

Exemplar Candidate Work

GCE English Language

OCR GCE in English Language: H469

Unit: F651 Question 3

This booklet is designed to accompany the OCR GCE English Language specification for teaching from September 2008.

GCE English Language

Unit F651: The Dynamics of Speech

This resource has been prepared by OCR to assist teachers in interpreting the requirements of the specification and associated assessment. Students who have taken the January 2009 assessment have kindly given permission for us to use their answers as exemplar candidate work, for which we pass on our thanks to both them and their centres. Their responses are supported by commentary from a senior OCR examiner.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

Section B: Speech Varieties and Social Groups

Candidate 1:

For January 2009, the passages were as follows:

Question 1: transcription of three girls at school – Fay is 13, Lisa is 9 and Jenny is 7 – role-playing a radio phone-in programme.

Question 2: extract from *Raven*, a magical fantasy television game-show for children, in which three ten-year-olds have been given various tasks to perform.

Question 3: transcription of a professional boxer talking to an amateur.

Question 4: transcription of a professional psychic, who claims he can talk to dead people, ‘performing’ to an audience.

The following commentaries highlight the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate’s responses. Each answer is placed in a Band, and each script is given an overall Band.

| Question 3: Candidate answer | Examiner's commentary |
|--|--|
| <p>Within the conversation between the two boxers, Matt and Noel, language is used in many ways to discuss boxing techniques. There is an extensive amount of lexical language and cuot of hyponyms used within the discourse.</p> <p>This is essential however, and is often the case with many sports and careers. It is necessary for both speakers to be clear on the topic of conversation and be secure in their subject knowledge; as both Matt and Noel are. Vocabulary such as 'jab' 'block' and 'expanding energy' are used (frequently) within the discourse. all of these are examples of a lexical field and are additionally hyponyms of boxing.</p> <p>As the professional, Matt knows more about boxing - this is a key reason as to why he leads the conversation; what is known as the 'superior' where as Noel is 'subordinate'. Because he is superior and leads the conversation, Matt is questioned several times by Noel about what to do in certain situations. "Noel: so right so tell me slowly lets break this down slowly (.) Noel's questioning could evidence misunderstanding - possible due to the superior in the conversation breaking one or several, of Grice's maxim is. The maxim of quantity is seen to be floured with Matt's first attempt at speech within the dialogue; he says to much an this leads to Noel's lack of understanding.</p> <p>The conversation also shows floured of the maxim of manner with each speaker interrupting the other at least once.</p> <p>Evidence of non-verbal communication is also apparent within the dialogue. There are many instances where both Matt and Noel "pretend to box" as well as many situations where text speeching language is used and fillers such as 'like yeah' appear to 2belong to an action2 meaning they are said whiles the action is taking place. This is also the same as the use of "if "I'm standing back here"</p> <p>There are no voiced pauses within the dialogue, showing that both speakers' knowledge is of a high standard.</p> <p>To conclude I will comment further on the amount of lexical</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trying to focus on <i>lexis</i> • mentions <i>hyponyms</i> – and returns to this idea later • comments on speakers' subject knowledge • gives examples of vocabulary / lexical field / hyponyms of boxing • characterises Matt as <i>superior</i> and Noel as <i>subordinate</i> • quotes examples of Noel's questions, and suggests he misunderstands • careful discussion of Grice's Maxims; suggests that Noel's misunderstanding could stem from Matt's flouting of Maxim of Quantity • notes interruptions, and links to flouting of Maxim of Manner • complex discussion of how non-verbal communication works; integrates knowledge of how <i>fillers</i> might accompany gestures • notes lack of <i>voiced pauses</i> • announces intention to discuss 'lexical vocabulary' (presumably means <i>field-specific lexis</i>) then abandons answer <p>Again, this answer has some very competent features. The question-focus – <i>to discuss ways in which Matt and Noel use language to talk about boxing techniques</i> – is addressed, with knowledge of relevant linguistic approaches. However, again the answer is abandoned/unfinished; and there is nothing on (for example) register, accent/dialect, modality, slang/colloquialism. Hence a mark at the top of Band 3 is indicated.</p> |

vocabulary, a necessity when conversing about particular subjects. The amount of Lexica

