



AS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2 Language varieties

Monday 19 May 2025

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7701/2.
- There are **two** sections:
 - Section A: Language diversity
 - Section B: Language discourses.
- Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2 from Section A. Answer Question 3 from Section B.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 70.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 30 marks for **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2. There are 40 marks for Question 3.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- It is recommended that you use:
 - about 40 minutes writing your Section A answer
 - about 50 minutes writing your Section B answer.

Section A

Language diversity

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either

0 1

Discuss the idea that some accents are more suitable for jobs than other accents.

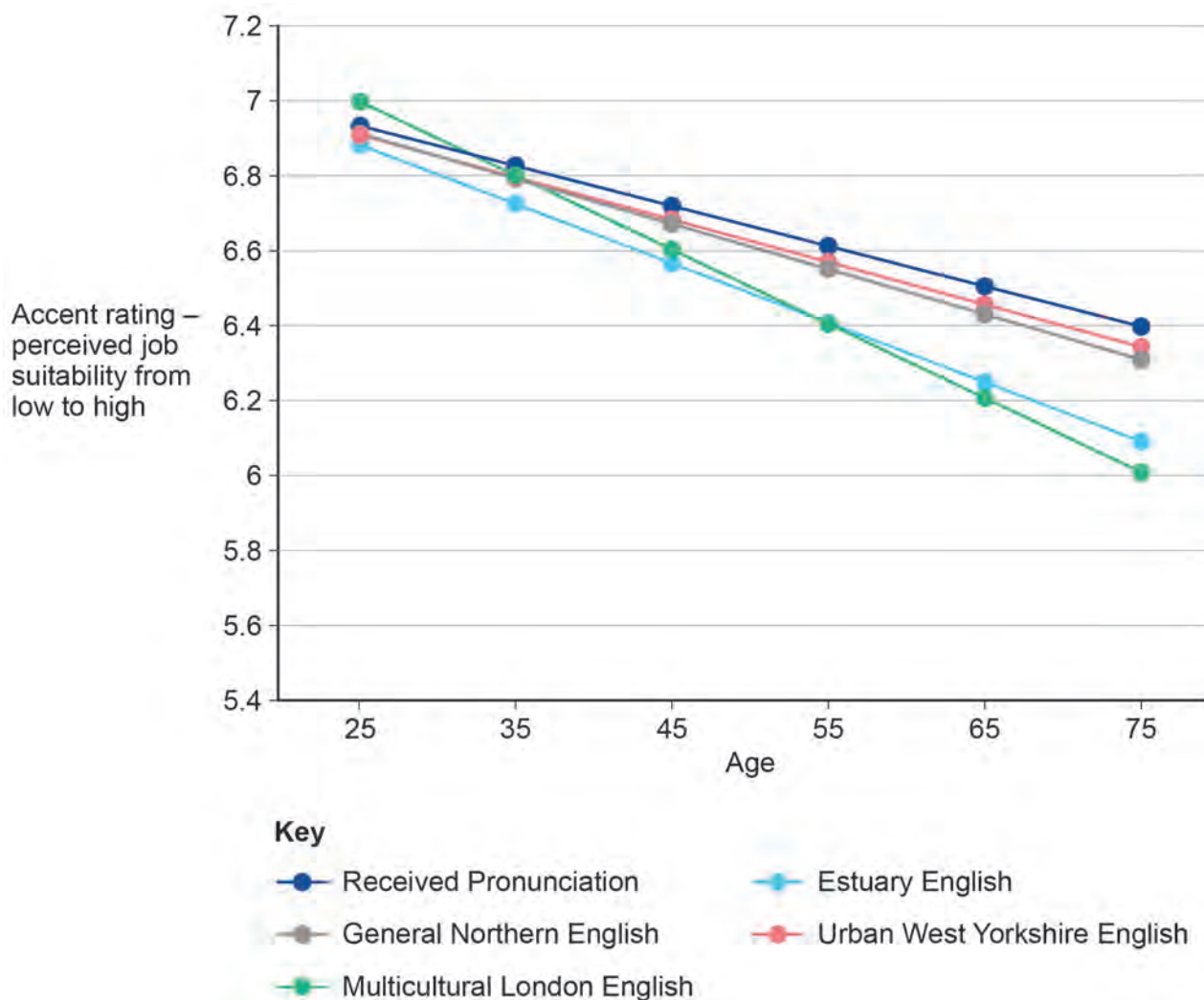
In your answer you should discuss concepts and issues from language study.

You should use your own supporting examples and the data in **Figure 1** below.

Figure 1 shows the results of a study that asked people of different ages to rate people with different accents in terms of their suitability for a job. Higher numbers indicate a higher level of perceived suitability.

[30 marks]

Figure 1



or

0	2
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Discuss the idea that the English language needs to be made gender inclusive.

In your answer you should discuss concepts and issues from language study. You should use your own supporting examples and the data in **Text A** below.

Text A is an extract from a set of guidelines. This extract defines 'gender inclusive language' for staff at the United Nations and explains how they should use gender inclusive language.

[30 marks]

Text A



UNITED NATIONS
Gender-inclusive language

Using gender-inclusive language means speaking and writing in a way that does not discriminate against a particular sex, social gender or gender identity, and does not perpetuate gender stereotypes. Given the key role of language in shaping cultural and social attitudes, using gender-inclusive language is a powerful way to promote gender equality and eradicate gender bias.

English has very few gender markers: **the pronouns and possessives** (*he, she, her* and *his*); and **some nouns and forms of address**. Most English nouns do not have grammatical gender forms (*teacher, president*), whereas a few nouns are specifically masculine or feminine (*actor/actress, waiter/waitress*). Some nouns that once ended in *-man* now have neutral equivalents that are used to include both genders (*police officer* for *policeman/policewoman*, *spokesperson* for *spokesman*, *chair/chairperson* for *chairman*).

Turn over for Section B

Turn over ►

Section B
Language discourses
 Answer Question 3.

0	3
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Text B is an extract from an article. It is about a law to make government communications as clear as possible.

Write an article in which you discuss the need for organisations to use clear communication. You should refer to ideas from language study.

Before writing your article you should state your intended audience.

[40 marks]

Text B

New Zealand hopes to banish jargon with plain language law

Legislation will require government communications to be clear and concise, but opposition says monitoring will add more bureaucracy



New Zealand has passed anti-jargon legislation to make government documents easier for the public to understand.
 Photograph: kyoshino/Getty Images/iStock

The Plain Language Bill will require government communications to the public be “clear, concise, well-organised, and audience-appropriate”. For the country’s anti-gibberish brigade, it’s a victory: they say clear language is a matter of social justice and a democratic right.

‘Mistakes were made’

Advocates say there’s vast room for improvement in New Zealand government communications. By way of example, the country has an annual plain language award which includes a “best sentence transformation” trophy. This offering, from the government’s statistics department, recently took the prize:

“Over the year we tested the innovation readiness and change-adaptability of the organisation, made significant changes to our prioritisation and investment approaches, moved to activity based working and seen teams across Stats respond by making time to focus on tackling customer and internal pain points.”

It became:

“We tested how ready our organisation was to innovate and make changes. We also changed our approach to setting priorities and to investing, and moved to a flexible working style for our staff. In response, staff focused on solving their own, and customers’, irritations.”

END OF QUESTIONS

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