



VCE English Language

2013 Mid-year

Practice Paper

Total reading time: 15 minutes

Total writing time: 2 hours

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>
A B	6	6	15
C	1	1	30
	2	1	30
			Total 75

Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, highlighters, erasers and rulers.

Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper /white out/liquid paper.

No calculator is allowed in this examination. Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other electronic devices into the examination room.

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SECTION A — Short answer questions

Instructions for Section A

Refer to the insert from the centre of this book while answering this section. Section A requires answers to questions about Text 1. Answer **all** questions in this section. In your response you are expected to demonstrate your ability to use relevant descriptive and metalinguistic tools.

Text 1

Question 1

Describe the context and social purpose of the conversation.

2 marks

Question 2

Compare the opening sequence (lines 4 to 6) with the closing sequence (lines 126 – 133)

2 marks

Question 3

Discuss how the topics are managed by P and J, with reference to two examples between lines 30 and line 52.

2 marks

Question 4

Discuss two discourse strategies used by J that enable P to maintain the floor between line 68 and line 92.

2 marks

Question 5

Describe and give reasons for the prosodic features of P's turns between lines 93 and 101.

3 marks

Question 6

Identify **three** shifts in register in the transcript, giving reasons for these changes, with examples to illustrate your answer.

4 marks

Total 15 marks

END OF SECTION A
TURN OVER

SECTION B — Analytical commentary**Instructions for Section B**

Refer to the insert from the centre of this book while answering this section. Section B requires an analytical commentary about Text 2. In your response you are expected to demonstrate your ability to use relevant descriptive and metalinguistic tools. You are required to demonstrate familiarity with the topics of Unit 3 'Language Variation and Social Purpose'.

Question 7. Text 2

Write an analytical commentary about Text 2.

In your response, you should comment on the:

- contextual factors surrounding the text
- social purpose and register of the text
- stylistic and discourse features of the text

Refer to at least **two** subsystems in your analysis.

30 marks

Working space

SECTION C – Essay**Instructions for Section C**

Section C requires a sustained expository response. Answer **one** question in this section. In your response you are expected to

- demonstrate your ability to use relevant descriptive and metalinguistic tools
- demonstrate familiarity with the topics of Unit 3 ‘Language variation and social purpose’.

Select **one** of the two following topics. Refer to **AT LEAST** two subsystems of language in your essay and provide examples from current discussions about language that you have studied in class.

Question 8**Stimulus**

- a) from Susan Butler, editor of the MacQuarie Dictionary, in an open letter

“As Editor of the Macquarie Dictionary, I picture myself as the woman with the broom and mop and bucket cleaning the language off the floor after the party is over. And in this case it was quite a party.”

- b) from Words, Words, Words Crystal, D 2006

The function of words includes enjoyment as well as communication. We all play with words, at some time or another, and enjoy the ways in which others engage in word play.

- c) from <http://www.thefreelibrary.com/language+and+the+Internet.-a0115103447>

Though numerous features of internet communication have the propensity to drive language prescriptivists mad with rage ... people adapt language to meet new needs, new situations, and new modalities. This is the heart of language evolution. As new digital communication tools become available, new genres of communicative practice will develop.

'While they may be acceptable in e-mail or in chat rooms, colloquialisms diminish the quality of a formal written text.'

Do you agree?

OR

Question 9**Stimulus**

- a) from the VCAA assessor's report for VCE English language 2012

Students are reminded to apply the knowledge learnt in Unit 3 to essay writing. The features of formal written texts need to be used.

- b) adapted from <http://www.putlearningfirst.com/language/12dial/standard.htm>

...ease and familiarity with standard spoken and written forms of language is basic to people's rights as citizens.

- c) from D Katz, PI equals what? Mystery has me rolling on the floor. **The Age online July 27, 2013**

As a try-hard middle-aged dolt trying to keep up with a crazy-arsed modern-day world, I find myself in a perpetual state of brain-buckling, scalp-scratching WTF-IS-THAT????-ness. A TV ad comes on about something called "Zeebox", and I think WTF IS THAT???? – has it got anything to do with Fango (and btw, WTF is THAT????)?

'In our community, it is the ability to use formal registers that is the key to success.'

Is this your understanding of language use in contemporary Australia?

30 marks

Working space

SECTION C – continued

Working space

SECTION C – continued
TURN OVER

EXAMINATION CRITERIA

- Use metalanguage to describe and analyse structures, features and functions of language in a range of contexts
- Explain and analyse linguistic features of written and spoken English in a range of registers
- Understand and analyse relationships between language and identities in society
- Identify and analyse differing attitudes to varieties of Australian English
- Draw on contemporary discussions and debate about language
- Write clearly organised responses with controlled and effective use of language appropriate to the task

These criteria are from the 2012 English Language examination produced by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). The VCAA produces the only official, up to date versions of VCAA publications. Readers should consult the VCAA website <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au> for VCAA publications and the latest course information.

END OF QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK