



Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/41

Paper 4 Language Topics

May/June 2022

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 text, which is an extract from an interview with Kalpana Mohan, author of the book *An English Made in India – How a Foreign Language Became Local*, published in 2019.

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

What inspired you to write on the topic of Indian English and the myriad Indianisms to be found in the English used by Indians?

Indianisms in English and the humour of Indian English were just two of the things I wished to talk about in a book on the subject of India's English. I wanted to tell the much larger story of an alien language taking root in an ancient country with its many literary traditions. I wished to find out more about which people employed English and why and how, and also try to understand what English meant to the people of India.

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Your book begins with the lines from Derek Walcott's¹ 'Tropic Zone' – 'This is my ocean, but it is speaking/ Another language.' Why did you choose these lines to begin this book?

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It seemed so appropriate as an opener to my work. Here we were, speaking a language that was spoken by many countries that were part of the British Commonwealth, yet each of us in the colonies spoke it with a different tang and even those of us in one homogenous entity imbued the language with a distinct stamp.

You write in the book – 'There is little doubt that Indian English is powerful – and temperamental. One might even say that it resembles the car steered by James Bond. It looks and drives like any other car but its fire can be seen only with use.' Can you elaborate what you mean by this?

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Like Bond's car, there are little widgets and handles in Indian English that don't exist in normal English. The use of the word 'only' with a particular manner of saying it is a classic instance of how Indian English works. The use of 'only' is accompanied by a certain tone of voice which is probably not heard anywhere else in the world (as in 'He's like that only').

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Then there are euphemistic injunctions on the road in some towns such as 'Commit no nuisance'. We know the power of these orders, especially when they're accompanied by pictures of a deity.

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Expressions such as 'do the needful' and 'kindly' are so enmeshed into Indian life that they hold special meaning and power to locals. There's no further explanation needed.

India's English takes on the colour of India, its kindness and compassion both, as well as its chaos.

30

Finally, where do you think Indian English is headed in a world of increasing multilingualism?

We've already begun seeing India-centric words entering the Oxford dictionary (*Yaar*², *Churidar*³ and *Bhelpuri*⁴ are examples). We will see many more, I'm sure, as people mingle, exchange ideas, eat and cook food from other parts of the world. This is inevitable, of course. I think Indian English will be shaped even more by American and other Englishes; just as Indian English of the late 20th century took on aspects of the language of the Raj and Britain. The emigration to and interactions with other parts of the world in the last half century will most certainly continue to shape Indian English.

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¹ *Derek Walcott*: a Caribbean poet who addressed aspects of colonialism in his writing

² *yaar*: a friendly form of address

³ *churidar*: an item of clothing

⁴ *bhelpuri*: a savoury snack

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

Read the following text, which is an extract from a review of *Because Internet*, a book published in 2019. The review was published in a British newspaper.

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]

Because Internet – a headlong embrace of the new

How the informal language evolving online can coexist with conventional rule-bound writing

Canadian linguist Gretchen McCulloch believes the internet is making us more nuanced and inventive writers.

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McCulloch offers a compelling snapshot of a world in flux, from which readers will learn a lot about language, the internet and themselves.

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