Candidate 2:

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Question 3: Candidate answer

Matt and Noel use their language well to talk about boxing techniques. They both have specific features to distinguish themselves. Matt has examples of estuary English in his accent missing off letters from the beginning of words such as ‘wi’ and ‘ead’ He also repeats ‘you know’ a lot, which is a part of his language and something he has picked up through his life. Occupational dialogue is used throughout to talk to each other about boxing techniques. They both understand what the other is talking about which enables the conversation to flow. Matt is teaching Noel who is an amateur and therefore uses his knowledge to explain what he knows about boxing. There aren’t many non-fluency features other than two instances of overlapping. No filler are used which shows that the men know what they are talking about. Both men use Ellison when talking, saying ‘wanna’ which may also be an feature of their accents.

Paralinguistic features are common with Matt demonstrating to Noel how something is done.

Prosodic features are also evidence. Matt speaks fairly quickly which is shown through the lack of stops hr takes in each piece of dialogue. Also some words such as ‘BAM’ are

Examiner’s commentary

- less good than q.1 – signs of haste, and a weak ending
- notes examples of Matt’s speech sounds / accent, but assumes it’s Estuary English
- asserts the presence of ‘occupational dialogue’, but doesn’t exemplify
- notes that Matt is the expert with the knowledge to impart
- asserts that there are few non-fluency features apart from two overlaps, and that there are no fillers – not true
- notes ellision (“wanna”) and suggests this may be a feature of both men’s accents – fair point
- notes prosodic and para-linguistic features
- tries to make a point about *ellipsis*
- correctly (AO1) uses terminology – *convergence / co-operating* – but doesn’t exemplify
- realises that there are fillers, and tries to suggest something about the speakers’ relative status
- comments on how Matt flouts Grice’s Maxim of Manner, and suggests it may be eagerness rather than rudeness when he overlaps/interrupts
- tries to summarise/conclude by suggesting that Matt speaks very quickly and Noel needs him to slow down – but doesn’t quote the (very obvious) evidence

stressed to emphasize what Matt is trying to say, he may also be demonstrating at the same time. Matt also uses Ellipses whilst talking, for example he says 'you know, the right hand comes, I can skip outside'. Missing out this word makes the dialogue informal. Convergence is also present as the two men are co-operating and talking about something they both like. Referring back to the repetition of 'you know' by Matt, this is because he is trying to show Noel what he knows and the difference in status they are. Although this may just be a lexical feature of his speech, it could also be a filler in his mind. Matt also restricts Noel's speech as he is keen to show him because he is the professional, what he can do. He overlaps Noel's speech at the beginning when Noel, says 'you want' and Matt says 'yeah.yeah' this shows either rudeness, in which he is flouting Grice's Maxim of manner, or he is just eager.

Overall the two men use language to talk about boxing techniques fluently. Although the way Matt speaks, quickly with few stops, increases to tempo and pace of the text. Noel seems like he also needs Matt to slow down. So he can understand. We are able to read through the dialogue and understand some of the jargon being used because of any stresses and intonations put on words. There is very little evidence of any grammatical features in the dialogue. Both men obviously correctly use grammar where needed, but also there is an absence when Matt is trying to explain a technique to Noel. The repetition of 'you know' interrupts most of the sentences making them look strange, when they are read on paper.

- weak ending, attempting to squeeze in a discussion of grammar

Overall, this is rather less competent than q.1. Knowledge of *Key Constituents of Language* is mostly secure, but under-developed.

