

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

9727/02

Paper 2 Investigating Language Use in Society

18 September 2015

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your registration number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black ink on both sides of the paper.

Do not use paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **three** questions: you must answer at least one question from Section A **and** at least one question from Section B.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper 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.

Section A: Language Variation and Change

Answer at least one question from this section.

Answers should demonstrate awareness of wider geographical/historical/social perspectives (as appropriate) in relation to English language.

Examples may be drawn from written or spoken English, or from both.

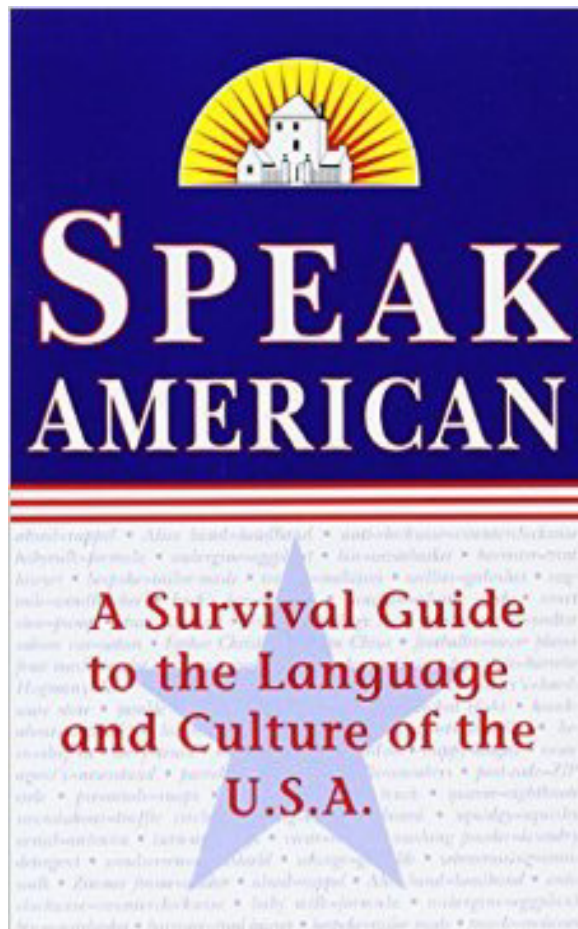
Do not repeat material in your answers to different questions on this Paper.

- 1 Read Texts A(i) and A(ii), and then answer the question below.

Discuss in detail factors which determine whether any specific variety of English is acceptable.

You should include a range of examples/ideas from Texts A(i) and A(ii) and from your wider studies of English language, with detailed reference to lexis, grammar, syntax and discourse as appropriate. [25]

Text A(i) is an image of a cover of a book sold on Amazon.com with a description next to it.



Imagine that you're from England, or India, or Hong Kong, and your English is impeccable. But when you travel to America, you get a funny look when you tell a colleague, "I'll knock you up tomorrow at half-eight." And you can't find bangers on a single restaurant menu.

You feel like you speak a foreign language because you do! You need to know how to survive in American English, and this book will help you do it. This user-friendly guide focuses on the vocabulary that newcomers to the U.S. really need to know.

Each chapter begins with a quick-reference summary of key confusable words. Americanisms, grammar, and cultural points.

Offers guidance on social issues such as tipping and addressing people.

Perfect for travellers, businesspeople, and students.

Text A(ii) is adapted from an online article dated 4th November 2012 from *The Telegraph*.

Prince of Wales, 'nambawan pikinini', visits Papua New Guinea

The Prince and the Duchess of Cornwall are visiting the pacific nation as part of their Diamond Jubilee tour and began their day cheered by a crowd of 5,000 as they arrived at the Sir John Guise Stadium in the capital Port Moresby.

After an open air church service where prayers were said for the Queen - who is Papua New Guinea's head of state - Charles presented new colours to the Royal Pacific Islands Regiment. 5

During a speech to the crowds Charles spoke in Pidgin English and told them to huge cheers: "Mi bringim bikpela tok hamamas bilong mejesti kwin Papua Niugini na olgeta haus lain bilong mi lon dispela taim bilong Diamon Jubili misis kwin. Mi tokpisin olrite?" 10

With its people speaking more than 800 languages, business, politics and everyday interaction in the Pacific country is conducted through English and Tok Pisin - a form of Melanesian Pidgin English.

