



Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/41

Paper 4 Language Topics

May/June 2024

2 hours 15 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: English in the world**Question 1**

Read the following text, which is an extract from an article published in the British newspaper *The Times* in 2021.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to influences on the changing use of English in the world. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of English in the world. [25]

Konglish is not your bepu: South Korea fights corruption of its language

Is your bepu a gaegeumaen?

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The Oxford English Dictionary added 26 this year, including PC bang, meaning an internet café, oppa, meaning an older brother or attractive older man, and mukbang, an online video featuring a person eating a large quantity of food.

Section B: Language and the self

Question 2

Read the following text, which is an extract from an article published on the *Psychology Today* website in 2021.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the ways in which language can shape and reflect how individuals think about themselves and others. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of Language and the self. [25]

The Power of a 'We'

Choosing the right pronoun can be the ultimate power move

Pronouns have long been at the crux of heated debate and social reform – not only in terms of how we express gender, but also how our usage reveals how we relate to one another. 5

In looking at pronoun choice in a variety of high-stakes contexts, psychologists and linguists have discovered that our pronoun patterns reveal a lot about how we express power and social status.

The Pronouns of a Leader

Looking at the way pronouns pattern in the speech of higher status vs. lower status participants in interactions, particularly those in an employment context, psychologist James Pennebaker and his colleagues found that those who took on leadership roles used fewer first-person singular words (I, me, my) and more plural words (we, our, they), while those in subordinate roles used I-words more. 10

This may at first seem surprising, as using 'I' might seem to be the ultimate power word – as in 'I expect' or 'I need.' But as anyone trying to effectively parent or supervise has learned, telling someone what they need to do by couching it in terms of what you want rarely works. Instead, to build a team, to motivate people, you have to convince people you are in it together and that it benefits them as well as you. So, welcome to the world of 'we' and 'us,' rather than 'I.' 15

Political Pronouns

Since using 'we' more than 'I' seems to carry with it a sense of collective experience and a correlation with leadership, politicians have, not surprisingly, jumped quickly on that rhetorical bandwagon. 20

A study that examined campaign speeches of Australian Prime Ministerial candidates found that the candidates who were victorious used more inclusive 'we' and 'us' pronouns than those who lost in 80 per cent of all elections. What's more, a series of data analyses for the 'Language Log' blog run by the University of Pennsylvania Professor Mark Liberman found that there has been a clear increase in second person plural pronoun usage across presidential State of the Union addresses since the Second World War. 25

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This research suggests that we prefer leaders whose linguistic behavior indicates that they see themselves as 'one of us' and socially identify as part of a collective rather than those who set themselves apart through the use of self-referring pronouns. However, this bent toward preferring political leaders who prioritize social connectedness rather than exceptionality and unique experience does not seem to have always been the case, with this increasing preference for use of inclusive 'we' and 'us' found only in presidential speeches over the last century.

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