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The following commentaries highlight the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate’s responses. Each answer is placed in a Band, and each script is given an overall Band.

| <i>Question 3: Candidate answer</i> | <i>Examiner’s commentary</i> |
|---|--|
| <p>In the transcription of a professional boxer, Matt, talking to an amateur, Noel, different language features are used in different ways to talk about boxing techniques.</p> <p>The register of this piece is formal as Matt is teaching Noel different boxing techniques.</p> <p>Occupational jargon is used between the two speakers which enables them to communicate to each other quickly by using jargon from this particular profession, “jab’, “block” “counter”, However these words used are in a different context, so to people outside of this occupational group these terms won’t have the same meaning. These words are known as synonyms as they have several meanings.</p> <p>In terms of the phonological features of the transcript, ellipsis is used in places “wi your ands” which seems to be a characteristic of a cockney accent as the ‘th’ is dropped from ‘with’ and also ‘h’ is dropped from ‘hands’: In a cockney accent, words are pronounced differently and letters are dropped “ead” meaning ‘head’ which would be written as ‘ed’ using phonemics, and ‘hands’ would be written as it sounds in a cockney accent “aenz”.</p> <p>The grammatical features of the language used by the speakers</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suggests that register is <i>formal</i> because Matt is teaching Noel • introduces <i>occupational jargon</i>, and suggests that the quoted examples are <i>synonyms</i> whose meanings outside this context would be different • notes ellipses of speech sounds, and suggests these are indicative of a ‘Cockney’ accent • uses phonemic symbols to represent pronunciation • tries to comment on grammar/syntax: limited understanding of how conjunctions work (or otherwise) to create ‘complex’ sentences • notes Matt’s use of <i>you know</i>, and suggests it’s to ‘provoke an understanding to Noel’ (??) • notes emphatic stress – gives limited explanation of its effect • notes overlaps • notes back-channelling, and explains how it communicates understanding • comments that language is <i>transactional</i>, since matt is explaining techniques to Noel • lengthy conclusion, summarising the content of the answer neatly, but not evaluating the dynamics of the interaction <p>Overall, rather less assured and developed than response to q.1. Tending to <i>identify</i> but not <i>evaluate</i>.</p> |

shows that the sentence structure in this conversation isn't that of complex sentences as shown in the first lines on the transcript when Matt is speaking. He doesn't formulate his sentences into complex examples as he doesn't use conjunction to connect them. He often uses the phrase "you know" every now and again to provoke an understanding to Noel.

An onomatopoeia is also used, "BAM" to help Matt describe an action to Noel.

The prosodic features of the transcript include stressing of the word "jab" which adds emphasis to this term and keeps the other person, in this case Matt, interested in what is being said.

Robin Lakoff's politeness principle is also broken in this conversation, as there are overlaps in their speech, "you want // yeah yeah".

Back channelling is used between the two speakers as they let one another know that they understand what the other is saying "right" which allows for the conversation to move forward.

The language within this transcript is transactional as Matt is explaining to Noel how to do different boxing techniques.

In conclusion, the speakers use language in different ways to talk about boxing techniques. They use occupational jargon throughout the whole piece so they can communicate quickly to each other, but can still understand what is being said. Also, prosody is used when describing different techniques to keep the other person engaged as stress is put on particular words for emphasis. Back channelling is another way in which language is used when talking about boxing techniques to let each other know that they understand the information that is being received.

Overall, there are many different ways in which language is used to enable the speakers to understand exactly what one another are saying.

Candidate 4:

