



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2700U10-1



S23-2700U10-1

MONDAY, 15 MAY 2023 – 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

Answer both questions: one question in Section A and one question in Section B.
Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

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.

BLANK PAGE

Section A
Analysing Language

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

Text A is an entry from the dictionary section of the online technology education website *Techopedia*.

Text B is an extract from an online article published in the technology news section of *The Telegraph* website in November 2015.

Text C is an online article published in the culture section of the international women's fashion magazine *Harper's Bazaar* in March 2019.

Analyse and evaluate how the language used in each of these texts represents attitudes towards internet trolling.

In your answer, you should consider:

- how the writers' language portrays internet trolling
- the contexts and how they shape each text's point of view
- the similarities and/or differences between the texts.

[55]

Text A: a dictionary entry from an online technology education website**Definition — What does Troll mean?**

A troll is a member of an internet community who posts offensive, divisive and controversial comments.

5 Often, a troll will make inflammatory statements that are meant to bait new users (newbies) into reacting. This is sometimes called trolling. Despite multiple attempts at limiting trolling on the internet, it is still widespread in social networks, comment sections and anywhere else where users can post in relative anonymity.

Popular venues for trolls include:

- internet chat rooms
- 10 • email groups
- discussion forums
- blogs
- YouTube, Twitter, Facebook etc.

15 People with experience of online forums have learned to ignore trolls, and a good moderator will be proactive in blocking these users and deleting their comments. The policing of trolls walks a fine line between sparing the bulk of users from unnecessarily abusive commentary and unfairly censoring an unpopular opinion.

20 In most cases, though, trolling is easy to distinguish from true, thought-provoking debate. Trolls tend towards clearly inappropriate language (sexist, racist and so on) and depend on generic usernames or anonymous posting statuses. With true accountability on the internet unlikely — and even undesirable in some ways — trolls are going to continue lurking around. However, as with name calling in a school yard, the most effective approach is to ignore them.

Text B: an extract from an online broadsheet article**Psychology of a troll: free speech or pure sadism?**

Notorious internet troll Andrew Auernheimer tells Sophie Curtis trolling is a form of social debate. Do psychologists agree?

5 In 2007, American game developer Kathy Sierra was one of the most visible women in technology. But after notorious internet troll Andrew Auernheimer posted a false account of her career online, claiming that she had worked as a prostitute, she began receiving hundreds of rape and death threats.

10 When Auernheimer later circulated her home address and personal details, she logged off and didn't return to the web for six years. "I am afraid to leave my yard; I will never feel the same; I will never be the same," she said at the time.

Trolling is widely regarded as one of the most abhorrent activities on the internet, often leading to anxiety and depression among victims, but Auernheimer, better known by his screen name Weev, claims it is his "job as a citizen" to be confrontational.

15 Anti-authoritarian blogger Robert Ambridge, better known by his Twitter alter ego, *Old Holborn*, was named "Britain's vilest troll" by the *Daily Mail* in 2013, after he posted sick jokes about the 96 Liverpool fans killed at Hillsborough.

"As a satirist that's what I do – I use the dark humour within us all to drive home my message quickly and simply, and Twitter provides the perfect medium to do so. I don't care if people are offended by what I say."

20 According to psychotherapist Dr Aaron Balick, author of *The Psychodynamics of Social Networking*, there is a valid argument that calling people trolls when they are expressing unpopular opinions is a way to shut down dialogue around a given topic.

25 "Trolling is about an intentional motivation to hurt or upset people, or to cause trouble. To paint those with minority opinions as trolls in order to maintain the norm does indeed shut down the potential for dialogue," he said.

However, not all trolls have political or ideological motivations. Many just enjoy the thrill of psychological torture.

30 Self-proclaimed troll Jaime Cochran, who lives in Chicago, spends much of her day trawling the web, casting out "lines with trivial bait" and reeling them in, hurling insults, inciting rage, and taking pleasure in victims' mounting fury.

"Trolling might be something as banal as insisting men who drink their coffee black aren't real men, because they can't handle the cream and sugar," she told the *Sydney Morning Herald*. "Some people need to learn how to take criticism, especially on the internet."

35 However, we all have aspects of these traits to varying degrees, so the internet may make it more likely for just about anyone to put their foot in the water. In many cases, the reason people troll is because they want attention, and the internet lowers the risk of being caught out.

Text C: an online news article from an international women's fashion magazine**70 per cent of anti-Meghan tweets came from just 20 troll accounts***The accounts were set up specifically for that purpose*

BY JESSICA DAVIS

5 Earlier this month, the royal family were forced to release new social media rules in an attempt to prevent trolling of the Duchess of Cambridge and the Duchess of Sussex — but a new study has found that just 20 accounts were responsible for 70 per cent of the negative tweets targeting Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex.

10 Campaign group Hope Not Hate found that out of 5,204 hate tweets, from January and February, more than 3,600 tweets were from accounts set up specifically to troll the Duchess.

The research examined tweets with specific hashtags like #megxit, #bumpgate, and #mmtcd — believed to mean “Meghan Markle, the Charlatan Duchess”.

15 They featured unpleasant or racist anti-Meghan content, with some suggesting that she is faking her pregnancy and others repeatedly telling the American-born Duchess to “go home”. Many also compared her unfavourably to the Duchess of Cambridge.

On 4 March the royal family released a statement alongside the new guidelines, warning that offensive or threatening comments would be removed in order to create a “safe environment” for fans. Abusive accounts and repeat offenders will be blocked, and they are also implementing software to filter out offensive language and emojis.

Section B

Contemporary English

2. The following set of data is taken from an online discussion forum. The contributors are discussing the process of applying to study mental health nursing at university.

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 the contributors use language in the discussion.

[25]

Text 1 (Thread starter)



Had an email from ucas to say my interview was unsuccessful for mental health nursing. Can i apply for same course through clearing or does it mean im unsuccessful altogether. Any advice much appreciated as IDK what to do...

Text 2 (Another applicant)



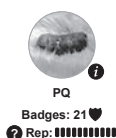
Was this bangor you went for your interview??..I got made unsuccessful for mental health 2 days ago..I phoned up uws and they gave me an email to contact them to find out exactly why as I felt my interview could not of went any better!!

Text 3 (Thread starter)



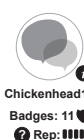
sorry yeah mines was the 29th! must of being in same room as u!!

Text 4 (Mature student)



I ended up getting a place through clearing at Hull which I would never have considered possible. At interview (gosh that was a stressful day - mum looking after kids etc), they appeared non-committal so I had lost hope. Just goes to show, don't give up...

Text 5 (Re-applying student)



I got a conditional offer for paisley last year but I needed one more B and never got it but passed that interview so assumed i would b fine at interview this year...obviously not LOL!!! iv applied for care and administrative practice hnc at college so got an interview for that and will try again for nursing next year...

Text 6 (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service – UCAS – Expert)



You really do need to keep calling the universities directly for interview feedback. As far as the UCAS application process is concerned, the next step is to keep checking. Track regularly for all your offers. For further advice, contact the UCAS helpline.

END OF PAPER