Charles' words translated as: "I bring you greetings from Her Majesty the Queen of Papua New Guinea and from all my family members during this celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen. Was my Pisin correct?" 15

He went on to highlight the monarch's historic reign: "This is a great day and a magnificent spectacle. We are gathered here to celebrate the Queen's 60 years of service to others. I know how honoured Her Majesty is to be your Queen, a title borne by her with immense pride and renewed by the people of this great country upon independence in 1975." 20

Thousands of school children paraded into the stadium, used for sport events and rock concerts, for the royals.

Tribes from across Papua New Guinea were lined in two rows and the royal couple walked down the middle marvelling at the colourful spectacle. 25

The nation's world famous Huli men, with their yellow painted faces and head-dresses made of bird of paradise feathers, were on display along with Asaro mudmen, with their large striking false heads and bodies covered in grey clay.

The royal couple arrived on the island yesterday afternoon, with the Duchess greeted with a kiss and a neckless of valuable shells from Jenny Lohia. Lohia, a 24-year-old clerk who works for a liquid natural gas company, was topless and dressed in a sago leaf skirt and body paintings when she made the presentation to the Duchess. 30

She said afterwards: "She was happy when I kissed her. I just gave her a kiss because it was the first time I had seen her and Charles. "I'm so proud of myself for giving her that kiss - it's one in a million. "I feel so proud of my village, they could have gone anywhere but they came here." 35

- 2 Read texts B(i) and B(ii) and then answer the following question.

Discuss in detail the various attitudes towards what is considered Standard English.

You should include a range of examples/ideas from Texts A(i) and A(ii) and from your wider studies of English language, with detailed reference to lexis, grammar, syntax and discourse as appropriate. [25]

Text B(i) is from *Bob the Angry Flower*, a comic strip created by Stephen Notley.

BOB'S QUICK GUIDE to ITS and IT'S, IDIOTS
angryflower.com

ITS = IT IS

THAT'S IT, FOLKS! THAT'S ALL Y'GOTTA REMEMBER! CAN YOU SUBSTITUTE "IT IS"? THEN USE "IT'S". IF YOU CAN'T, **DON'T!!!**

EXAMPLE:
The cat hurt it's feet
The cat hurt it is feet.

WRONG!

THIS ONE'S **STUPIDLY SIMPLE**, PEOPLE!!!

an UNWELCOME EDUCATION product

BOB'S QUICK GUIDE to the APOSTROPHE, IDIOTS
www.angryflower.com

THERE'S A LOT OF FRUSTRATION IN THE NEWSPAPER CARTOON INDUSTRY ABOUT THE PUBLIC'S DEEP IGNORANCE ABOUT THIS ELEMENTARY PUNCTUATION MARK. HERE, THEN, IS A SIMPLE GUIDE TO SOME BASIC GRAMMAR, YOU ILLITERATE MORONS.

CONTRACTION
The cat's out of the bag. **CORRECT**

POSSESSIVE
The cat's feet are out of the bag. **ALSO CORRECT**

PLURAL
All the cat's are out of the bag. **NO! WRONG! TOTALLY WRONG! WHERE'D YOU LEARN THIS? STOP DOING IT!**

SOME POPULAR BUT INCORRECT RULES

- 1 When pluralizing a word that ends with a vowel, add an apostrophe.
taco's burrito's latte's
tomatoe's potato's knife's
- 2 When pluralizing any other word, add an apostrophe.
ball's kitty's
car's VCR's
sheep's gribbl's
- 3 Add an apostrophe whenever you want.

THIS IS WRONG!
AND SO IS THIS!
AND OF COURSE SO IS THIS!

an UNWELCOME EDUCATION product

Text B(ii) is adapted from the Writer's Digest website.

Why I Don't Care About Grammar (and Why You Should Stop Worrying)

By: [dmatriccino](#) | June 21, 2010

I was probably the only student in my 8th grade class to look forward to English period, and copying down grammar lessons.