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| Question 3: Candidate answer | Examiner's commentary |
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| <p>This transcript is between two boxers. Matt is a profession and is giving Noel the amature a few tips and points.</p> <p>It is a very in formal conversation with ‘gotta’ and ellisis like ‘wi’ appearing often. Matt has a (very strong) accent. ‘and’ which I personally feel he would pronance as ‘oendz’ is that from a cockney accent or other estuary English. However Matt uses his body language to show Noel what he means.</p> <p>From reading the text we can’t see how he does this the only evidence we have is pretends to box.</p> <p>Looking at the transcript in the terms of graphology it is Matt who has a huge amount of dialog in the transcript. This is up Matt is the professional. Noel has to learn about what Matt Says or tell him.</p> <p>We as the reader can see that Noel is trying to tell and improve his boxing. At first we can see that he need clarification of what Matt is telling him. From Line 1 to 5 Matt speaks quickly. With only one micropause’ (.)’ in five lines of dialect. Noel seems to find it hard to understand.</p> <p>Along with Noel seems to be unable or in doubt of his own abilities. ‘you want me to throw a jab’ Despite the technical dialect we can still see how Noel is (pencining and) unsure.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comments that conversation is <i>informal</i> because of the ellipses • notices speech sounds, and suggests Matt has an Estuary or ‘Cockney’ accent; some use of phonemic symbols to represent pronunciation • notes accurately that there is only limited evidence in the transcript of Matt’s body language • notices (but in terms of ‘graphology’) that Matt is the dominant speaker, and that he speaks quickly, without pauses • suggests that Noel needs clarification, and that he doesn’t understand / panics / is unsure • suggests that rise in Noel’s intonation proves this • asserts that there is ‘a huge amount of technical jargon, and that an outsider would not understand • identifies turn-taking, and notices overlaps • notices and accounts for <i>emphatic stress</i> • imagines a scenario for this conversation • developed exploration of how gestures amplify meaning, as Noel becomes more confident and asks more questions • notices onomatopoeia, and links its use to the use of gestures • lengthy discussion of how speed of utterance matches the speed of the sport |

The raise in this voice is for me the feature that shows that. Within the transcript that is a (huge) amount of technical jargon. 'jab', 'canter' and 'block' were all words related to boxing. To an outsider listening to the conversation, they would have little understand what these words meant. With both boxers here knowledge of the sport these phrases can be used to some time and don't require explanations.

The conversation is mostly turn taking between, Matt and Noel. However there are occasions when we see that Noel is eager to continue"// right" shows that Noel is confident and ready to move on.

The two boxers also use there language to talk about their boxing techniques by stressing certain words. Very words we stressed 'him' is stressed to show the importance of working the oppenet.

I personally feel that this conversation would have taken place in a box-ring or a location were examples can be made. With Matt continuously gesticulating what Noel should do leaves is the reader with little idea of what is happening these 'frequent gestures' must help Noel is, while the transcript goes on he becomes more darling and confident in what he is trying to do. We can also see that Noel is using his own gesture towards the end of the transcript as his speech becomes fragmented 'I'm (i) and (i) if its this way. Whole words are being miss at Noel is using his body language to show Matt what he thinks.

Noel is (continuously) asking questions 'do you wanna ger right go right up close' as if he is asking for extra points and tips from Matt.

Onomataphia is used by Matt, I personally feel this links in which his gestures us 'BAM' being stressed at the expected point of impact to show Noel when and were to strike.

I know that boxing is a fast sport requiring lightening like speed. It is for this reason I think Matt talks at such a high speed. Matt has to explain his actions when he does them. We as the reader can see when Matt Pace of speech increases he is demonstrating and describing to Noel what to do 'yeah I want you to do to make the first move so the jab comes BAM and you

- developed discussion of how the pace varies to accommodate explanation and demonstration

Overall, some tendency to over-state the incidence and significance of some features, but always engaged and responsive to the dynamics.

can slip in there'. when not show examples he pace slows a great deal and we seen from when Noel is pretending to box; 'if you want to get the guy(.) you know(.) youre usually on top of a guy and it is clear it is much slower and that Matt is now talking Noel through the action of what he showed him. Overall using both a mixture of vocal and body language the two communicate well. The feeling of both men are clear to each other and understood.

I personally feel without either the body language or verbal communication it would have been very hard for the two boxers to communicate on the level they had during the transcript.

