

**Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level**

**January 2019**

Paper Reference **WEN04/01**

**English Language**

**International Advanced Level**

**Unit 4: Investigating Language**

**Pre-release Material**

**You do not need any other materials.**

You are not allowed to take your pre-release work into the examination.

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This booklet introduces four subtopics for the examination, one for each of the four topics.

The four topics are:

- Global English
- Child Language Development
- Language and Power
- Language and Technology.

The summary, given for each topic, is a starting point for students to use for their own subtopic investigations. Exploration of local and global resources is encouraged.

The suggested resource list is intended to act as guidance and students should broaden their research beyond the list. Students and teachers need to consider carefully which resources to use as the list is for guidance and suggestion only.

Please note that resources were checked at the time of publication – all web addresses were working and all publications were available for purchase. However, materials may be withdrawn from circulation and website locations may change.

**Topic: Global English**  
**Subtopic: Ivory Coast English**

Ivory Coast is a multilingual country with an estimated 78 languages currently spoken. The official language, French, was introduced during the colonial period and is taught in schools. Many Ivorians understand English, which is taught in high school and the National University of Côte d'Ivoire (formerly the University of Abidjan). Radio broadcasts are in French, English, and indigenous languages. Historically, English was not popular even among educated people, however as the Ivory Coast attracts more overseas investment from English speaking countries such as America, the country recognises the need to create a more internationally minded workforce.

Your investigation should focus on the English of the Ivory Coast.

**Areas to consider in your research:**

- the significance of French as a first language and its impact on the acquisition of English
- the influence of social and cultural changes through colonisation, globalisation and business, the media and technology
- the influence of adjacent countries and the languages spoken there.

**Suggested research resources**

**Books:**

Barton D. and Hamilton, M. (1998) *Local Literacies: Reading and Writing in One Community*  
 Beal, J. (2008) *A Handbook of Varieties of English*  
 Holmes, J. (2013) *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. 2nd Edition  
 Jenkins, J. (2009) *World Englishes – a resource book for students*  
 Kirkpatrick, A. (2007) *World Englishes*  
 Mesthrie, R. (2010) *Varieties of English*. Volumes 2 and 3

**Online resources:**

Data could be taken from transcripts of Ivorian speakers of English in the public eye, representations in the media and everyday conversations.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lp1Ofxz8ZuA>

<http://www.everyculture.com/wc/Costa-Rica-to-Georgia/Ivoirians.html>

<http://easyscienceforkids.com/all-about-ivory-coast>

**Articles:**

English is an attractive option for the ambitious in Ivory Coast  
<https://www.ft.com/content/fb8f9eae-5ad1-11e5-9846-de406ccb37f2>

**General revision sites:**

[www.universalteacher.org.uk](http://www.universalteacher.org.uk)  
[www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com](http://www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com)  
[www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine](http://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine)

## Topic: Child Language Development

### Subtopic: Phonics

Phonics is a method used for teaching reading and writing in English. It seeks to develop the child's ability to hear, identify and manipulate phonemes and to recognise the connections between these sounds and the spelling patterns (graphemes). The purpose of phonics is to decode new written words by sounding them out, or *blending* the sound-spelling patterns. Since the turn of the 20th century, phonics has been used in some primary schools as a method of teaching literacy. The teaching of phonics is not universally accepted. Other methods include 'The look-say/ Whole-word/ Whole language method'. Synthetic phonics aims for a compromise between methods.

Your investigation should focus on the features of phonics and their impact on children's language and literacy development.

#### Areas to consider in your research:

- the phonic methods used within education
- alternative methods to teaching reading
- published articles on different methods of teaching reading
- the influence of social, cultural and pragmatic effects on using phonics as a means to teach children.

#### Suggested research resources

Data could be taken from a variety of teaching methods used in the development of children's reading.

