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CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **9093/42**

Paper 4 Language Topics **May/June 2026**

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 [ ].

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Section A: English in the world

Question 1

Read the following text, which is the opening of an article published in 2023 on the website of the British weekly newspaper *The Economist*.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the causes and effects of the expansion of English around the world. 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]

In northern Europe, a backlash against English is under way

Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway hope to restore the primacy of their languages at universities.

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This prompts universities to try to lure them in order to rise in the rankings and, consequently, to offer ever more classes in English.

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Section B: Language and the self

Question 2

Read the following text, which is the opening to an article from the *Psychology Today* website. It was published in 2024.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the ways in which language can shape and reflect how individuals think about themselves and about each other. 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 Perils of Gendered Language

Can language be more gender-neutral?

It's easy to see gender inequality as perpetuated by a few toxically masculine men, but gender bias is embedded in our social systems in many subtle ways too.

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Regardless, these kinds of changes may help dismantle many of the deeply ingrained systems of biases that contribute to gender inequalities in subtle and even hidden ways.

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