



**GCE AS/A LEVEL**

2700U10-1



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE – AS unit 1**  
**Exploring Language**

MONDAY, 13 MAY 2019 – MORNING

1 hour 45 minutes

2700U101  
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**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.

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**Section A****Analysing Language**

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

**Text A** is an extract from the 19th century Thomas Hardy novel *Far From the Madding Crowd*. In this extract, the heroine, Bathsheba Everdene, receives a marriage proposal from the farmer Gabriel Oak.

**Text B** is a feature article published on *The Times* website in 2017. In this article, the authors examine a new trend in marriage.

**Text C** is an extract from Mark Newman's 2018 blog about marriage.

**Analyse and evaluate the language used in each of the texts to explore the writers' presentations of marriage.**

In your answer, you should consider:

- how the writers' language conveys ideas about marriage
- the purpose of each text and the ways in which the writers engage their audiences
- the similarities and/or differences between the texts.

**[55]**

**Text A: an extract from *Far From the Madding Crowd*, a novel by Thomas Hardy (1874)**

“Come,” said Gabriel, freshening again; “think a minute or two. I’ll wait a while, Miss Everdene. Will you marry me? Do, Bathsheba. I love you far more than common!”

“I’ll try to think,” she observed, rather more timorously; “if I can think out of doors; my mind spreads away so.”

5 “But you can give a guess.”

“Then give me time.” Bathsheba looked thoughtfully into the distance, away from the direction in which Gabriel stood.

10 “I can make you happy,” said he to the back of her head, across the bush. “You shall have a piano in a year or two - farmers’ wives are getting to have pianos now - and I’ll practise up the flute right well to play with you in the evenings.”

Her countenance fell, and she was silent awhile. He regarded the red berries between them over and over again, to such an extent, that holly seemed in his after life to be a cypher signifying a proposal of marriage. Bathsheba decisively turned to him.

“No; ‘tis no use,” she said. “I don’t want to marry you.”

15 “Try.”

“I have tried hard all the time I’ve been thinking; for a marriage would be very nice in one sense. People would talk about me, and think I had won my battle, and I should feel triumphant, and all that, But a husband -”

“Well!”

20 “Why, he’d always be there, as you say; whenever I looked up, there he’d be.”

“Of course he would - I, that is.”

“Well, what I mean is that I shouldn’t mind being a bride at a wedding, if I could be one without having a husband. But since a woman can’t show off in that way by herself, I shan’t marry - at least yet.”

25 “Upon my heart and soul, I don’t know what a maid can say stupider than that,” said Oak.

**Text B: an extract from a website article by *The Times* (2017)****Solo Brides putting the 'I' into aisle***Will Pavia and Lucy Bannerman, The Times**September 2017*

In Britain, Italy, Japan and many other countries, women (and a few men) are showing that they are perfectly able to escort themselves to the altar and marry themselves. They are happy to stand solemnly before dearly beloved friends and relatives, pledging to be true and faithful lovers of themselves, as long as they alone shall live. The practice is known as sologamy.

5 Sophie Tanner married herself in an outdoor ceremony in Brighton, before a man of the cloth<sup>1</sup> – or at least a fellow who looked like one. The bride wore a white dress, as is tradition, and was attended by 20 bridesmaids, bearing bouquets of sunflowers. Her friend James performed the rites dressed as a cardinal<sup>2</sup>, she said, and asked her if she promised to “love thyself and cherish thyself.”

10 Ms Tanner, 38, saw it as a symbolic and feminist act, a response to the question “your great-grandma would ask: ‘So, when are you going to settle down?’ There are now so many different ways to have a relationship, and be happy. I wanted to celebrate that.”

