



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2700U10-1



S25-2700U10-1

MONDAY, 12 MAY 2025 – MORNING

ENGLISH LANGUAGE – AS unit 1

Exploring Language

1 hour 45 minutes

2700U101
01

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer both questions: **one** question in Section A and **one** question in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question. You should divide your time accordingly.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

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Section A
Analysing Language

1. The three texts on pages 4 to 6 present attitudes to staycations. Read Texts A, B and C and then answer the question below.

Text A is an extract from youmatter.world, the website of an organisation that aims to provide citizens with tools and information so they can understand and take action in our constantly changing world.

Text B is an article about staycations from the Travel section of *The Guardian* online from December 2020.

Text C is an extract from a promotional website for a company selling holidays in the UK.

Analyse and evaluate how the language used in each of these texts represents attitudes and perspectives on staycations.

In your answer to the question, you should:

- consider the purposes and contexts and how they shape each text's point of view
- consider how the writers portray staycations
- consider the similarities and/or differences between the texts.

[55]

Text A: an extract from an international citizenship information and activism website.

What is a staycation: discover the latest trend in sustainable tourism

The term “staycation”, originally from the United States, is a neologism deriving from the blending of “stay” and “vacation”. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, it means vacations *that you take at home or near your home rather than travelling to another place*.

5 A staycation isn’t a vacation model for students or low-budget travellers. Rather, a staycation is an ecological way of spending your vacation close to your home. It is synonymous with less pollution, saving money and not contributing to the overwhelming chaos that takes place in some of the world’s most touristic areas.

Let’s take a closer look.

10 The concept of staycation was born at the time of the 2008 market crisis in the United States. Because of it, many households were forced to restrict their expenses and consequently limit their vacation budget. The shortage of money to travel abroad is at the origin of why many people started to (re) discover their most immediate surroundings.

15 A staycation encourages you to take your time, discover nearby landscapes, reconnect and spend more time outdoors in nature with the people you enjoy being with.

Here are some of the benefits of a staycation:

- it limits the stress related with organising a trip: from finding accommodation to packing multiple suitcases filled with clothes that many times aren’t even used
- it allows you to carry out activities that you never usually do because of a busy schedule during the year – such as visiting the permanent collections of local museums or taking advantage of the good weather to (finally) practise some sports in nearby parks
- it promotes the local economy as you can take advantage of vacations to take a tour of local markets, go to a farm to pick fruit and vegetables, take part in seasonal sports or artistic courses, or even spend a night in an interesting hotel nearby
- 25 • it allows you to discover (or rediscover) the beauty of your city or region, which we often forget to notice due to stress and the power of habit
- last but not least, it allows you to learn how to take advantage of the present moment.

30 Given the multiple advantages of local tourism, you no longer have a reason to be embarrassed at work when you are asked where you are going on vacation this year. On the contrary, not going to the other corner of the world like everyone else to “visit” instagrammable beaches, but instead staying local and discovering your own region, is an eco-friendly and economical choice you should be proud of.

Text B: a 2020 extract from the Travel section of *The Guardian* website

The chateau's¹ shut: will a yurt² do? Staycations keep millions at home

Domestic holidays are booked solid – but uncertainty over lockdowns has hit foreign travel.

The fresh round of travel restrictions and lockdowns in the UK is set to stretch the summer staycation boom well into 2021, as consumers anxious about travelling abroad plan domestic breaks to have something to look forward to in the grim months ahead.

From canal boat holidays in obscure rural outposts to cosy self-catering cottages and glamping, Britons are organising local breaks in favour of traditional family holidays abroad, operators say.

Instead of the usual January surge in foreign holiday bookings triggered by Boxing Day deals, firms are steeling themselves for another challenging few months, with families appearing to be holding off until the summer.

“The appetite for the UK will be immeasurable,” said Alistair Handyside, chair of the Professional Association of Self-Caterers. “Demand could be higher than it’s ever been before.”

