

A level ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Component 2 Section A **Language Change over Time**

Sample Question 1

Short questions



Section A: Language Change Over Time

Question 1 is divided into four parts: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Answer **all** parts.

The three texts which follow are all extracts from novels.

Text A is taken from *An Unfortunate Traveller, Or the Life of Jack Wilton* by Thomas Nashe, published in 1594. The main character, Jack Wilton, is a rogue—he cheats the people around him and exploits their weaknesses. In this extract, Jack is having a secret meeting with the cider-maker. Jack intends to trick the cider-maker into believing that the king wants to have him hanged as a traitor for using his empty cider barrels to send out secret letters to the enemy. Fearing for his life, the cider-maker is persuaded to give out free cider to all the soldiers.

Text B is taken from the novel *Persuasion* by Jane Austen, first published in 1817. Anne Elliot is the heroine of the novel and she is very different from her vain and selfish father Sir Walter and elder sister Elizabeth, who are interested only in themselves and their social position. In this extract, Anne is in Bath with her father and her sister where they are to meet their aristocratic cousins the Dalrymples. She has just read a letter containing some surprising news from her younger sister Mary: Captain Benwick and her sister-in-law Louisa are to be married. The letter has been delivered by the naval officer Admiral Croft and his wife, who are renting Sir Walter's house, Kellynch Hall, while the family are in Bath.

Text C is taken from *No Country For Old Men* by Cormac McCarthy, published in 2005. It is a crime thriller set in the 1980s on the American-Mexican border. The main character Llewellyn Moss is an ordinary working man whose life changes dramatically when he takes money left behind at a drug deal that has gone wrong. In this extract, Llewellyn is in a fast-food restaurant with a sixteen-year-old girl, a hitchhiker he has picked up on the highway.

1. (a) Identify the word class and archaic spelling patterns of the following words using appropriate terminology. [6]

wel (Text A, line 7)

sayd (Text A, line 9)

farre (Text A, line 12)

- (b) What do the examples below tell us about language change? Make two points and refer to the examples using appropriate terminology. [4]

thee (Text A, line 10)

victuals (Text A, line 18)

- (c) Describe the form and the archaic grammatical features of the following examples using appropriate terminology. [4]

loues not (Text A, line 15)

hath (Text A, line 15)

- (d) Analyse features of the grammatical structure and punctuation that are typical of Early Modern English in the extract from Text A below. Make three points and select an appropriate example to support each point. [6]

Nay, quoth I, you shall pardon me, for I haue spoken too much alreadie, no definitiue sentence of death shall march out of my wel meaning lips, they haue but lately suckt milke, and shall they so sodainly change theyr food and seeke after bloud?

Oh but, quoth he, a mans friend is his friend, fill the other pint Tapster¹, what sayd the king, did hee beleeeue it when hee heard it, I pray thee say, I sweare to thee by my nobility, none in the worlde shall euer be made priuie, that I receiued anie light of this matter from thee.

That firme affiance, quoth I, had I in you before, or else I would neuer haue gone so farre ouer the shooes, to plucke you out of the mire.

¹ Tapster: the person who draws pints from the barrels

Text A *An Unfortunate Traveller, Thomas Nashe (1594)*

Oh, quoth he, I am bought & solde for doing my Country such good seruice as I haue done. They are afraid of mee, because my good deedes haue brought me into such estimation with the communalty, I see, I see it is not for the lambe to liue with the wolfe.

5 The world is well amended, thought I, with your Sidership. Answered me, quoth he, my wise young *Wilton*, is it true that I am thus vnderhand dead and buried by these bad tongues?

Nay, quoth I, you shall pardon me, for I haue spoken too much alreadie, no definitiue sentence of death shall march out of my wel meaning lips, they haue but lately suckt milke, and shall they so sodainly change theyr food and seeke after bloud?

10 Oh but, quoth he, a mans friend is his friend, fill the other pint Tapster², what sayd the king, did hee beleue it when hee heard it, I pray thee say, I sweare to thee by my nobility, none in the worlde shall euer be made priuie, that I receiued anie light of this matter from thee.

