ENGLISH LANGUAGE **9093/41**

Paper 4 Language Topics **May/June 2015**

2 hours 15 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Answer **two** questions.

You should spend about 15 minutes reading the passages and questions before you start writing your answers.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

[Turn over

1   Spoken language and social groups

The following text is a transcription of part of a conversation involving three women in their mid-twenties talking about their careers. Eve is uncertain about her future: she is near the end of training to become a nurse, but she is also thinking about taking up a career involving horses.

Discuss how the three speakers use language here to explore Eve's situation. You should refer to specific details from the transcription, relating your observations to ideas and examples from your wider study.

Eve: theres something (.) something ive got to do (1) i need a bit of a push to do it

Ajita: but theres something that you want to achieve (.) theres something youve got to do

Denise: got to knit a jumper [*laughs*]
                            //
Eve: got to get on and do it

Denise: [*laughs*]   *5*
            //
Ajita: well (1) youve got to qualify (.) youve got to pass these exams

Eve: that is EXACTLY (.) what its NOT [*laughs*]

Ajita: yeah

Denise: its your RIDING

Eve: well (.) thats what everybody says (.) yeah   *10*

Denise: or its having a baby
                            //
Eve: well i dont think it IS

Denise: [*laughs*]

Ajita: its probably getting married

Denise: [*laughs*] its getting married (.) yes   *15*

Eve: i dont think it is

Ajita: well (.) whats your main ambition
                                        //
Eve: i think
                                            //
Ajita: your MAIN ambition in life

Eve:	i think its (.) its to do my riding exams (1) but i cant (.) as i said (.) because laura (.) you know (.) the girl whose horse i ride up at (.) the stables (.) you know (.) i was telling her and (.) she said (.) why would (.) why are you getting in such a state about	*20*

                    //

Ajita: about a riding exam

                        //

Eve:	about doing a riding exam (1) she said (.) eve (.) she said (.) which would (.) what would happen if you got your riding exam	*25*

                        //

Ajita: yeah

Eve: i said (.) well (.) when i qualify nursing (1) i said well i'll probably choose

                        //

Denise: yeah

Eve:	i'll probably choose riding	*30*

Denise: i wouldnt know what to

                  //

Eve: she said well really (.) what if (.) for some reason (.) you ought not to be a nurse (.) i mean (.) you know how the (.) if you believe in fate (.) and is is there any control over it or

                  //

Ajita:	yeah	*35*

Eve: or is it all planned out for you and

Ajita: mm

Eve: and this kind of thing (.) is is someone trying to steer your (.) your career or your (.) the rest of your life

                //

Denise:	away from	*40*

                //

Eve: the rest of your life

                //

Denise: away from something

Eve: which it would be (.) away from something (.) so (.) i dont know (.) i mean (.) im very open minded

TRANSCRIPTION KEY
(.) = micro-pause
(1) = pause in seconds
// = speech overlap
[*italics*] = paralinguistic feature
UPPER CASE = words spoken with increased volume

2   English as a global language

The passage on page 5 is from a web-site devoted to discussion of the scientific and historical study of human language.

Discuss what you feel are important issues raised here relating to the use of English as a global language. You should refer to ideas and examples from your wider study as well as to specific details from the passage.

English – the Universal Language on the Internet?

Generally speaking, English is the universal language on the Internet, but it has no official status, and it will never have. The reasons for the position of English are the imperialism and economical and political importance of English-speaking countries. Linguistically, English is extremely unsuitable for international communication, and the actual wide use of English tends to polarize the world into Internet users and Internet illiterates.   *5*

The position of English can only be altered by major world-scale political and economical changes, such as increasing importance of the European Union or a coalition between Japan and China. Such powers might wish and be able to promote a language other than English, possibly a constructed language, for international communication.

Alternatively, or in addition to this, the technology of machine translation may allow   *10* people to use their own language in international communication.

The impulse to writing this article was a discussion in a newsgroup. The original question was "whether or not English should be made the universal language of the internet".

The current situation

In general, the universal language on the Internet is English, or more exactly a vague   *15* collection of languages called "English" because their common origin is the national language spoken in England by the English. That national language has spread over the world, and several variants such as American (US) English, Australian English, etc. exist.

A great number of people – whose native language is not one of these variants – know English as a foreign language. They typically use a more or less simplified variant, e.g.   *20* excluding most of the idioms of British, American, Australian English, etc. Of course, they make mistakes, and sometimes the "English" used by people as a foreign language on the Internet is almost incomprehensible to anyone else. In addition, some people who use English as their native language do not know how to spell difficult words, since they basically know English as a spoken language.   *25*

Thus, roughly speaking, the universal language of the Internet is clumsy, coarse and mis-spelled "English".

There are exceptions, most importantly national newsgroups in countries where English is not the native language of the majority. Even in such groups English is used, for instance when people from other countries wish to participate.   *30*

3 **Language acquisition by children and teenagers**

The following is a transcription of conversation between a girl (Claire) of age 1 year 8 months and her mother, in the kitchen of their home.

Discuss ways in which Claire and her mother are using language here. You should refer to specific details from the transcription, relating your observations to ideas from your studies of language acquisition.

Mother:	will you please sit on your stool (.) youre in my way (.) please sit on your stool
Claire:	on stool mommy way
Mother:	youre in my way (.) yes (.) put your foot on your <u>own</u> stool
Claire:	<u>own</u> stool
Mother:	thats right (.) this is <u>my</u> stool and that belongs to <u>you</u> *5*
Claire:	mommy (2) help
Mother:	help(?) (.) what do you want(?)
Claire:	mommy help
Mother:	help you with your water(?)

(Claire tries to get down from her stool)   *10*

Claire:	claire help (2) claire help
Mother:	you can get down by yourself (3) big girl (.) yes you did it all by yourself
Claire:	again
Mother:	again (?) (.) alright

(Claire climbs back on her stool and then gets down from it again)   *15*

Claire:	big self
Mother:	by yourself

(Mother rests her foot on the side of Claire's stool)

Claire:	mommy sit CLAIRE stool
Mother:	what(?) *20*
Claire:	mommy sit claire stool
Mother:	im sitting on your stool (.) im on your stool
Claire:	my claire stool

Mother: oh my FOOT(?) (1) you want me to move my foot (?)

Claire: yep   *25*

TRANSCRIPTION KEY
(.) = micro-pause
(1) = pause in seconds
UPPER CASE = increased volume
underlined = stressed syllable
(?) = questioning intonation

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