



GCE A LEVEL

A700U20-1



MONDAY, 5 JUNE 2023 – MORNING

ENGLISH LANGUAGE – A level component 2
Language Change Over Time

2 hours 15 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

There are **two** sections.

Section A carries 80 marks and Section B carries 40 marks.

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

As a guide, you are advised to spend 1 hour and 30 minutes on Section A and 45 minutes on Section B.

You are reminded of the need for orderly, clear presentation in your answers.

Assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

Section A: Language Change Over Time

Answer **Question 1** and **Question 2**.

Question 1 is divided into four parts: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Answer **all** parts.

The three texts which follow on pages 4–6 are all examples of prefaces (introductions) at the beginning of slang dictionaries.

Text A is an extract from the preface to *The Canting Academy, OR The Devil's Cabinet Opened* published in 1673. The book contains information about the customs, songs and lives of professional thieves and beggars, as well as one of the first dictionaries of criminal slang. It followed a tradition of books that aimed to warn city-dwellers about the dangers of the criminal underworld.

Text B is an extract from the preface to *A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* published in 1785. The dictionary was the first to collect examples of slang from society as a whole not just from the criminal underworld. It includes the kind of non-standard words Samuel Johnson had seen as unsuitable for his 1755 dictionary and aimed to inform the reader.

Text C is an extract from the preface to *How to Talk Teen: From Asshat to Zup, the Totes Awesome Dictionary of Teenage Slang* published in 2019. The dictionary focuses on slang used by a particular age group. It has a light-hearted tone and is designed to entertain parents.

1. (a) **Identify the word class and archaic spelling patterns of the following three words using appropriate terminology.** [6]

litle (Text A, line 1) *aduise* (Text A, line 4) *theyr* (Text A, line 6)

- (b) **What do the examples below tell us about language change? Make two points and refer to the examples using appropriate terminology.** [4]

part / parte (Text A, lines 8/9)

compleat (Text A, line 20)

- (c) **Describe the form and the archaic grammatical features of the following two examples using appropriate terminology.** [4]

a Rogues Company (Text A, line 5) *hath* (Text A, line 20)

- (d) **Describe three features that are typical of Early Modern English grammatical structure and/or punctuation in the extract from Text A below. You should use appropriate terminology to describe your examples.** [6]

... you may acquaint your self with so much Canting as will giue you to vnderstand what they do saie, and their Damn'd designs.

The Task I haue vndertaken is so difficult, and the Persons I am about to describe so many, and their Vyces and Practices so Vilainously various (though they all center in one Hellish designe): that I know not how to begin, nor how to end when I haue begun, for their Rogueries are infinite, and they euerlastingly would practice them did not a Rope on the chats put an end to further progress of their matchless Villainies.

I shall endeauour to giue you an exact account of these Caterpillars, with their hidden way of speaking; Which they make vse to blind the eyes of those which they haue cheated or robb'd, and inform one another with what they haue done. Their Canting words are most newe, and what too commonly known are thrown aside.

[11.9–19]

2. In your response to the question that follows, you must:

- explore connections across the texts
- consider relevant contextual factors and language features associated with the construction of meaning
- demonstrate understanding of relevant language concepts and issues.

Analyse and evaluate how Texts A, B and C show changing attitudes to slang in prefaces written at different times. [60]

TEXT A: Preface, *The Canting Academy, OR The Devil's Cabinet Opened* (1673)

There is little in Print of a way of speakyng, commonly known by the way of Canting,¹ a Speech as confused, as the vsers are disorderly; and yet you know how much ys in vse among some Persons, I mean, the more Debauched and Looser sort of people, the *Clinckers*,² and the *Kidnappers*, the *Gilts*³ and the *Milkens*.⁴ I would not advise any honest minded man, or he that value his Reputation to run into a Rogues Company, but yet I know he can not auoid fallyng into theyr way some times; if it should be your mishap, it will be a great conuenience to you to haue some Knowledge of what is contained here in this dictionary: In the first part you will know how to distinguish a Rogue from an Honest Man, and what the Properties of a Villain are; in the later parte you may acquaint your self with so much Canting as will giue you to vnderstand what they do saie, and their Damn'd designs.

The Task I haue vndertaken is so difficult, and the Persons I am about to describe so many, and their Vyces and Practices so Vilainously various (though they all center in one Hellish designe): that I know not how to begin, nor how to end when I haue begun, for their Rogueries are infinite, and they euerlastingly would practice them did not a Rope on the *chats*⁵ put an end to further progress of their matchless Villainies.

I shall endeauour to giue you an exact account of these Caterpillars,⁶ with their hidden way of speaking; Which they make vse to blind the eyes of those which they haue cheated or robb'd, and inform one another with what they haue done. Theyr Canting words are most newe, and what too commonly known are thrown aside.

This Canting-Dictionary is more compleat than any hath been published and I can assure thee (Courteous Reader) of the unimaginable pains I took in the Collection of these Wordes, (to be known, but not practised). I minde not the length of my labours if my worke profit my Countrey-men, for if this proue acceptable, I always shall endeauor by labouring to serue thee.

¹ Canting: a form of slang used by criminals

² Clinckers: crafty, devious people

³ Gilts: people who can pick locks

⁴ Milkens: people who break into houses intending to steal

⁵ chats: galleys, the place where criminals were hanged

⁶ Caterpillars: greedy people, blackmailers

TEXT B: Preface, *A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* (1785)

The many vulgar¹ allusions and cant expressions that so frequently occur in our common conversation and periodical publications, make a work of this kind extremely useful, if not absolutely necessary, not only to foreigners, but even to natives resident at a distance from the Metropolis, or who do not mix in the busy world: without some such help, they might hunt
 5 through all the ordinary Dictionaries in search of the words, “black legs,² lame duck,³ a plumb,⁴ malingerer, darbies,⁵ and the new drop,”⁶ although these are all well-known terms in parts of our city.

