



Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/42

Paper 4 Language Topics

May/June 2023

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 texts, which both discuss Singlish, a hybrid form of English. Text A is an extract from the launch speech of the Speak Good English Movement, given in 2000 by Singapore's then Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong. Text B is an extract from an article from *AsiaOne*, a Singaporean news website, published in 2020.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the texts relating to the causes and effects of the expansion of English around the world. 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 importance of Good English**

The ability to speak good English is a distinct advantage in terms of doing business and communicating with the world. This is especially important for a hub city and an open economy like ours. If we speak a corrupted form of English that is not understood by others, we will lose a key competitive advantage. My concern is that if we continue to speak Singlish, it will over time become Singapore's common language. 5

Poor English reflects badly on us and makes us seem less intelligent or competent. Investors will hesitate to come over if their managers or supervisors can only guess what our workers are saying. We will find it difficult to be an education and financial centre. Our TV programmes and films will find it hard to succeed in overseas markets because viewers overseas do not understand Singlish. All this will affect our aim to be a first-world economy. 10

Text B**English language tuition centre founder's call to abolish Singlish**

The founder of an English language tuition centre took to Facebook to lay out several arguments on why Singlish – the colloquial patois of Singaporeans – needs to be, in his opinion, 'cancelled'.

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Though many Singaporeans proudly identify with a creole to call their own – a unique hodgepodge of our four official languages and other dialects – the government has actively tried to counter the usage of Singlish with a campaign called the Speak Good English Movement since 2000.

Section B: Language and the self

Question 2

Read the following text, which is an extract from an interview with the author of *How You Say It: Why You Talk the Way You Do – And What It Says About You*, a book published in 2020. The review was published on *SciTechDaily.com*, a science and technology news website.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the ways in which language can shape and reflect how individuals think about each other. 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 You Speak Reflects Who You Are: The Way We Talk Both Unites and Divides Us

Have you ever considered that the way you talk may determine who you're friends with, the job you have, and how you see the world? Even if you don't realize it, 'how you speak is, in a very real way, a window into who you are and how other people see you.'

That's the argument University of Chicago psychologist Katherine D. Kinzler explores in her first book, which highlights the immense power of speech, and explores how speech underpins all facets of social life. 5

'Language is so personal to people,' said Kinzler, a professor in UChicago's Department of Psychology. 'The way you speak can be such an essential part of your identity, so I wanted the book to reach people for whom it would really have impact, including beyond an academic impact.' 10

In the following Q&A, Kinzler talks more about the impact of speech in daily life and how discrimination based on speech acts as another form of prejudice.

You write in the book's introduction that it's not exactly what one says, but how they say it that gives immense power to speech. Do you think the way we speak determines how social life plays out? 15

I do. The way we speak is such a powerful force in our lives, and people are often unaware of that. It's both so critical for the people we connect with, but then it also has tremendous power for those whom we don't get along with and for people we are prejudiced against. I believe that at more societal and institutional levels there's a bias against what's perceived as non-standard speech that's kind of baked in. People also aren't aware of how hard it can be to feel marginalized based on their speech, and we need to become aware of this. 20

Where does this kind of speech discrimination come from?

Parents and educators have a lot of impact on the categories that their kids learn. In general when you're referring to a whole category of people, it can backfire. It's better when you can talk about people as individuals rather than massing over an entire category of people. It's really easy for stereotypes to take off when you think about a group of people being all the same. 25

In terms of the ways that our accents work, you can make these split-second judgments of someone when you meet them – even if you're not necessarily aware. So when you hear someone speak for even a split second, you may get information that may not be real about the individual, but are actually about cultural attitudes that have infused your evaluation. In this way, stereotypes about groups of people can easily lead to prejudice against individuals. 30

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