



PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

GENERAL PAPER
Higher 1

8807/2

Paper 2

29 August 2014
1 hour 30 minutes

ANSWER BOOKLET

Candidate's Name: _____ CT Group: _____

GP Tutor: _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, CT group and GP tutor's name in the spaces provided.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clip, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions in the Answer Booklet.
The Insert contains the passage for comprehension.
(Note that 15 marks out of 50 will be awarded for your use of language.)

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each part question.

For Examiner's Use	
Content	/35
Language	/15
TOTAL	/50

This document consists of 8 printed pages including the cover page.

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Henry Hitchings writes about the changing nature of the English language

- 1 No language has spread as widely as English, and it continues to spread. Internationally the desire to learn it is insatiable. In the 21st century the world is becoming more urban and more middle class, and the adoption of English is a symptom of this, for increasingly English serves as the lingua franca of business and popular culture. It is dominant or at least very prominent in other areas such as shipping, diplomacy, computing, medicine and education. A recent study has suggested that English "is symbolic of modernity and progress." Indeed, the propagation of English is an industry, not a happy accident. 5
- 2 Wherever English has been used, it has lasted. Cultural might outlives military rule. In the colonial period, the languages of settlers dominated the languages of the peoples whose land they seized. They marginalised them and in some cases eventually drove them to extinction. All the while they absorbed from them whatever local terms seemed useful. The colonists' languages practised a sort of cannibalism, and its legacy is still sharply felt. English is treated with suspicion in many places where it was once the language of the imperial overlords. It is far from being a force for unity, and its endurance is stressful. In India, while English is much used in the media, administration, education and business, there are calls to curb its influence. Yet even where English has been denigrated as an instrument of colonialism, it has held on – and in most cases grown, increasing its numbers of speakers and functions. 15
- 3 The term World English is still in use, but is contested by critics who believe it strikes too strong a note of dominance. There is an attempt to promote a neutral form of English, rather than one freighted with "Anglo" values, to form a part of a larger community, without territorial boundaries; to make its use prestigious; and to market it as a language of opportunity. This is supported economically, politically, in education and the media, and sometimes also by military force. Much of the endorsement happens covertly. As English continues to spread, it seems like a steamroller, squashing whatever gets in its way. True, it is often used alongside local languages and does not instantly replace them. Yet its presence shifts the cultural emphases in the lives of those who adopt it, altering their aspirations and expectations. English seems, increasingly, to be a second first language. It is possible to imagine it merely coexisting with other languages, but easy to see that coexistence turning into transcendence. 25 30
- 4 English remains the world's auxiliary tongue. There are more people who use English as a second language than there are native speakers. Far more of the world's citizens are eagerly jumping on board than trying to resist its progress. In some cases the devotion appears religious and can involve what to outsiders looks a lot like self-mortification. According to Mark Abley, some rich Koreans pay for their children to have an operation that lengthens the tongue because it helps them speak English convincingly. The suggestion is that it enables them to produce *r* and *l* sounds, although the evidence of the many proficient English-speakers among Korean immigrants in America and Britain makes one wonder whether the procedure is either necessary or useful. Still, it is a powerful example of the lengths people will go to in order to learn English, seduced by the belief that linguistic capital equals economic capital. 35 40
- 5 In places where English is used as a second language, its users often perceive it as free from the limitations of their native languages. They associate it with power and social status, and see it as a nimble medium for self-expression. It symbolises choice and liberty. But while many of those who do not have a grasp of the language aspire to learn it, there are many others who perceive it as an instrument of oppression, associated not only with imperialism but also with the predations of capitalism and Christianity. The Australian scholar Alastair Pennycook neatly sums up English's paradoxical status as 'a language of 45

threat, desire, destruction and opportunity'. Its spread can be seen as a homogenising (some would say, Americanising) force, eroding the integrity of other cultures. Yet it is striking that the language is appropriated locally in quite distinct ways. Sometimes it is used against the very powers and ideologies it is alleged to represent. Listening to Somali or Indonesian rappers, for instance, it seems sloppy to say that the use of English in their lyrics is a craven homage to the commercial and cultural might of America. 50

- 6 There are challenges to the position of English as the dominant world language in the 21st century. The main ones seem likely to come from Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. Both have more first-language users than English. But at present neither is much used as a lingua franca. The majority of speakers of Mandarin Chinese live in one country, and, excepting Spain, most Spanish-speakers are in the Americas. There is an argument that the revitalization of minority languages is good for English, because it weakens English's large rivals and thus removes obstacles to the language's spread. So, for instance, the 55 60

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