



GCE A LEVEL – NEW

1700U30-1



ENGLISH LANGUAGE – A2 unit 3
Language Over Time

WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE 2017 – MORNING

1 hour 30 minutes

1700U301
01

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **all** questions.

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 or part-question. You should divide your time accordingly.

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

Assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

You are reminded that this paper is synoptic and so will test your understanding of the connections between the different elements of the subject.

Language Over Time

Answer Question 1 and Question 2.

Question 1 is divided into four parts: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Answer **all** parts.

The three texts which follow on pages 4-6 are examples of prefaces (introductions) at the beginning of dictionaries. Read Texts A, B and C, then answer **all** parts of the following questions.

Text A is an extract from the preface to Robert Cawdrey's dictionary *Table Alphabeticall*, published in 1604. This was the first single language dictionary in English. Cawdrey listed approximately 3,000 words that he considered hard or unfamiliar because they were derived from foreign languages or Classical languages such as Latin and Greek. He believed these words were useful to the general public because they occurred in Scriptures, sermons, books and other important contexts.

Text B is an extract from the preface to Samuel Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1755. Johnson listed approximately 40,000 words, which were defined in detail and supported by examples. Johnson was the first English lexicographer to include quotations to show how words were used in context.

Text C is an extract from the preface to Aaron Peckham's *Urban Dictionary: Fularious Street Slang Defined*, published in 2005. This is an e-book version of the online, crowdsourced dictionary of slang words and phrases founded in 1999. By 2014, the online dictionary contained over seven million definitions with 2,000 new entries being made each day.

1. (a) Identify the word class and archaic spelling patterns of the following words using appropriate terminology. [4]

pouder (Text A, line 10)

Fourthlie (Text A, line 20)

- (b) What do the examples below tell us about language change? Make two points and refer to the examples using appropriate terminology. [4]

doe (Text A, line 5)

Do (Text A, line 12)

middest (Text A, line 26)

- (c) Describe the form and the archaic grammatical features of the following examples using appropriate terminology. [4]

standeth (Text A, line 12)

thou (Text A, line 23)

- (d) Analyse features of the grammatical structure and punctuation that are typical of Early Modern English in the extract from Text A below. Make four points and select an appropriate example to support each point. [8]

Svch as by their place and calling, (but especially Preachers) as haue occasion to speak publicquely before the ignorant people, are to bee admonished, that they neuer affect any strange ynckhorne termes, but labour to speake so as is commonly receiued, and so as the most ignorant may well vnderstand them: neyther seeking to be ouer fine or curious, nor yet liuing ouer carelesse, vsing their speech, as most men doe, & ordering their wits, as the fewest haue done. Some men seek so far for outlandish English, that they forget altogether their mothers language, so that if some of their mothers were aliue, they were not able to tell, or vnderstand what they say, and yet these fine English Clearks, will say they speak in their mother tongue; but one might well charge them, for counterfeyting the Kings English. Also, some far iournied gentlemen, at their returne home, like as they loue to go in forraine apparrell, so they will pouder their talke with ouer-sea language. [text omitted] Doth any wise man think, that wit resteth in strange words, or els standeth it not in wholsome matter, and apt declaring of a mans mind? Do we not speak, because we would haue other to vnderstand vs? or is not the tongue giuen for this end, that one might know what another meaneth? (Text A, lines 1-14)

2. Analyse and evaluate what Texts A, B and C show about the changing nature of prefaces in dictionaries. [60]

In your response you must also:

- explore connections across the texts
- consider relevant contextual factors and language features associated with the construction of meaning
- demonstrate understanding of relevant language concepts and issues.

TEXT A: an extract from the preface to Robert Cawdrey's *Table Alphabeticall* (1604)

Svch as by their place and calling, (but especially Preachers) as haue occasion to speak publicly before the ignorant people, are to bee admonished,¹ that they neuer affect any strange ynckhorne termes, but labour to speake so as is commonly receiued, and so as the most ignorant may well vnderstand them: neyther seeking to be ouer fine or curious,² nor yet liuing
 5 ouer carelesse, vsing their speech, as most men doe, & ordering their wits, as the fewest haue done. Some men seek so far for outlandish English, that they forget altogether their mothers language, so that if some of their mothers were aliue, they were not able to tell, or vnderstand what they say, and yet these fine English Clearks, will say they speak in their mother tongue; but one might well charge them, for counterfeyting the Kings English. Also, some far iournied
 10 gentlemen, at their returne home, like as they loue to go in forraine apparrell, so they will powder their talke with ouer-sea language. *[text omitted]* Doth any wise man think, that wit resteth in strange words, or els standeth it not in wholesome matter, and apt declaring of a mans mind? Do we not speak, because we would haue other to vnderstand vs? or is not the tongue giuen for this end, that one might know what another meaneth? Therefore, either wee must make a difference
 15 of English, & say, some is learned English, & othersome is rude English, or the one is Court talke, the other is Country-speech, or els we must of necessitie banish all affected Rhetorique, and vse altogether one manner of language. *[text omitted]* Therfore for this end, foure things would chiefly be obserued in the choise of wordes. First, that such words as wee vse, should be proper vnto the tongue wherein we speake. Againe, that they be plaine for all men to perceiue. Thirdly,
 20 that they be apt and meete, most properly to set out the matter. Fourthlie, that words translated, from one signification to another,³ be vsed to beautifie the sentence, as precious stones are set in a ring, to commend the gold.

