



Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/42

Paper 4 Language Topics

May/June 2024

2 hours 15 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: English in the world**Question 1**

Read the following two texts.

Text A is an extract from an article in the American newspaper *The Wall Street Journal*. It was published in 2021.

Text B is an extract from an article in the Zimbabwean newspaper *The Herald*. It was published in 2022.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the texts relating to the changing use of English in an international context. You should refer to specific details from the texts as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of English in the world. [25]

Text A**The Downside of English's Dominance**

Relying solely on English inevitably limits the world's collective knowledge base.

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While apps like Apple's Gentle Reader make foreign language newspapers and magazines instantly available in English on computers and iPhones, the end product is only an imperfect facsimile of what speakers of the original language are absorbing.

Text B**English language education loses appeal in China**

The English learning rush started in China in the 1980s when the country was gradually opening its doors after a prolonged period of isolation. In the last two decades of the 20th century, those who could speak English and had overseas degrees were among the most highly-paid in the country.

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Years of vigorous language education has greatly improved the English literacy of the ordinary Chinese. Being able to chat casually with a foreigner in the street is no longer an enviable skill.

On a deeper level, the economic landscape in China is changing. China's sustained growth, in contrast to economic and social challenges in the West, is tipping the psychological scale in the Chinese job-hunters.

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In 2018, foreign companies became the least preferred employers in a survey of college graduates. In 2021, 135 Chinese companies made it to the Fortune 500¹, against 122 from the US.

Today, Chinese graduates generally prefer civil service and the State-owned enterprises for job security or domestic Internet giants for high salaries. Western companies find it hard to compete on either front.

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Naturally, English language education has suffered a heavy blow. Some are saying with tongue in cheek that fitness training and learning English used to be the top two choices for a young person if they wanted something of a change; now it seems there is only fitness training left.

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¹*Fortune 500*: an annual list of 500 of the largest companies in the USA, compiled by *Fortune* magazine

Section B: Language and the self**Question 2**

Read the following text, which is an extract from an article published in 2019 on *PBS.com*, the website of an American public broadcaster.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the ways in which language can shape and reflect personal and social identity. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of Language and the self. [25]

How secret languages thrive behind bars

Prison language, or language created by inmates while incarcerated, has a long and vivid history, and is likely as old as the modern prison itself.

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Sometimes, this can be a humorous pursuit. Other times, it's a matter of life or death.

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