My English teacher, Mrs. McKinney, was methodical, strict, and exact about every aspect of the language. She told us exactly how to copy down the lessons, and what kind of paper to use (Steno pads). Plus we had competitions to see who could diagram sentences the fastest. 5

Everything I know about grammar I learned from Mrs. McKinney; I never had another teacher who delivered the information so logically and comprehensively. I am eternally grateful. 10

But if I have a pet peeve with writers (both beginning and published), it's their unrelenting obsession & unforgiving attitude toward errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Whenever Writer's Digest posts about a grammar issue, it invariably receives the most comments (and fiercest arguments). Whenever or wherever we have a grammatical fumble, in print or online, it's like we've committed a cardinal sin—which is understandable, and which we're sorry for, but ... 15

Lighten up, people!

Why do I say this? For two reasons: 20

1. **Every one of us, from the day we are able to speak, instinctively know the universal grammar.** You wouldn't be able to converse with other people if you didn't know it. So why doesn't everyone have perfect written grammar? Primarily because we're all flustered by the rules and regulations surrounding the written word—which is in a state of flux, by the way. 25
2. **Perfect grammar has nothing to do with great writing.** Certainly, I will admit that people who are better at grammar often have more sensitivity for the nuance of language—and tend to be better writers—but for the most part, facility with grammar has nothing to do with storytelling talent.

So, I hate to see a new/beginning writer worry about grammar, or even apologize in advance that their grammar isn't perfect. I really don't care as long as the language isn't getting in the way of understanding and enjoying the story. 30

The worry you invest in grammar is energy diverted away from the meat of the writing. Grammar is a surface-level issue that should be taken care of separately, near the end of the writing process, and can even be corrected or polished by someone else. 35

However, I do advocate sensitivity to language. For that, you can study up with the most recent edition of *Grammatically Correct* (just released this month!), which is like having your own Mrs. McKinney by your side.

Section B: Language, Culture and Identity

Answer at least one question from this section.

Answers should demonstrate awareness of wider geographical/historical/social perspectives (as appropriate) in relation to English language.

Examples may be drawn from written or spoken English, or from both.

Do not repeat material in your answers to different questions on this Paper.

3 Read Texts C(i), C(ii) and C(iii), and then answer the following question.

Discuss in detail ways in which language is used to construct attitudes and values towards famous people.

You should include a range of examples/ideas from Texts A(i) and A(ii) and from your wider studies of English language, with detailed reference to lexis, grammar, syntax and discourse as appropriate. **[25]**

Text C(i) is a meme taken from a blog titled *Advocatus Atheist* and is a response to the news of former Olympic champion Bruce Jenner going through a highly publicised gender reassignment journey and who is now known as Caitlyn Jenner. The image on the left is that of an unnamed soldier while the image on the right is of Caitlyn Jenner.



Text C(ii) is adapted from a report in *The Straits Times* relating to the case of Jover Chew, a former business owner who made the headlines in Singapore in May 2015 after a spate of disputes and questionable practices involving his mobile phone shop.

Chew Chiew Loon Jover - the former owner of Sim Lim Square electronics shop Mobile Air - was charged in court two days after being arrested for a series of cheating cases.

Published on 29th May

The details of the case against Chew, 33, are as follows:

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- 26 charges in total
- 24 for abetment by conspiracy to commit cheating
- one each for cheating and criminal intimidation
- 25 victims involved
- total amount cheated came up to S\$14,449
- he has yet to plead
- a pre-trial conference is set for June 25th
- he is out on S\$40,000 bail

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Text C(iii) is a cartoon done by Pat Bagley depicting Malala Yousafzai, a Pakistani activist for female education and a Nobel Laureate, best known for standing up against the Taliban regime for prohibiting girls to attend school.



- 4 Read Texts D(i) and D(ii), and then answer the following question.

Discuss in detail ways in which language is used to construct values in the discourse of politics.

You should include a range of examples/ideas from Texts A(i) and A(ii) and from your wider studies of English language, with detailed reference to lexis, grammar, syntax and discourse as appropriate. [25]

Text D(i) is adapted from an article published on BBC's News Website.