Candidate 5:

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| <i>Question 3: Candidate answer</i> | <i>Examiner’s commentary</i> |
|--|---|
| <p>In this transcript, a professional boxer, Matt is talking to an amateur boxer Noel about boxing techniques. As is suited to the conversation, the register is very informal. Language is used in many ways to aid the discussion.</p> <p>The first item of note is the way in which Matt speaks. The note at the bottom of the transcript says that he talks very rapidly with any hand gesture. This is supported by the fact that over the entire transcript, Matt only has seven micropauses (.) and no longer pauses. Also, interestingly, some of these pauses come in pairs of two, such as ‘if I want to get a guy (.) you (.) youre usually on top’. This almost mimics the one-two punches of boxing and show how the speech of boxers is affected by their sport.</p> <p>Also, Matt speaks far more than Noel. This is one way for Matt to assert his power as the professional boxer. He has the knowledge and is imparting it to Noel: Noel demonstrates a lower status in the conversation by listening with only a few back channel (‘mmm’ and ‘right’) and questions to clarify one of Matt’s points (‘what do you wanna do off my right hand’). Another way in which Matt demonstrates his higher status in the conversation is by being the one to give the advice..</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asserts that register is <i>informal</i> – and explains this in detail later in the answer • accurately identifies the scarcity of micro-pauses and absence of actual pauses; offers imaginative discussion of how this mirrors the movements and speed of boxing • notes that Matt is dominant speaker, and develops analysis of his and Noel’s relative status in consistently accurate linguistic terms (back-channelling; questions; asymmetrical language) • developed discussion of jargon, both in practice (here) and in theory • notes that, otherwise, lexis is simple • explains ellipsis in terms of grammar • notes elision as a possible feature of accent, but doesn’t develop this • explains <i>non-fluency features</i> such as <i>false starts</i> • detailed focus now on how register is informal: discusses lexis, fillers, non-standard grammar, syntax, interruptions • developed discussion of stress/intonation, and its functions (for questioning, emphasis, clarification) <p>Overall, this answer achieves a sophisticated consideration of linguistic and contextual features. Discussion is well-developed and consistently detailed/effective. This is comfortably Band 6 work.</p> |

The asymmetrical language usage shows the higher status and greater power of Matt compared to Noel.

Another way in which is used in this conversation on boxing techniques is the use of jargon. Many terms are clearly specific to boxing and not used elsewhere. They would most likely not be understood by non-boxers, but allow the boxers to talk among themselves quickly and effectively about very specific techniques. Because of the fact that the terms would not be understood by a non-boxer, jargon has been criticised for being elitist. That concern does not apply here, however, since both speakers are boxers. Some of the terms used include 'make the opponent lead to me', 'fake', 'block' 'jab', 'block and counter' and 'on top of a guy', Aside from such very specific lexis, the lexis used tends to be uncomplicated so that Noel can focus on watching what Matt is doing rather than on untangling his meaning.

Many times, Matt uses ellipsis, leaving out whole grammatical components. For example, 'I want (.) you know keep him expending energy'. This can enable him to speak more rapidly or it may be due to his rapid speech. Either way, it shows how informal the discussion is and also may be natural to boxers, who are required to make very quick, efficient movements. Also, Matt uses Ellison, leaving out sounds in words. This is a feature of his accent. For example, he says 'summit' for 'something' and 'wi' for 'with'.

Another feature of Matt's rapid speech is his frequent non-fluency features. For example, there are several false starts. 'I want (.) you know keep him expending energy'. In this case, he returned to what he had begun to say in the first place. In another instance, however, he makes a false start and completely rephrases what he had started to say. 'so like if I want to get to a guy(.) you know(.) youre usually on top of a guy...' Once again, the presence of so many false starts may be due to his rapid speech: he does not have time to think out what he is going to say. However, the presence of the non-fluency features like false starts also demonstrates his conscience for Noel: by // rephrasing, he has clarified the point for the other boxer.

The informal register of the conversation shows that even though one boxer is a professional and the other an amateur, and there is a status difference, the two are working together and possibly know each other. It is clear that the register is informal for several reasons. First, aside from the field-specific lexis of the sport of boxing, the lexical field used is very informal ('summit') and features many fillers such as 'you know' and 'like'. These would be unlikely to be present in a more formal conversation. Also, non-standard grammar is used, as are Ellipsis and elision, which I spoke about earlier. The syntax sticks mostly to simple and compound utterances, for informality, ease of use, and ease of understanding. Another reason to class the register as informal is the two overlaps/interruptions in the transcript: 'about him//right' and 'you want//yeah yeah' (in both cases, Matt interrupts Noel, again showing asymmetry and Matt's higher status). In a formal setting, speakers would be more careful to avoid interrupting each other; it can be perceived as rude. This relates to H.P. Grice's maxim of quantity, in which speakers should not do anything rude or to offend other speakers.