15 That firme affiance, quoth I, had I in you before, or else I would neuer haue gone so farre ouer the shooes, to plucke you out of the mire. Not to make many wordes (since you will needs know) the king saies flatly, you are a miser & a snudge³, and he neuer hopt better of you. Nay then (quoth he) questionlesse some planet that loues not syder hath conspired against me. I cannot staie at this time to reporte each circumstance that passed, but the only counsell that my long cherished kinde inclination can possibly contriue, is now in your olde daies, to be liberall, such victuals or prouisions as you haue, presently distribute it frankly
20 amongst poore souldiers

[text omitted]

But the next daie I thinke wee had a dole⁴ of syder, syder in boules, in scuppets⁵, in helmets, & to conclude, if a man would haue fild his bootes full, there hee mighte haue had it.

² Tapster: the person who draws pints from the barrels

³ snudge: a sneaky fellow, or a miser

⁴ Dole: a portion of something given as a charitable gift

⁵ scuppets: a kind of spade

Text B *Persuasion, Jane Austen (1815-16)*

Mary need not have feared her sister's being in any degree prepared for the news. Anne had never in her life been more astonished. Captain Benwick and Louisa Musgrove! It was almost too wonderful for belief, and it was with the greatest effort that she could remain in the room, preserve an air of calmness, and answer the common questions of the moment.

5 Happily for her, they were not many. Sir Walter wanted to know whether the Crofts travelled with four horses, and whether they were likely to be situated in such a part of Bath as it might suit Miss Elliot and himself to visit in; but had little curiosity beyond.

'How is Mary?' said Elizabeth; and without waiting for an answer, 'And pray what brings the Crofts to Bath?'

10 'They come on the Admiral's account. He is thought to be gouty.'

'Gout and decrepitude!' said Sir Walter. 'Poor old gentleman.'

'Have they any acquaintance here?' asked Elizabeth.

'I do not know; but I can hardly suppose that, at Admiral Croft's time of life, and in his profession, he should not have many acquaintance in such a place as this.'

15 'I suspect,' said Sir Walter coolly, 'that Admiral Croft will be best known in Bath as the renter of Kellynch-hall. Elizabeth, may we venture to present him and his wife in Laura Place?'

20 'Oh, no! I think not. Situated as we are with Lady Dalrymple, cousins, we ought to be very careful not to embarrass her with acquaintance she might not approve. If we were not related, it would not signify; but as cousins, she would feel scrupulous as to any proposal of ours. We had better leave the Crofts to find their own level. There are several odd-looking men walking about here, who, I am told, are sailors. The Crofts will associate with them.'

Text C *No Country for Old Men*, Cormac McCarthy (Picador, 2005)

After a while the waitress brought their plates. He bit the corner off a packet of mayonnaise and squeezed out the contents over his cheeseburger and reached for the ketchup. Where you from? he said.

5 She took a drink of her iced tea and wiped her mouth with the paper napkin. Port Arthur, she said.

 He nodded. He took up the cheeseburger in both hands and bit into it and sat back, chewing. I aint never been to Port Arthur.

 I aint never seen you there.

 How could you of seen me there if I aint never been there?

10 I couldnt. I was just sayin I aint. I was agreein with you.

 Moss shook his head.

 They ate. He watched her.

 I reckon you're on the way to California.

 How did you know that?

15 That's the direction you're headed in.

 Well that's where I'm going.

 You got any money?

 What's it to you?

 It aint nothin to me. Do you?

20 I got some.

 He finished the cheeseburger and wiped his hands on the paper napkin and drank the rest of the milk. Then he reached in his pocket and took out the roll of hundreds and unfolded them. He counted a thousand dollars onto the formica and pushed it toward her and put the roll back in his pocket. Let's go he said.

25 What's that for?

 To go to California on.

 What I gotta do for it?

 You dont have to do nothing. Even a blind sow finds a acorn ever once in a while. Put that up and let's go.

30 They paid and walked out to the truck.