

Pearson Edexcel
International Advanced Level

English Language

International Advanced Subsidiary

Unit 2: Language in Transition

Friday 26 May 2017 – Morning

Source Booklet

Paper Reference

WEN02/01

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P50610A

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English Phonemic Reference Sheet

Vowels					
kit	dress	trap	lot	strut	foot
ɪ	e	æ	ɒ	ʌ	ʊ
letter	fleece	bath	thought	goose	nurse
ə	i:	ɑ:	ɔ:	u:	ɜ:

Diacritics /:/ = length mark. These vowels may be shorter in some accents and will be transcribed without the length mark /:/ in this case.

Diphthongs							
face	goat	price	mouth	choice	near	square	cure
eɪ	əʊ	aɪ	aʊ	ɔɪ	ɪə	eə	ʊə

Consonants					
pip	bid	tack	door	cake	good
p	b	t	d	k	g
chain	jam	fly	vase	thing	this
tʃ	dʒ	f	v	θ	ð
say	zoo	shoe	treasure	house	mark
s	z	ʃ	ʒ	h	m
not	sing	lot	rose	yet	witch
n	ŋ	l	r	j	w
Glottal stop		Syllabic /l/ bottle		Syllabic /n/ fatten	
ʔ		l̩		n̩	

Mark Key			
/_/	key phonemic transcription	?	rising intonation
(.)	micro pause	(1)	longer pause (number of seconds indicated)

Text A – edited extract from a podcast interview with comedian Brian Limond (Limmy) from Glasgow, Scotland. The podcast was uploaded to the YouTube channel of the Scottish newspaper, *Daily Record* in 2013.

I – Interviewer

L – Limmy

I: you obviously have a Scottish following because it was on TV in Scotland but other folk followed you online through the series through the iPlayer on the BBC does it frustrate you that it was never given a platform of a sorta network viewing

L: aye a wee bit I /æ/ mean I would I would like it to be UK wide (1) I would like my /mæ/ show to be UK wide and Europe wide and world /wɔːld/ wide and everything /evrɪtʌŋ/ but that's not gonnae happen but (.) I would like it to be (.) UK wide since it is on the BBC but (.) whatever I don't know what their reasons are but they've got their reasons (.) so erm (.) I'd I'd really like it to be UK wide but (.) that's just it (.) and that's why I'm just thinking about /æbu:t/ what I want to do /di:/ next

I: when you've got folk like Matt Lucas bigging you up in the press and on radio 2 inviting you on to his his panel show I mean does that does that feel like you know you can't buy that kind of help that kind of publicity

L: aye kinda but it's also just er it just er it just sorta tickles me (.) a wee bit more /mear/ than any of the the benefits to my show or my career or any of the like that it's just magic (.) erm when you go fae (.) having seen Matt Lucas being /bi:ɪn/ George Dawes (.) and then (.) and then you're in his house (hu:s) and you're having a chat and you're having a a laugh and all that its its funny (.) just that's a nice kinda trippy experience that kinda thing and you're meeting like er these other er (.) celebs and you're like I've I've saw you for years on the telly and now you just go you just get used to it or you just tell yourself to just get used to it it's just a nice experience I think about that more than (.) it is good it is good like when he (.) like say Matt Lucas I don't know he's got something like quarter of a million followers and he says (.) everybody watch this or Graham Linehan /lɪneɦɪn/ or somebody else says everybody watch this (.) it's good in that way but it's also good to go (.) I remember making my stuff up in my living room and then you go fae that to the podcast to the stand up and then this is happening and I sometimes (.) kinda go on about it a bit on like my webcam saying tae everybody if you're thinking about doing if you're thinking about doing /di:n/ any of this then do it (.) because it's not easy but it's easier than what you think (.) oh it's it's no like it happens tae other people it can it happened it happened to me

Glossary

aye – yes

wee – little

gonnae – going to

BBC – British Broadcasting Corporation

tae – to

fae – from

Matt Lucas – comedian/actor

George Dawes – a character created by Matt Lucas

Graham Linehan – comedy writer

Text B – extract from a newspaper article in the *Daily Express* published in July 2015.

Scottish accent doomed to extinction – and the Queen’s English and BBC could be to blame

LINGUISTS claim Scots are losing their treasured accent as their distinctive rolling ‘Rs’ begin to vanish.

It is one of the most recognisable accents in the English-speaking world – but the distinctive Scot pronunciation could soon be confined to history.