15 She sees herself as part of a new global sisterhood of happily self-married women. In Vancouver, Alexandra Gill has been married to herself for 11 years. The self-marriage proposal came after a friend of hers, a maker of wedding dresses, wanted to get rid of a stock of vintage gowns. Another of their friends used to stage a party each summer and “she said, ‘Why don’t we all wear these old gowns?’ Then one of us said: ‘We are all single, why don’t we all get married to ourselves?’ ”

20 Like many a wedding, simple plans soon became elaborate. “We sent out invitations,” said Ms Gill. “We had flowers. We met at a friend’s house for hair and makeup.” They climbed into “a beautiful old Cadillac<sup>3</sup>” and “paraded around town”, before arriving at a park where an altar had been set up. “We all read our vows and drank champagne,” she said.

25 It was only as they were preparing for their wedding that they noticed others, mostly women, were marrying themselves too. “Women have always had the short end of the stick in the institution of marriage.” Marrying oneself offers a chance to take stock of your life, she said, and the idea had gained traction among a generation used to self-improvement, yoga and therapy.

30 Naturally, the matrimonial industry has taken note. In Japan, a travel agency offers to arrange self-marriage ceremonies, and in California two jewellers, Jeffrey Levin and Bonnie Powers who have a business called ‘I Married Me’, offer something called the ‘Self-Wedding In-A-Box’ kit.

<sup>1</sup>man of the cloth: a vicar or priest

<sup>2</sup>cardinal: a senior priest

<sup>3</sup>Cadillac: a large luxury car

**Text C: an extract from a blog about marriage (2018)****Timeless Truths about Love, Family, & Marriage**

*Without the verbs of love, the noun marriage loses its meaning*

Without verbs – or actions – the noun, like marriage itself, carries very little meaning. What is marriage without love? And what is love without action behind it? Without action, love is just a word and marriage is just a contract.

Here are some good verbs to have in your marriage. Let's start with these: serving, forgiving, caring, sharing, giving, sacrificing, honouring and respecting.

That said, beware. Over time, if we're not careful, we begin to replace verbs that matter with verbs that don't matter as much: shopping, texting, working. Caring for each other and caring for others through our marriage is one way we can stave off this verb hijacking.

## Section B

### Contemporary English

2. The following set of data is a selection of Facebook posts on a group page where the contributors respond to an article about a vegan burger, the Beyond Burger. This burger is made to have the look, taste and texture of a real meat burger but is entirely vegetable-based.

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 how writers use language in these Facebook posts. [25]**

TEXT 1 Mandy H. Small (a vegan enthusiast)

The beyond burgers are defo amazing. I would suggest giving them a try.

TEXT 2 Belinda Winterlake (a stay-at-home mum)

oops lost me at “smells like cat food” 😞

TEXT 3 Ken Nakamura (meat enthusiast)

Stop searching for the very elusive just like meat veggie burger. Just eat the goddam beef.

TEXT 4 Andy Plumber (food writer)

If you don't eat meat why want the taste. That's like a heroin addict using a legal supplement and calling it being clean

TEXT 5 Paul Michaelson (food scientist)

Processed gut challenging frankenmeat – how healthy! Pea Protein Isolate, Expeller Pressed Canola Oil, Refined Coconut Oil, Water, Yeast Extract, Maltodextrin, Natural Flavors, Gum Arabic, Sunflower Oil, Salt, Succinic Acid, Acetic Acid, Non-GMO Modified Food Starch, Cellulose From Bamboo, Methylcellulose, Potato Starch, Beet Juice Extract (for color), Ascorbic Acid (to maintain color), Annatto Extract (for color), Citrus Fruit Extract (to maintain quality), Vegetable Glycerin.

TEXT 6 Adam Simmons (food conspiracy theorist)

Its actually meet there just tricking vegans

TEXT 7 Adam Simmons (food conspiracy theorist)

\* meat! damn autocorrect!!!

TEXT 8 Rylan Thomas (political activist)

I refuse to give in to the tree hugging nanny state tyranny!

TEXT 9 Samantha Amundsen (vegan food blogger)

I am sooo excited!

**END OF PAPER**