The fashionable words, or favourite expressions of the day generally originate from some trifling event, or temporary circumstance, on falling into disuse, or being superseded by new
 10 ones, vanish without leaving a trace behind. Such were the late fashionable words, a *bore* and a *twaddle* among the great vulgar;⁷ *maccaroni*⁸ and *the barber*⁹ among the small: these, too, are here carefully registered.

The Vulgar Tongue consists of two parts: the first is the Cant Language, called sometimes Pedlars French, or St. Giles’s Greek; the second, those ludicrous phrases, quaint
 15 allusions, and nick-names for persons, things, and places, which, from long uninterrupted usage, are made traditional by use. For the first, its terms have been collected from books that bring to light the most notorious villanies that are now practised in the kingdom for gentlemen, warie citizens, and justices to reade over. It is a pilot by whom they may make strange discoveries. The second part has termes drawn from the most traditional authorities;
 20 such as soldiers on the long march, seamen on board ship, and ladies disposing of their fish.

To prevent any charge of immorality being brought against the work, the Editor begs leave to observe, that when an indelicate word has forced itself for explanation, he has endeavoured to address it in the most decent manner possible.

¹ vulgar: rude, likely to upset or anger people

² black legs: gamblers

³ lame duck: a stock market trader who refuses to pay his debts

⁴ a plumb: one hundred thousand pounds

⁵ darbies: chains fixed around the legs of prisoners

⁶ the new drop: a recently invented device for hanging criminals

⁷ the great vulgar: common, uneducated people

⁸ maccaroni: a man dressed in flashy clothes

⁹ the barber: a term showing approval for an action or person

TEXT C: Preface, *How to Talk Teen: From Asshat to Zup, the Totes Awesome Dictionary of Teenage Slang* (2019)

This book is out of date.

My bad.

The thing with slang is that it's always evolving, and the slang that changes most is teenage slang. What's on trend one day is suddenly sooo last month. Some words and phrases, for example, have the lifespan of a mayfly (or a boy band).

That means you're riding the struggle bus just to keep up.

So, here's the thing, *How to Talk Teen* is primarily designed to entertain. If you were expecting a treatise into sociological and linguistic trends you'll be disappointed and probably as MAF.

What it is, however, is a collection of current (as current as production deadlines allow) popular slang as used by teenagers.

'Is it a definitive list?' you ask. Yeah, right. Trying to do this is almost impossible for a whole ton of reasons. For starters, the slang used by someone in year eight will be remarkably different from the slang used by someone graduating from uni.

Then there's the regional differences which can be gimongous. What might be popular slang in Manchester may be unheard of in Birmingham. Or it might be passé in Newcastle or have a totes different meaning in Liverpool.

And if that's not divisive enough, then consider the different teen social groups or subcultures. Thirteen-year-old girls, for instance, won't have a great deal in common with wannabe gangstas.

And on to the words themselves ... Some of the terms in the book have entered common usage. Some were teen slang to begin with but have been appropriated by grown-ups. Some words had fallen out of favour but have recently seen a revival. Some are used exclusively for texting/emailing as opposed to being spoken. And vice versa.

So chillax, take off your kicks and decompress. After immersing yourself in its contents you too will be capable and confident enough to differentiate between YOLO and YOYO or a mofo and FoCo and truly understand how to talk teen.

Section B: English in the Twenty-First Century

Read the following set of data, which gives examples of text messages sent to one mobile phone.
Answer the compulsory question below.

3. In your response to the question that follows, you must refer to the set of data (Texts 1–9). In addition, you may wish to draw on your own examples of text messages. You must:

- consider relevant contextual factors and language features associated with the construction of meaning
- apply appropriate methods of language analysis, using associated terminology and coherent expression
- demonstrate understanding of relevant language concepts and issues.

Using your knowledge of twenty-first century English, analyse and evaluate the ways in which contextual factors affect the lexical and grammatical choices in text messages. [40]

TEXT 1: (PAYPAL, the online payments system)

Enter your code on the Paypal website. CODE: 430278. Msg & data rates may apply.

TEXT 2: (SPAM)

Suspected spam. Help to stop incoming spam by reporting this message.
Apple: Your Apple ID have been restricted. To restore you'r services fully, please visit <https://apples.com.sign-in.services> to confirm your details.

TEXT 3: (9-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER)

we r redy 2 leve, can u come in car :) pls

TEXT 4: (BUILDER)

Hi its Gavin picking up cement be with u shortly

TEXT 5: (ESTATE AGENT)

Morning, Becky at MGY. Just tried calling. Im outside of Ocean View. Thanks.

TEXT 6: (FRIEND)



TEXT 7: (SISTER)

Ooops SOZ didn't mean 2 diall u at work. BUTT DIAL lol. Spk soon xoxo

TEXT 8: (GOVERNMENT)

GOV.UK CORONAVIRUS ALERT New rules in force now: you must stay at home. For more information & exemptions go to www.gov.uk/coronavirus. Stay at home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.

TEXT 9: (NEIGHBOUR)

hey its Andrea u helped me with 🐾🐾 thanx 4 tht hope ponies will b ok ... gave them 🥕🍏🥕🍏 have a lovely blessed xmas day!!!

END OF PAPER