The shared language of sport and politics

By: Nick Bryant | 28 June 2012

We have now reached the point in the race for the White House when it helps to keep a glossary of American sporting terms ever close at hand.

True, we have not quite reached **the bottom of the ninth** (the final, often dramatic, 5
inning of a baseball game).

It is probably too early for the **front-runner** Barack Obama to start **running down the clock** (cautious tactics used by the team ahead in the final minutes of a basketball match designed to protect its lead).

Across the political Anglo-sphere, the language of sport often doubles as the language 10
of politics.

Linguistically speaking, should sport and politics mix? Media commentators have long bemoaned a style of campaign coverage known as "horse-race journalism," in which the contest becomes everything - although a better description might be "play-by-play journalism." 15

Strategies and tactics subsume policies and ideas. Politicians tend to be judged as players in the political game, rather than as potential leaders. I know this to be true, because, as a one-time Washington correspondent, I fell back on these analogies myself.

Given the hurtling pace of modern-day news, and the demands for rapid response 20
online analysis, horse-race journalism has, if anything, got worse. Who is up or down is now a matter of instant judgment and, in the main, pinched thinking. **As a Tweeter myself**, again I plead guilty.

Soon this interminably long race will be over - it is a **marathon**, remember, not a **sprint** - and there will follow another of the great rituals of campaign coverage. 25
Correspondents will identify the single moment the election was won or lost, or the strategy or move that led to defeat - which will seem obvious now, even if it wasn't at the time. Needless to say, the Americans have a name for this kind of post-match analysis: **Monday morning quarterbacking**.

Text D(ii) is adapted from Channel NewsAsia's website.

'If you believe in me, support my team': PM Lee

Posted on 8th September 2015

SINGAPORE: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Tuesday (Sep 8) called on Singaporeans to support him and all his People's Action Party (PAP) candidates, and called "perverse" the Opposition's argument that they should vote against the Government so that it would work harder. 5

"To produce results for you, I need the right team to work with me, to work with you and for Singapore," he said in a rousing speech under the hot sun at the party's lunch-time rally outside UOB Plaza.

The Opposition's formula doesn't make sense, Mr Lee said. "They say, 'if the Government did a good job it's because you voted for the Opposition. So, vote for the Opposition and the Government will work harder. Doesn't matter if Opposition is not doing the work.' What sort of politics is that?" he asked. 10

"It's perverse, it's upside down, you confuse yourself. You mess things up, you weaken the team, you end up with outcomes you don't want, an Opposition which is strengthened but incapable," said Mr Lee, who is the PAP's secretary-general. 15

"Actually, the argument is the other way around," he said. "The Opposition is not working hard enough. They make a mess of things, they're not active enough in Parliament, they're not talking much sense – vote PAP to make the Opposition work harder!" he added, to the roar of the crowd. 20

The Prime Minister recounted his first speech at the Fullerton Square rally venue nearby in 1984 – his first General Election.

"Every election since then I've been back. Why do I do this? Because I'm convinced each person can make a difference. Because I think I can help and I think if I don't step up, it doesn't mean someone will stand up and the problem will be solved, I can go home," he said, on why he said 'yes' when Mr Goh Chok Tong asked him to join politics back then. 25

He added: "We are not the bosses of Singapore, we are not the commanders or owners of Singapore. We are the trustees and stewards of Singapore – we are like the *jaga* (Malay for guard)." 30

Evoking the spirit of founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew a few times in his speech, Mr Lee reminded the crowd how 35 years ago, the late Mr Lee stood at the Fullerton Square rally in a downpour and said: "Whoever governs Singapore must have that iron in him, or give it up! This is not a game of cards! This is your life and mine! I spent a whole lifetime building this, and as long as I am in charge, nobody will knock it down." 35

Said PM Lee: "Mr Lee is gone, but that spirit must continue in Singapore. That iron must be inside our hearts. And as long as the PAP is in charge, nobody should be knocking this down.

"And that's why I'm in politics, So if you believe in me – if you believe that together, we can make tomorrow better than today - please support me and my PAP team." 40