Experts found that many young Scots are unable to emphasise the ‘R’ at the end of words such as “car”, “bar” and “farm”. Instead, they swallow the sound to soften their accent.

Scottish linguists have blamed the influx of English and American TV and radio for the change. Other experts blame Scottish broadcasters trying to emulate the Queen’s English such as at BBC Scotland. Alongside Sean Connery, Andy Murray and porridge, the Scottish accent is one of the country’s greatest exports.

Researchers used ultrasound machines to reveal the tongue movements of a group of 12 and 13-year-old Scots as they said a range of words. The academics found that the rolling or trilling R – heard in the likes of “broom”, “squirrel” and “hurry” – is now becoming a rarity.

Young working-class Scots are more likely to swallow the sound while their middle-class compatriots are likely to mimic American English.

Sociolinguist at Queen Margaret University, Eleanor Lawson, said: “We found that some Scottish speakers are delaying the ‘R’ gesture, so it’s happening in silence afterwards. They’re not losing it completely. They’re still producing it. You just can’t hear it properly.”

Michael Hance, director of the Scots Language Centre, said the Anglicising influence of the media is behind the change, or what linguists call ‘a postvocalic rhoticity’.

He said: “Ninety-nine per cent of Scottish radio and TV is English and American accents. The BBC in Scotland have this long tradition of sending people off for elocution lessons to soften their accents.”

However, researchers from the University of Glasgow and Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh insist accents naturally evolve.

But many Scots are forced to tone down their accent when speaking to others from the rest of the UK. A study in 2013 found that Scots are more likely to be discriminated against because of their accent than any other region.

Glossary

Sean Connery – a Scottish film actor

Andy Murray – a Scottish tennis player

porridge – an oat-based breakfast cereal

postvocalic rhoticity – the pronunciation of the ‘r’ sound following a vowel

Text C – an edited post from the website *londontranslations.co.uk*, a business that provides translators and interpreters of other languages. It was posted in 2014.

Scottish – An independent language?

By Jennifer Ball 27/08/2014 – Posted in: International Business Relations

In the run up to the vote on Scottish independence, many television viewers from around the world have been treated to samples of various Scottish dialects that would normally not receive as much exposure.

Comprising numerous dialects across the country, it is possible to divide the country into four separate regions – The Highlands, the Scottish Lowlands, the northeast and the islands each contain many unique accents and dialects but in these divisions contain more similarities than differences.

Scottish English developed from language contact between the Scots language of the Scottish lowlands, considered a sister language to English, and Standard English after the Act of Union united the Kingdoms of Scotland and England.

Highlands English has a far more Gaelic influence on vocabulary, pronunciation and syntax than any other dialect in Scotland. Often, the accent that accompanies Highland English can often be mistaken for Irish, the accents of Highland English and Hiberno-English have more in common than Highland English has with other Scottish dialects, most likely due to the Gaelic influence on both dialects.

Doric is possibly the hardest dialect to understand, even leaving some fellow Scots baffled. Doric is the dialect spoken in the northeast of Scotland, drawing influence from Scots, Gaelic and Scandinavian languages.

Doric employs some fantastically colourful vocabulary.

Fan div ye yoke? – When do you start work?

foggy bummer – Bumblebee

Fit – what

Famously, the Glaswegian dialect is often cited as the hardest dialect and accent to decipher for visitors to the UK. Historically Glasgow has been a beacon for immigrants over the years, from the highlanders displaced during the Highland clearances of the 18th and 19th centuries to the mass exodus of the Irish during the famine.

In formal settings, most business is conducted in Standard Scottish English, an altogether easier accent to understand. Scotland has worked and traded globally with great success for hundreds of years. There is a big difference between the vernacular of the office and that of the pub and street. While bewildered tourists may be a common sight around Glasgow, the boardrooms of companies in Scotland do not display the same phenomena. However, if you do find yourself with an upcoming meeting in Scotland, it may be worth your while revisiting some classic Billy Connolly routines to prepare.

Glossary

Scots language – national name for a collection of dialects across Scotland

Gaelic – a Celtic language spoken mainly in Ireland and in the highlands and islands of western Scotland

Billy Connolly – Scottish comedian/actor

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Sources taken/adapted from:

Text A: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ypqsrh4N7Ek>

Text B: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/592405/Scottish-accent-doomed-extinction-Queen-s-English-BBC-blame>

Text C: <http://www.londontranslations.co.uk/international-business-relations/scottish-independence-language/>

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