 30

Have proper queue lines or railings to manage queues

Singaporeans are beginning to queue up to get into the trains over the last two years. Finally a small great progress! But there is still some chaos towards the tail end of the queues because the guide lines painted on the floors are a tad too short. Draw long lines maybe? 35

So, what do you think about my ideas? Leave me some comments and maybe we can be the new CEO of SMRT someday! 40

4 Comments

1. 4 June 2012

You should give this fella an award! Seriously!

2. 4 June 2012

45

Also, Why not have alternate doors for entrances and exits to the trains. So that the turnover for passengers at the stations can be quicker and also prevent the kanchiong people from rushing into the trains

3. 4 June 2012

It's not as if these changes require alot of effort, all these are do-able with minimal changes and just more keen observation of metro lines in other country. 50

4. 5 June 2012

Honestly, I don't think all the points listed are feasible. Some may not be useful due to small platform area, existing mobile apps to show bus arrivals, expecting passengers to lift bulky items above their heads is consider safety hazard if they are not secured firmly. I will rather ask their staff at train platform to be more intuitive to guide passengers to lesser possible areas and have better crowd control ability. Why not try to make use of what smrt have to improve service instead? 55

REFERENCE TABLE OF IPA PHONEMIC SYMBOLS (RP)

1. Consonants of English		2. Pure vowels of English	
/f/	<u>f</u> at, rou <u>gh</u>	/ɪ:/	be <u>a</u> t, kee <u>p</u>
/v/	<u>v</u> ery, vi <u>ll</u> age, lo <u>v</u> e	/ɪ/	bi <u>t</u> , ti <u>p</u> , bu <u>s</u> y
/θ/	the <u>at</u> re, <u>th</u> ank, ath <u>l</u> ete	/e/	be <u>t</u> , ma <u>n</u> y
/ð/	<u>th</u> is, <u>th</u> em, <u>wi</u> th, e <u>i</u> ther	/æ/	ba <u>t</u>
/s/	<u>s</u> ing, thi <u>nk</u> s, lo <u>ss</u> es	/ʌ/	cu <u>p</u> , so <u>n</u> , bloo <u>d</u>
/z/	<u>z</u> oo, be <u>d</u> s, ea <u>s</u> y	/ɑ:/	ca <u>r</u> , hea <u>r</u> t, ca <u>l</u> m, a <u>n</u> t
/ʃ/	<u>sh</u> ugar, bu <u>sh</u>	/ɐ/	po <u>t</u> , wa <u>n</u> t
/ʒ/	plea <u>s</u> ure, be <u>i</u> ge	/ɔ:/	po <u>r</u> t, sa <u>w</u> , ta <u>k</u>
/h/	<u>h</u> igh, <u>h</u> it, beh <u>ind</u>	/ə/	<u>a</u> bout
/p/	<u>p</u> it, to <u>p</u> , spi <u>t</u>	/ɜ:/	wo <u>r</u> d, bi <u>r</u> d
/t/	<u>t</u> ip, po <u>t</u> , ste <u>ep</u>	/ʊ/	bo <u>o</u> k, wo <u>o</u> d, pu <u>t</u>
/k/	<u>k</u> ee <u>p</u> , ti <u>ck</u> , sca <u>r</u> e	/u:/	fo <u>o</u> d, so <u>u</u> p, ru <u>d</u> e
/b/	<u>b</u> ad, ru <u>b</u>		
/d/	ba <u>d</u> , <u>d</u> im	3. Diphthongs of English	
/g/	<u>g</u> un, bi <u>g</u>		
/tʃ/	<u>ch</u> urch, lu <u>nc</u> h	/eɪ/	la <u>t</u> e, da <u>y</u> , gr <u>ea</u> t
/dʒ/	<u>j</u> udge, <u>g</u> in, ju <u>r</u> y	/aɪ/	ti <u>m</u> e, hi <u>gh</u> , di <u>e</u>
/m/	<u>m</u> ad, ja <u>m</u> , sma <u>ll</u>	/ɔɪ/	bo <u>y</u> , noi <u>s</u> e
/n/	ma <u>n</u> , <u>n</u> o, sn <u>o</u> w	/aʊ/	co <u>w</u> , ho <u>u</u> se, to <u>w</u> n
/ŋ/	si <u>ng</u> er, lo <u>ng</u>	/əʊ/	bo <u>a</u> t, ho <u>m</u> e, kn <u>o</u> w
/l/	lo <u>u</u> d, ki <u>ll</u> , pl <u>a</u> y	/ɪə/	ea <u>r</u> , he <u>r</u> e
/j/	<u>y</u> ou, pu <u>r</u> e	/eə/	ai <u>r</u> , ca <u>r</u> e, cha <u>i</u> r
/w/	<u>w</u> one, <u>w</u> hen, <u>s</u> weet	/ʊə/	ju <u>r</u> y, cu <u>r</u> e
/r/	<u>r</u> im, br <u>ea</u> d		

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References

Text A: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2892834/>

Text B: <http://secondopinion-tv.org/transcript/sleep-disorders-transcript>

Text C:

<http://www.smrt.com.sg/Portals/0/PDFs/About%20SMRT/Newsroom/2012/01%2027%202012.pdf>

Text D: <http://mothership.sg/2014/06/8-doable-ideas-that-will-drastically-improve-mrt-travel-forevermore/>