

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

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Paper
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English Language

Advanced

PAPER 3: Investigating Language

You do not need any other materials.

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Pearson

This booklet introduces five subtopics for the examination, one for each of the five topics.

The five topics are:

- Global English
- Language and Gender Identity
- Language and Journalism
- Language and Power
- Regional Language Variation.

The summary, given for each topic, is a starting point for students to use for their own subtopic investigations.

The suggested resource list is intended to act as guidance and students should broaden their research beyond the list. Students and teachers need to consider carefully which resources to use as the list is for guidance and suggestion only.

Please note that resources were checked at the time of publication – all web addresses were working and all publications were available for purchase. However, materials may be withdrawn from circulation and website locations may change.

Topic: Global English

Subtopic: Nigerian Pidgin English

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and almost half of its population are aged under 18. Although English is the official language of Nigeria, over 500 different languages are spoken in the country. As a result, Nigerian Pidgin English (also known as Nigerian Creole) has developed as a lingua franca to enable communication across all these different languages.

Your investigation should focus on Nigerian Pidgin English.

You should research:

- the historical development of Nigerian Pidgin English
- relevant language frameworks of Nigerian Pidgin English
- the influence of social, historical, technological and cultural factors on the development of Nigerian Pidgin English.

Suggested research resources

General

Books

Jenkins, J (2015) *Global Englishes: A Resource Book for Students*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Crystal, D (2012) *English as a Global Language, Second Edition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Saraceni, M (2015) *World Englishes: A Critical Analysis*. London: Bloomsbury.

Specific

Data could be taken from a range of sources, including TV, radio, websites and from representations in printed media.

Websites

The following paper can be found online: *Use and Attitudes towards Nigerian Pidgin English among Nigerian University Students* by Akinmade T. Akande and L. Oladipo Salami: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/pfrlsu/documents/Akande%20and%20Salami,%20Use%20and%20Attitudes%20towards%20Nigerian%20Pidgin%20English%20among%20Nigerian%20University%20Students.pdf>

This article offers a discussion of how noun clauses are constructed in Nigerian Pidgin English: <https://njas.fi/njas/article/view/29/21>

This website has a vast range of lexis associated with Nigerian Pidgin English that may be useful: <https://www.ngex.com/personalities/babawilly/dictionary/default.htm>

Topic: Language and Gender Identity

Subtopic: Representation of Gender in Stand-Up Comedy Performances

Stand-up comedy performances involve a solo comedian performing in front of a live audience. These performances often involve a rehearsed or prepared monologue designed to appeal to a wide audience. One of the most common elements of stand-up comedy is observational comedy, which involves making comments about everyday situations, including ideas about the representation of gender.

Your investigation should focus on how language is used to represent gender in stand-up comedy performances.

You should research:

- the main developments in linguistic theory linked to gender, identity and representation
- relevant language frameworks used in representing gender in stand-up comedy performances
- the influence of social, historical, technological and cultural factors on the representation of gender in stand-up comedy performances.

Suggested research resources

General

Books

Baker, P. (2008) *Sexed Texts: Language, Gender and Sexuality*. London: Equinox Publishing Ltd.

Sunderland, J. (2006) *Language and Gender: An Advanced Resource Book* (Routledge Applied Linguistics). London: Routledge.

Talbot, M. (2010) *Language and Gender*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Specific

Data could be taken from any stand-up comedy source including live performances, radio, television, transcripts and online sources.

Websites

Rachel Blackburn's thesis *Fem and Funny: Three Women who Changed the Face of Stand-Up Comedy* can be found here:

<http://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4033&context=etd>

Danielle Russell's *Self-Deprecatory Humour and the Female Comic: Self-Destruction or Comic Construction* can be found here:

http://journals.sfu.ca/thirdspace/index.php/journal/article/view/d_russell/68

This is a useful discussion about the content of comedy performances from a gender perspective:

<https://stephbrown.net/gender-and-authenticity-on-stage-stand-up-norms-in-theory-and-practice/>

Topic: Language and Journalism

Subtopic: Gonzo Journalism

First used in the 1970s, Gonzo Journalism is the name given to a branch of New Journalism which focuses on the experiences of an individual or group rather than the objective reporting of facts. Gonzo journalists, who are typically part of the story themselves, often produce extensive texts rather than short articles.

