

A level ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Unit 4 Spoken Texts & Creative Recasting

Section A: Analysing Spoken Language

Sample question



Key Information

1 hour	Analysis of unseen transcripts	AO1 AO2 AO3	40 marks
--------	--------------------------------	-------------------	----------

AO1 20 marks

Apply appropriate methods of language analysis, using associated terminology and coherent written expression

- analyse transcripts and explore effects created
- use terminology
- write accurately, fluently and logically in an appropriate academic style

AO2 10 marks

Demonstrate critical understanding of concepts and issues relevant to language use

- apply your knowledge of key concepts, using relevant terminology
- explore issues related to language use
- discuss appropriate examples

AO3 10 marks

Analyse and evaluate how contextual factors and language features are associated with the construction of meaning

- analyse the ways the contextual factors have shaped the transcripts
- analyse key language features and explore how meaning is communicated
- consider the effects of the language choices.

List of phonemic symbols for English

Consonants

/p/	pot, hop, hope
/b/	bat, tub, ruby
/t/	ten, bit, stun
/d/	dog, bad, spade
/k/	cat, lock, school
/g/	gap, big, struggle
/s/	city, loss, master
/z/	zero, roses, buzz
/f/	fit, phone, cough, coffee
/v/	van, love, gravy
/θ/	thin, bath, ethos
/ð/	this, either, smooth
/ʃ/	ship, sure, rush, sensational
/ʒ/	treasure, vision, beige
/tʃ/	cheek, latch, creature
/dʒ/	jet, smudge, wage, soldier
/m/	map, ham, summer
/n/	not, son, snow, sunny
/ŋ/	sing, anger, planks
/h/	hat, whole, behind
/w/	wit, one, where, quick
/j/	yet, useful, cure, few
/r/	rat, wrote, borrow

Vowels: pure

/æ/	tap, cat
/ɑ:/	star, heart, palm
/i:/	feet, sea, machine
/ɪ/	sit, busy, hymn
/e/	bet, instead, many
/ɒ/	pot, odd, want
/ɔ:/	bought, saw, port, war
/ʊ/	book, good, put
/u:/	food, two, rude, group
/ʌ/	but, love, blood
/ɜ:/	fur, bird, word, learn
/ə/	about, driver

Vowels: diphthongs

/eɪ/	date, day, break
/aɪ/	fine, buy, try, lie
/ɔɪ/	noise, boy
/aʊ/	sound, cow
/əʊ/	coat, know, dome
/ɪə/	near, here, steer
/eə/	dare, fair, pear
/ʊə/	jury, cure

Glottal stop

/ʔ/	bottle, football
-----	------------------

Unit 4 Section A

Sample question

The two texts that follow are examples of entertainment programmes shown on the BBC for a national audience.

TEXT A is from the BBC3 reality show *Don't Tell the Bride*, in which the groom has to plan a wedding for his bride-to-be in secret. In this extract, Mike is making plans for his wedding to Becky. They are both professional wrestlers. They talk to friends and family about what they want on their wedding day, and Mike visits possible venues.

Text B is from a BBC1 factual series *Who Do You Think You Are?*, in which celebrities investigate their family history. In this extract, the former footballer John Barnes talks to his mother about his childhood in Jamaica, his father and his grandfather.

Drawing on your knowledge of the levels of language, analyse the spoken language of these texts as examples of entertainment programmes.

In your response you must also:

- consider relevant concepts and issues
- explore contextual factors.

KEY TO TRANSCRIPTION

(.)	micropause
(1)	timed pause
↗eighty	rising intonation
↘disappointed	falling intonation
↑Cinderella↑	raised pitch
hhh	audible exhalation of breath
ca:::rds	stretched or prolonged speech sound
th.	incomplete word
big	emphatic stress
{laughs}	paralinguistic features
//	overlapping speech
accel	speech getting faster (underlined)
rall	speech getting slower (underlined)

TEXT A Extract from *Don't Tell the Bride* (BBC 3)