#### Books:

Armstrong, M. (2006) *Children Writing Stories*

Crystal, D. (1989) *Listen to Your Child*

Gillen, G. (2018) *Phonological Awareness, second edition: From Research to Practice*

Gillen, J. (2004) *The Language of Children (Intertext series.)*

Goodman, Y.M. and Prisca, M. (eds) (2007) *Critical Issues in Early Literacy: Research and Pedagogy*

Johnson, R. and Watson, J. (2014) *Teaching Synthetic Phonics in Primary Schools*

O'Grady, W. (2005) *How Children Learn Language*

#### Online resources:

<https://thejournal.com/articles/2015/07/02/how-phonics-is-taught-can-affect-how-well-a-child-learns-to-read.aspx>

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/feb/26/why-the-right-and-left-cant-stop-sounding-off-about-phonics>

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/04/170420094107.htm>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-09-18/phonics-test-what-is-it-and-will-it-help-your-kids-read/8956360>

#### General revision sites:

[www.universalteacher.org.uk](http://www.universalteacher.org.uk)

[www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com](http://www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com)

[www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine](http://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine)

**Topic: Language and Power**  
**Subtopic: Language and Bullying**

Bullying is the use of physical force, threat, coercion, or verbal abuse and intimidation to dominate others. The behaviour is often repeated. One essential prerequisite is the perception, by the bully, or by others, of an imbalance of social or physical power. Behaviours used to assert such domination can include verbal harassment or threat, physical assault or coercion, and such acts may be directed repeatedly towards particular targets. Justification of such behavior may include differences of social class, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, appearance, behaviour, body language and personality.

Your investigation should focus on the language and tactics used by bullies.

**Areas to consider in your research:**

- the language used by bullies to control their victims and gain power
- the influence of social, cultural and psychological effects on bullies and their language
- attitudes to and methods to tackle the effects of bullying
- credible research and articles on bullying and the impact on victims
- the use of technology and media platforms as a means of bullying.

**Suggested research resources:**

**Books:**

Coultras, A. (2003) *Language and Social Contexts*

LaBelle, S. Henriksen, B. Eppler, E. (2011) *Language, Society and Power: An Introduction*

Fairclough, N. (2014) *Language and Power, 3rd edition*

Hinduja, S.K and Patchin, J W. (2008) *Bullying Beyond the Schoolyard: Preventing and Responding to Cyberbullying*

Kowalski, R.M. (2012) *Cyber Bullying: Bullying in the digital age*

Mooney, A. and Evans, B. (2015) *Language, Society and Power: An introduction, 4th edition*

Jimerson, S.R and Swearer, S.M and Espelage, D.L (2010) *Handbook of Bullying in Schools: An International Perspective*

**Online resources:**

<https://www.stanfield.com/blog/2012/11/sticks-and-stones-how-humans-intensify-bullying-through-language/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jan/10/racist-bullying-children-media-white-black>

<http://www.chicagonow.com/portrait-of-an-adoption/2011/03/interview-with-a-bullying-victim/>

<https://www.verywell.com/3-types-of-prejudicial-bullying-460668>

**General revision sites:**

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[www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com](http://www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com)

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**Topic: Language and Technology**  
**Subtopic: Technology and Written Communication**

The expansion of technology over the last 30 years has enabled much of the written language we see now to be presented via the screens of computers, tablets, and smartphones. The language we use to communicate with each other tends to be more adaptable than formal writing. The combination of informal, personal communication and the mass audience afforded by social media has resulted in language change. The introduction of alternate ways of communicating has led to many arguments – some suggest that technology has had a negative impact on language development, whilst others support the idea that language always has and always will evolve.

Your investigation should focus on the impact technology has had on language, the ways in which language has evolved and the different attitudes to these technological changes.

**Areas to consider in your research:**

- articles, attitudes and theories underpinning language and technology
- the influence of social, economic, cultural and historical effects on written communication.

**Suggested research resources**

**Books:**

Boardman, M. (2004) *Language of Websites*  
Crystal, D. (2013) *The Language Revolution*  
Goddard, A and Geesin, B (2011) *Language and Technology*  
Sproat, R.W. (2010) *Language, Technology and Society*

**Online resources:**

<http://theconversation.com/how-technology-is-changing-language-and-the-way-we-think-about-the-world-35856>

<http://blog.betterworldbooks.com/2014/02/06/5-ways-technology-has-changed-the-way-we-read-and-learn/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-10971949>

<http://www.popsoci.com/qa-with-john-mcwhorter-on-future-language>

<https://gretchenmcculloch.com/tag/mental-floss/>

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[www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com](http://www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com)  
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