If thou be desirous (gentle Reader) rightly and readily to vnderstand, and to profit by this Table, and such like, then thou must learne the Alphabet, to wit,⁴ the order of the Letters as they stand,
 25 perfectly without booke, and where euery Letter standeth: as (b) neere the beginning, (n) about the middest, and (t) toward the end. Nowe if the word, which thou art desirous to finde, begin with (a) then looke in the beginning of this Table, but if with (v) looke towards the end.

¹ admonished: warned against a potential danger or future error

² curious: elaborate, intricate

³ translated, from one signification to another: a reference to the use of figurative and rhetorical devices

⁴ to wit: namely, that is to say

TEXT B: an extract from the preface to Samuel Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language*, (1755)

When I took the first survey of my undertaking, I found our speech copious without order, and energetick without rules: wherever I turned my view, there was perplexity to be disentangled, and confusion to be regulated; choice was to be made out of boundless variety, without any established principle of selection; adulterations were to be detected, without a settled test of
 5 purity, and modes of expression to be rejected or received, without the suffrages¹ of any writers of classical reputation or acknowledged authority. *[text omitted]*

In adjusting the ORTHOGRAPHY, which has been to this time unsettled and fortuitous,² I found it necessary to distinguish those irregularities that are inherent in our tongue, from others which the ignorance or negligence of later writers has produced. Every language has its anomalies,
 10 which, though inconvenient, and in themselves once unnecessary, must be tolerated among the imperfections of human things, and which require only to be registred, that they may not be increased, and ascertained, that they may not be confounded:³ but every language has likewise its improprieties and absurdities, which it is the duty of the lexicographer to correct or proscribe.

As language was at its beginning merely oral, all words of necessary or common use were
 15 spoken before they were written; and while they were unfixed by any visible signs, must have been spoken with great diversity, as we now observe those who cannot read to catch sounds imperfectly, and utter them negligently. When this wild and barbarous jargon was first reduced to an alphabet, every penman endeavoured to express, as he could, the sounds which he was accustomed to pronounce or to receive, and vitiate⁴ in writing such words as were already vitiated
 20 in speech. The powers of the letters, when they were applied to a new language, must have been vague and unsettled, and therefore different hands would exhibit the same sound by different combinations.

From this uncertain pronunciation arise in a great part the various dialects of the same country, which will always be observed to grow fewer, and less different, as books are multiplied; and from
 25 this arbitrary representation of sounds by letters, proceeds that diversity of spelling observable in the Saxon remains, and I suppose in the first books of every nation, which perplexes or destroys analogy, and produces anomalous formations, which, being once incorporated, can never be afterward dismissed or reformed.

¹ suffrages: support, assurance

² fortuitous: happening by chance, accidental

³ confounded: mixed in so that the elements are hard to separate

⁴ vitiate: corrupt (especially to corrupt language by carelessness, arbitrary changes, or by the introduction of foreign elements)

TEXT C: an extract from the preface to Aaron Peckham's *Urban Dictionary: Fularious Street Slang Defined* (2005)

What started out as a site where only my dorm friends tracked their regional slang expressions has turned into an ever-evolving portrait of the language spoken by millions of everyday people, every day. Today Urban Dictionary doesn't just track the creation of new language. It's become a hip hangout for a whole community, where people get a chance to explain how they use and change existing language to express their own views of the world around them.

Urban Dictionary's users range from creatively rebellious teenagers who write openly about their lives in their definitions, to hip twentysomethings and thirtysomethings with unique and entertaining insights into the definitions of emerging words, to not quite so hip 'rents and teachers who want to know why their kids or students keep referring to them as "hella booty," to serious students of the English language from all over the world. The content of Urban Dictionary has become the irreverent calling card of a linguistic generation.

These definitions might be funny to some and offensive to others, but that's the nature of the urban beast. To those who can't take the linguistic heat, I can only say step off and chillax. Everyone deserves the opportunity to understand and be understood.

As of this writing there are 250,000 unique words on the site, and it's the diversity and quality of opinion used to define these words that makes Urban Dictionary so popular. These are the true, funny, wry, angry, shy, intelligent, quirky, fresh, smart-ass voices of today, and they have a lot to say.

Of Urban Dictionary's one million definitions, I've chosen the funniest, wittiest, and truest submissions from the site's best authors. I chose some of these words because they reveal aspects of pop or hip-hop culture, some because they live only in the online world, and some just because they're hilarious. I couldn't make them up if I tried.

Urban Dictionary changes daily, and with every new definition it becomes a more accurate, funny, and insightful look at the world—your world. So for all of you who want to earn some Street cred, for the urban illiterate newbie who confuses *skank* with *shank*, and for the slang speaker who wants to keep his *game tight*, this just might be a good book to keep handy.

END OF PAPER

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