

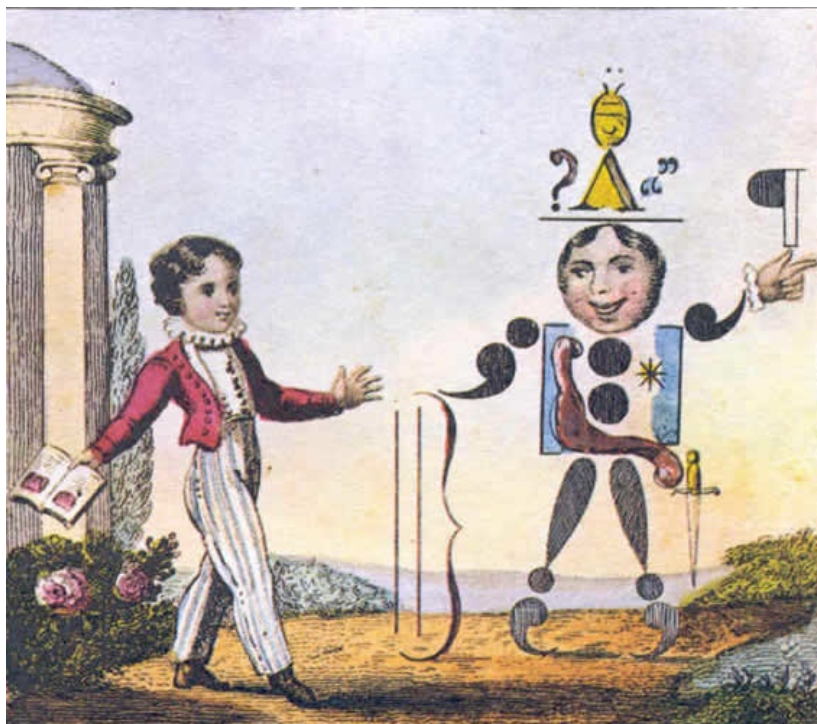
A level ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Component 1 Section B

Language Issues

Punctuation

Sample Question



Section B: Language Issues

In your response to this section, you must:

- apply appropriate methods of language analysis, using associated terminology and coherent expression
- demonstrate understanding of relevant language concepts and issues
- consider contextual factors and language features associated with the construction of meaning
- provide supporting examples.

Read the following data, which contains some examples of county council signs and an extract from a *Daily Mail* article about apostrophes in street signs.

ST ANDREWS COURT

SPEED CAMERA'S

CHILDRENS' GARDEN

This wood is a
childrens learning
area. Please put your
dog on a lead.

'It's pandering to the lowest common denominator': Anger as Cambridge bans apostrophe from street names

It is one of our major seats of learning, but Cambridge has been accused of 'pandering to the lowest denominator' by abolishing apostrophes from street names.

The city council says it is following guidelines of the National Land and Property Gazetteer, where all new street names are registered, but was criticised by the Cambridge-based Good Grammar Company.

The city council's street naming policy says that a road called St Paul's Court would appear in all documentation and nameplates as 'St Pauls Court'.

They argue that apostrophes are said to lead to mistakes – particularly among emergency services.

However, Kathy Salaman, director of GGC, said: 'Dropping apostrophes is pandering to the lowest denominator and while eradicating them anywhere is dreadful, it is particularly bad to do it in Cambridge.'

She added: 'I know some people think apostrophes are superfluous but we really need them and I think it's the first step on a slippery slope.'

'If councils are getting rid of them, what kind of message does that give out to students at schools?'

Using this data as a starting point, analyse and evaluate the ways in which different writers use punctuation.