Your investigation should focus on Gonzo Journalism.

You should research:

- the historical development of Gonzo Journalism
- relevant language frameworks used in Gonzo Journalism
- the influence of social, historical, technological and cultural factors on the language of Gonzo Journalism.

Suggested research resources

General

Books

Finch, G. (2013) *Word of Mouth: A New Introduction to Language and Communication (2nd edition)*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Higgins, M. and Smith, A. (2013) *The Language of Journalism: A Multi-genre Perspective*. London: Bloomsbury.

Randal, D. (2016) *The Universal Journalist (5th Edition)*. London: Pluto Press.

Specific

Data could be taken from printed and online sources.

Websites

This is a link to an academic research paper about Gonzo Journalism. This paper does discuss strong language.

dro.deakin.edu.au/eserv/DU:30041252/hirst-fromgonzo-1998.pdf

The following website offers advice for people who want to be Gonzo journalists:
<https://dailypost.wordpress.com/writing-challenges/three-ways-to-go-gonzo/>

James E. Caron's article *Hunter S. Thompson's "Gonzo" Journalism and the Tall Tale Tradition in America* can be accessed for free through JStor following a simple registration process.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/23412909?seq=1>

Topic: Language and Power

Subtopic: Parliamentary Debates

Parliamentary debates are the formal discussions surrounding a particular proposal within the House of Commons and the House of Lords. In terms of the format of Parliamentary debates, an MP or a Member of the House of Lords puts forward a proposal which is then debated. There are a number of rules and conventions which help manage the debates.

Your investigation should focus on Parliamentary debates.

You should research:

- the historical development of Parliamentary debates
- relevant language frameworks used in Parliamentary debates
- the influence of social, historical, technological and cultural factors on the language of Parliamentary debates.

Suggested research resources

General

Books

Fairclough, N. (2014) *Language and Power*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Routledge.

Mooney, A. et al (2015) *Language, Society and Power*. 4th edition. Oxford: Routledge.

Simpson, P. and Mayr, A. (2010) *Language and Power: A Resource Book for Students*. Oxford: Routledge.

Specific

Data could be taken from written, recorded, online sources or the media.

Websites

The website <https://www.parliament.uk/> offers an overview of some of the key practices of parliament as well as access to a useful glossary and links to Parliamentary debates.

The following is an academic text analysing the discourse of Parliamentary debates:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/233642367_Discourse_and_Metadiscourse_in_Parliamentary_Debates

The following is a detailed account of the language that is considered parliamentary or unparliamentary:
<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmproced/writev/language/p19.htm>

Topic: Regional Language Variation

Subtopic: Avon and Somerset

Located in the South-West of England, the county of Avon was abolished in 1996 and the region split into four distinct areas: Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset, Bristol, and South Gloucestershire. The variety of English used in this area is often loosely referred to as West Country English in order to differentiate itself from the variety used in the more southern counties of Devon and Cornwall.

Your investigation should focus on the particular characteristics of the Avon and Somerset variety of English.

You should research the following aspects of this regional variety:

- the historical development of the Avon and Somerset variety of English
- relevant language frameworks used in the Avon and Somerset variety of English
- the influence of social, historical, technological and cultural factors on the Avon and Somerset variety of English.

Suggested research resources

General

Books

Hughes, A and Trudgill, P. (2012) *English Accents and Dialects: An Introduction to Social and Regional Varieties of English in the British Isles*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Beal, J.C. (2010) *An Introduction to Regional Englishes: Dialect Variation in England*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Library.

Websites

The British Library has a dedicated section online looking at different varieties of English: <https://www.bl.uk/british-accent-and-dialects>

Specific

Data could be taken from transcripts of regional speakers in the public eye, representations in the media, everyday conversations and representations in written form.

Websites

The BBC Voices website features an accessible overview of some of the key features of this variation: http://www.bbc.co.uk/somerset/content/articles/2005/01/18/dont_tell_i_tell_ee_feature.shtml

This website discusses a number of linguistic influences on the variety and compares it with other varieties of English:

<https://forum.unilang.org/viewtopic.php?t=8623>

The article *Relative Clauses in the Dialect of Somerset* can be accessed for free via JStor with a simple registration process:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/43343327?seq=1>

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