With demand outstripping supply the pop-up glampsites that sprouted across the country in summer 2020 will return in 2021, especially now that the government has doubled the amount of time temporary structures can be placed on the land without planning permission.

Jo McGowan, her husband Carl Homer and their 13-year-old daughter Alice, who live in Cambridge, have decided to holiday close to home this year. They had booked to go to Japan in the Easter holidays for a one-off holiday of a lifetime but have just postponed the trip for the second time. “The plan was to visit Tokyo, Hakone and Kyoto for 10 days,” said McGowan. “We were originally booked for Easter 2020 but it got to March and it was clear that travel would not be possible so we postponed it to Easter next year. We’ve now made the decision to postpone to Easter 2022.”

The family are not too despondent about a UK holiday, however. “Last summer we had two long weekends in different parts of the UK and really enjoyed the change of scenery at the time. And when the weather was good we got out the paddling pool at home. Sometimes it’s more about the break than the location.”

¹chateau: French word for castle

²yurt: a large circular tent

Text C: an extract from a promotional website for a company selling holidays in the UK

READY FOR A STAYCATION IN THE UK? DISCOVER OUR UK STAYCATION IDEAS

STAYCATIONS FOR FAMILIES

5 With UK staycations growing ever more popular, jetting off to sunnier climates isn't the only option when booking a family holiday. And on a forest staycation with your family, you can experience something totally unique. Seek adventure with adrenaline-fuelled activities, uncover the natural world at your feet and reconnect in the great outdoors. Inspired to give it a try? Explore 11 locations across England, Scotland and Wales and make our socially distanced log cabins the base for your best UK family staycation ever.

STAYCATIONS FOR NATURE LOVERS

10 When you book a staycation in the forest, you aren't just surrounded by woodland - there's lots of glorious open spaces and picturesque views to enjoy as well. So why not make your next break a walking and hiking holiday in the UK? And if walking isn't your thing, enjoy exploring on two wheels instead on a cycling holiday. From the majestic mountains of Snowdonia to exclusive tracks in Sherwood Forest, our locations are well suited to cycling
15 holidays. Plus, more advanced mountain bikers will feel right at home on the Cinder Track in North Yorkshire or the South Downs Way in Hampshire. A forest holiday is great for nature lovers and outdoor adventurers alike!

Section B

Contemporary English

2. The following set of data is a selection of dating profiles taken from online dating websites. The contributors are all members of the public.

Read the data then answer the question below. You should use appropriate terminology and provide relevant supporting examples.

Using your knowledge of contemporary English, analyse and evaluate the ways in which contributors use language in online dating profiles. [25]

TEXT 1 (an accountant)

Malcolm 32, 11 miles away

Lookin at my phone searchin for a reason to stop lookin at my phone

TEXT 2 (a student)

Emily 21, 7 miles away

breakfast < 🍳 for breakfast

the movie > the book (so sue me)

sunrise < sunset

coffee > life

Your turn...

TEXT 3 (a student)

Zac 23, 48 miles away

For the love of God, someone please date me so I can stop bringing my mum to costume parties

TEXT 4 (a teacher)

Kyle 46

Looking for someone who likes making fun of bad movies, checking out local bands, sleeping in on Sundays and laughing at themselves. Hoping you can show me a thing or two about what you're in too.

TEXT 5 (a performance artist)

Terrance 19

Tacos. Bicycles. Cats. Chillin. Tattoos. Tacos. Nonsense. New Things. You: Did I say tacos?

Tacos. Let's eat!

TEXT 6 (a police inspector)

Emily 36 (going on 18)

Not afraid to be the boss. So if you are intimidated by this kinda thing don't bother

TEXT 7 (IT technician)

Greg 52

IT guy by day. Dancing, concerts and camping by night.

I also travel to faraway places...whether I'm visiting the fam in London, trying tapas in Spain, or checking out the Met in NYC, shaking up the routine is a must. So what's your hobby: yoga, cooking, taking artsy photos?

IG: @aroundthisworld

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