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CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE **9093/43**

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 [ ].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Section A: English in the world

Question 1

Read the following text, which is taken from an article published in 2024 in the British newspaper *The Financial Times*.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the changing use of English globally. 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]

Italians have embraced 'fake English'

Fluency in 'inglese farlocco' has become necessary in Italy as hybrid words and off-kilter meanings proliferate.

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Section B: Language and the self

Question 2

Read the following text, which is the opening of an article published in the British newspaper *The Guardian* in 2023.

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 the world. 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]

Does the way we talk about the climate crisis numb people with fear, rather than energising them?

Phrases such as 'green economy' turn voters off, it seems.

As COP28[1] approaches, the Swiss solar aviator and environmentalist Bertrand Piccard says he will be given a platform at the conference to argue that we need to rethink the words we use to discuss climate change. He says many climate terms can numb people with fear instead of inspiring them into action, and proposes new language that will reframe our situation as an opportunity, rather than a crisis.

Take the key phrase 'green economy': Piccard says this motivates environmentalists but repels those who discern an assault on their lifestyle or a rise in their bills. Why not, he says, rename it the 'clean economy', because no one likes 'dirty'. Likewise 'clean energy' instead of 'green energy'. He has come up with an entire list of terms in common use that he believes need a rebrand.

Language is central to the way we deal with the climate crisis. Wrangling with words is the lifeblood of COP delegates. Inside the negotiating halls, the US quells talk of 'compensation' for nations damaged by climate events they didn't cause; instead it insists on the more neutral phrase 'loss and damage'. In the world outside, definitions have shifted as knowledge has grown. Climate change was initially labelled 'the greenhouse effect' or 'global warming' – until scientists fully cottoned on to how it could also provoke severe localised cold.

Some (including *The Guardian* but not the *BBC*) believe the phrase 'climate change' itself sounds too benign, and have renamed it the climate 'crisis' or 'emergency'. Others fear 'climate chaos' most accurately reflects the avalanche of extremes that are now tormenting people and nature.

But after 35 years of reporting on climate for the *BBC*, I can't recall a bid to present an entire climate lexicon – especially one like this, which is already provoking accusations of greenwashing and pro-business bias.

Piccard's draft proposal suggests swapping: 'cost' to 'investment'; 'crisis' to 'opportunity'; 'sacrifice' to 'advantage'; and 'saving the planet' to 'improving quality of life'.

Most of the terms carry a positive and business-friendly spin, and Piccard is by no means the first to reframe the climate emergency as a chance to create jobs in a prosperous economy.

John Marshall, from the nonprofit Potential Energy Coalition of media agencies, has spent four years researching and testing climate messaging. He suggests abandoning

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technocratic language and scrapping abstract terms like ‘anthropogenic’ and ‘decarbonisation’. Instead, he says, communicators should ‘talk like humans’, engaging people with their own experiences of extreme heat, wildfires and floods.

His group’s guide to climate language notes that keeping messages local helps a lot. The phrase ‘Save Florida’ beats ‘Get to Net Zero by 2040’ when you ask regular people. His motto is: ‘Show the climate matters to people like me.’

[1]*COP28*: the 28th meeting of the countries which signed the United Nations climate agreement

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