

Pearson Edexcel
International Advanced Level

English Language

International Advanced Level
Unit 4: Investigating Language

Pre-release Material

June 2017

Paper Reference

WEN04/01

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 However, materials may be withdrawn from circulation and website locations may change.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: Australian English

Australian English is the country's main language and is the first language of the majority of the population. Australian English began to diverge from British English after the founding of the Colony of New South Wales in 1788 and was recognised as being different from British English by 1820. It arose from the intermingling of early settlers from a variety of dialectal regions of the British Isles and quickly developed into a distinct variety of English.

Broad, general and *cultivated* are variations of the Australian accent.

Your investigation should focus on the English dialects of Australia.

You should research:

- the historical development of Australian English
- relevant language frameworks of Australian English
- the influence of social and cultural changes on Australian English.

Suggested research resources

General:

Books

Crystal, D. (1997) *English as a Global Language*.

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.

Specific:

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

Websites:

A collection of transcripts and recordings from different areas of Australian English:
www.dialectsarchive.com/Australia

Newspaper article by Dean Frenkel on the development of Australian rhetoric:
www.theage.com.au/comment/the-fourth-r-missing-from-australian-education

Types of Australian accents:

<http://dialectblog.com/2011/07/10/types-of-australian-accents/>

General revision sites:

www.universalteacher.org.uk

www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com

www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine

Topic: Child Language Development
Subtopic: Child directed speech

Child directed speech encompasses various speech patterns and techniques used by parents or carers when communicating with young children, particularly infants. This may include: simplified vocabulary and sentence structures, melodic pitch, repetition and scaffolding of questions, slow or deliberate tempo, positive and negative reinforcement and the use of books, games and role play.

Your investigation should focus on the methods used by parents and carers in the development of children's language and pragmatic skills.

You should research:

- the theories underpinning child directed speech and the stages of language acquisition and pragmatic development
- relevant language frameworks
- social and cultural effects on language and pragmatic development.

Suggested research resources

General:

Books

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

Crystal, D. (2003) *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*.

Crystal, D. (2010) *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*.

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

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

Specific:

Data could be taken from transcripts of children speaking with adults.

Websites:

Speech & Language Therapy Information:

www.sltinfo.com/child-directed-speech/

General revision sites:

www.universalteacher.org.uk

www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com

www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine

Topic: Language and Power
Subtopic: Language of charities

Advertising, particularly that of charities, often makes use of engaging texts – whether in print or broadcast media. Every word or image used has to work hard to represent its ideology. It is very common for the charity to establish a rapport with the target audience. The selection of language, particularly that of emotive lexis, sentence structuring and imagery, manipulates the audience and encourages them to support the charity's campaign or beliefs.

Your investigation should focus on the language and presentational devices used by charity organisations in promoting their ideology and raising funds.

You should research:

- the theories underpinning language and power, particularly within the language of charities
- relevant language frameworks
- social and cultural effects on language.

Suggested research resources

General:

Books

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

Crystal, D. (2003) *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*.

Crystal, D. (2010) *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*.

Fairclough, N. (1989) *Language and Power*.

Goddard, A. (2002) *The Language of Advertising: Written Texts Intertext series*.

Mooney, A. et al. (2011) *Language, Society and Power: An Introduction*.

Specific:

Data could be collected from print, television, radio and online sources.

Websites:

General revision sites:

www.universalteacher.org.uk

www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com

www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine

Topic: Language and Technology
Subtopic: Language of online gaming

Online gaming dates back to the 1970s. It parallels the evolution of computers and computer networking. The eventual advancements in technologies improved the functionality needed for playing video games on a remote server. Online games have attracted players from a variety of ages, nationalities and occupations. As a result, field-specific languages have evolved that can be shared by every player globally.

Your investigation should focus on the development of computer gaming and the impact it has had on communication and language choices.

You should research:

- the theories underpinning language and technology, particularly within online gaming
- relevant language frameworks
- social and cultural effects on language.

Suggested research resources

General:

Books

Boardman, M. (2004) *The Language of Websites (Intertext series)*.

Crystal, D. (2013) *The Language Revolution*.

Ensslin, A. (2011) *The Language of Gaming*.

Shortis, T. (2001) *The Language of ICT (Intertext series)*.

Specific:

Data could be taken from online gaming transcripts or live gaming websites.

Websites:

Glossary of gaming terminology:

<http://thecircular.org/the-language-of-gamers/>

General revision sites:

www.universalteacher.org.uk

www.englishlangsfx.blogspot.com

www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine

Newspaper articles:

www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-10971949

www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/news/10803324/Letting-children-use-iPads-may-harm-language-development.html

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