M: Mike
B: Becky

J: Mike's friend Jimmy
A: Becky's aunt

R: Mike's friend Rob

- J yeah (.) cheers Mike
R getting ol. married /ən/ stuff
M this is what I've got in my head (1) I want to incorporate a **wrestling** show (.) into
5 the wedding (1) I want /ləʊdzə/ action between with fire-breathin:ng (1) /ən/ all
accel sorts I want ring girls with ca:::rds I want it to be a **big spectacle a huge show**
R you've got some good plans you've got some good **plans**
J you've **thought** about (1) it which is the **main** // thing
M // yeah
- 10 [change of scene]
A **you** know what you **want** (.) Becky?
B considering (.) you know (.) what I do is /kaɪndə/ so (1) /kaɪndə/ **masculine** I
want like /3:/ /kaɪndə/ **fairy** tale (.) princessy wedding // since /kaɪndə/ yeah if he
A // †Cinderella †
15 B accel gets it // **totally wrong** it might be a **nightmare** /jənəʊ/ // plus probably freak out
A // {laughs} // which is
B (.) a little bit I mean be a bit ↘disappointed (.) that didn't /kaɪndə/ know **me better**
rall or consider what I // want
A // how might you be demonstrating **this**?
20 B {laughs} strangulation [unclear] maybe an elbow drop {laughs} maybe /3:/ (1) he
he wouldn't **survive** I know that **much** {laughs}
- [change of scene]
R that's quite **nice** (.) Mike
25 M **good size** for the (2) wrestling ring // there
R // yeah yeah it's already laid out
M accel I want it to go I want it to feel like really wow [unclear] /jənəʊ/ (.) Madison Square
Garden¹ (.) Wembley **Arena**² (.) the O₂ some big **massive event** I want it to
feel
30 like //that
R // yeah as opposed // to
M // but up // **close**
R // yeah (.) // like
M // and it to be (1) **mine** and **Becky's**
35 though (2) our day
- [change of scene]
J this is **really** // good {eating candyfloss}
M // this is good what I want for my wedding **popcorn candyfloss hot**
dogs
40 J I think it's going to work
M it's /gʌnə/ be ↗**awesome**
J yeah

¹ *Madison Square Garden*: a large indoor arena in Manhattan, New York City – famous as a boxing and wrestling venue

² *Wembley Arena/O₂*: the two largest indoor arenas in London

Text B Extract from *Who Do You Think You Are?* (BBC 1)

JB: John Barnes

MB: John Barnes' mother

- MB **my** favourite picture of your **father** is that one on the wall (1) ^yes
 JB what was that?
 MB that was taken (1) 1988 (2) **we** went to Up Park Camp¹ when you were a couple of months old in about (.) '64 you had some **good** times there didn't // you
 5 JB // I had (1)
 accel well all times
 MB you had a good place /kɒz/ you // could run up and down
 JB // **all** good times
 JB and the football field right opposite where we lived we had ^eighty mango trees
 10 in th. (1) in the garden
 MB yes (.) and you used to (.) play a lot of football there that was **all** you used to do
 JB this is the earliest picture I can remember of **me**
 MB your father (1) while he was at staff college² (1) he sent stuff home (2) he sent a
 accel ^sweater for me and he sent this for you and something for the girls and we
 15 wanted him to show that you were (1) even in this (.) **hot** climate you were using the bathrobe
 JB he forgot where we lived // you've got a big ↑sweater↑ I mean I've got a big (.)
 MB // in Up Park Camp
 JB // woolly ↑bathrobe↑ and we live in Jamaica (1) **hundred** degrees
 20 MB // {laughs}
 MB it's what they were selling in // England so he wanted so this is what we took and
 JB // {laughs}
 MB there you **were** (2) he was very **pleased** when we sent those pictures // to him (.)
 JB // mm
 25 MB when we went to England in '76 we stayed /hhh/ nearly four and a half years
 JB accel some of us who were deserted (2) stayed longer³
 MB stayed longer {laughs} (3) right well (1) let me show you some more (2) members of the family we were talking about our (1) little family but (3) over here (1) this is the first (.) thing I did when I moved here last November set up this wall with all
 30 rall **my** pictures (1) and so on this (.) this is my father your grandfather Frank Hill
 JB yeah
 MB you remember much about him?
 JB I remember Frank /3:/ not **too** much because every time I went round he was inside **reading** and an. an. // typing so he was like (.) I only know I was a outdoor
 35 MB // typing
 JB /kaɪndə/ guy
 MB yes and he was like an indoor // /kaɪndə/ guy
 JB // indoor /kaɪndə/ guy
 MB oh // **yes** he was a // journalist /ʌm/ (.) this a bust of // Frank when he was
 40 JB // {laughs} // mmm // yes
 MB **Chairman** of the National Heritage Trust the Institute of Jamaica (3)
 JB who's ^this?
 MB and this is **his** father Stephen Hill (.) **my** grandfather your **great** grandfather

¹ Up Park Camp: a British Army base at this time

² staff college: a college where military officers were trained

³ stayed longer: when his family returned to Jamaica, John Barnes stayed in England to play football for Watford

