



Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/41

Paper 4 Language Topics

May/June 2025

2 hours 15 minutes



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.
- Dictionaries are **not** allowed.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: English in the world**Question 1**

Read the following text, which is a series of extracts from the Indian online newspaper *The Print*, published in 2021.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the influences on the use and status of English in an international context. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of English in the world. [25]

**Dear Indians, MTI (Mother Tongue Influence) stigma is just language apartheid.
Make English another *bhasha*¹**

We were on a social visit in Haryana.

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

and make English another *bhasha*, another *mausi*⁴ in our family. It is time to embrace MTI

Section B: Language and the self

Question 2

Read the following text, which is taken from a podcast called *Ideas*, broadcast by the Canadian broadcaster CBC Radio in 2021.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the ways in which language can shape and reflect the ways people think. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of Language and the self. [25]

The ongoing search for the perfect climate change metaphor

When scientists, environmentalists, and marketers talk about climate change, they do it metaphorically. *The atmosphere is a kind of greenhouse. Carbon dioxide is like a heat-trapping blanket. Climate change resembles a house on fire.*

According to an ad for Ben & Jerry's ice cream, global warming is like a melting ice cream cone. 5

Metaphors are a crucial part of communicating climate change, says Stephen Flusberg, an associate professor of psychology at the State University of New York. 'Metaphors are central to how we talk and think about a lot of aspects of our world... Metaphors are not just something extra like a rhetorical flourish. Metaphors are, to use a metaphor, baked into language.' When it comes to climate change, communications strategists have struggled for years to find the right metaphor to get people motivated to address the problem. 10

Facts don't sink in

According to Lucy Atkinson, an associate professor in communication at the University of Texas, relying on factual information alone is just not good enough. 'It can be a pitfall in that we tend to think, 'Oh, it's a problem of knowledge, it's a problem of information. If people just knew more about the issue, then they would do something.' We call that the information deficit model. And it's not really the best way to go about communicating,' says Atkinson. 15

Declaring war on climate change

Metaphors are supposed to lead to action. And one climate change metaphor that's gaining traction is 'war.' U.S. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez made the comparison in her proposal for a Green New Deal, legislation intended to fight climate change, in which she called for 'a new national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II.' 20

Flusberg says war metaphors can be useful in getting people interested in a cause, at least in the short term. 'Wars convey a sense of urgency and risk. They're scary. And so whenever politicians or journalists or pundits are trying to get attention to an issue, it helps to use language that activates strong emotions — and wars do that.' But there's a danger in relying on war metaphors. The fight against climate change will be long, and there probably won't be a single, clear moment when we've won the war for good. 25

Make images of love, not war

Kai Chan, a professor in sustainability at the University of British Columbia, says the public and scientists could learn a lot about love. 'We as scientists need to be much more in touch with our emotions and also our values. It's helping us to recognize that we all do, surely, in one way or another, love this planet that we call home — and then asking us whether our actions are consistent with that emotion.' Professor Chan says love is so important and central to people, it may well be the metaphor we need most to address climate change. 'Everybody knows what that word means, right?' 30 35

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