The final way language is used to aid in the discussion of boxing techniques is the use of stress and intonation to emphasise various points in the discussion. For example, Noel says, 'you want me to throw a jab' with rising intonation on 'jab'. This both shows that he is asking a question and places emphasis on the word 'jab' - this ensures that Matt understands which type of punch Noel plans to use. Also, Matt uses a similar technique in saying, 'so if I throw a JAB right hand what you wanna do off my right hand'. This places stress on 'JAB' again serving to differentiate it from any other sort of punch. It also helps Noel to understand the question that comes next, which can be taken to mean, 'what do you want to do off my right hand when I throw a jab?' Stress and intonation serve to facilitate the discussion by placing emphasis on certain words, thereby making them stand out and clarifying the speaker's point.

Overall, many linguistic features are used throughout the

transcript to talk about boxing techniques. The style of speech, register, lexis, jargon and field-specific lexis, non-fluency features, and asymmetrical features all have an important role to play in the discussion and each helps Matt and Noel to fully contribute and understand.

Candidate 6:

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Question 3: Candidate answer

This transcription is of a professional boxer, talking to an amateur. The language register is informal and it is made is speech. Matt’s aim is to inform Noel. This transcription is of occupational dialect and jargon. As a reader I am excluded as I cannot understand what is meant by terms used because I don’t belong to the occupational group. The transcript has an enlist effect, excluding outsiders. However, even though I find it difficult to follow the transcript and understand Noel and Matt will find it quicker an easier to speak using this terminology.

Occupational dialect can cause confusion in the workplace though. Buzz words or management speak is speech that features lexical terms that are fashionable in the workplace. These Buss words are a quicker form of communication but due to constant technological advances these words are constantly changing causing confusion and misinterpretation at work which could hold serious consequences.

Looking at matt’s speech in Line 1-5 I feel he is using Estuary English. Originating near the River Thames in London and most commonly called cockney/Estuary English is slowly replacing Received Pronunciation AS A STANDARD LANGUAGE.

Examiner’s commentary

The answer appears rushed / unfinished, and is clearly under-developed, ending in a series of ‘bitty’ single-sentence paragraphs.

- notes *occupational dialect/jargon*, but unhelpfully argues that it excludes the reader – which may be true of some occupational conversations, but is not particularly the case here – and is elitist
- digresses into discussion of ‘buzzwords’ – not especially relevant here
- unhelpfully suggests Matt has an Estuary or ‘Cockney’ accent; but does manage to identify relevant features of Matt’s speech sounds
- answer now disintegrates into segments: phonemics; gesture; fillers; turn-taking

Overall, plenty of potentially relevant points, but at best there’s no more than an *attempt to develop a discussion / structure the analysis* – hence Band 3.

Estuary English requires uses to do a number of things for example: dropping his non Rhocity 'R' etc in his discourse Matt drops the 'th' off with and the 'h' off hands and head. An example of the uses of occupational language in this transcript is 'jab' 'block' 'fake', 'feint', 'expending energy', 'slip', 'skip'. The use of this occupational dialect could also cause ambiguity and obscurity in the workplace. In phonemic symbols the word 'summit' would be: symp. Throughout the transcript both Matt and Noel perform frequent gestures. Matt does this on many occasions in line 1-5. This would help him with his explanation to Noel and also Noel understands. Very often as he digresses Matt uses the filler 'you know' this seems to be part of his dialect but could also encourage Noel to nod etc. Both participants in this transcript manage to turn take effectively. To conclude, Matt uses occupational dialect to talk to Noel about boxing techniques.