

Writing on a Topical Language Issue Practice Statements:

In preparation for your Topical Language Issue assessment as part of Benchmark 8, we have compiled all the specimen and past paper statements that OCR has provided for A Level English Language since the specification was first sat in 2017.

Unlike all the other questions across the course, this is the only one that changes involving a **language statement** and a **genre** that you need to write your response in. Please turn over to see the collated questions. We also provide two statements that we've created below for additional practice.

The **assessment objectives** that you are assessed against for this question are shown below:

AO2: Demonstrate critical understanding of concepts and issues relevant to language use. **[12]**

AO5: Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways. **[12]**

Example 1:

'School teachers and leaders are repressing students' spoken forms of language in the pursuit of Standard English'.

Write a broadsheet newspaper article which critically engages with this statement. You need to engage a reasonably well-educated non-specialist audience. It should be no more than 500 words. [24]

Example 2:

'Language is powerful therefore its usage must somehow be controlled'.

Write a broadsheet newspaper article which critically engages with this statement. You need to engage a reasonably well-educated non-specialist audience. It should be no more than 500 words. [24]

2 *'When we use language, we are mostly just copying other people.'*

Write a blog post for an online news service (e.g. BuzzFeed or a newspaper or magazine) or for a personal website (e.g. one belonging to a writer or comedian like Caitlin Moran or Stephen Fry). You can explore the idea of imitation from any angle which you think is linguistically interesting and which will engage a reasonably well educated non-specialist audience. It should be no more than 500 words long.

[24]

2 *'All language change is good.'*

You have been asked to write a talk on this subject to interest a non-specialist audience. You must engage critically with the statement, agreeing or disagreeing with it, or taking a more neutral position. You may give the talk a different title, if you wish. You should write about 500 words.

[24]

2 *'Technology is spoiling the English language.'*

Taking the above statement into account, write a short editorial for a student newspaper expressing your views about how language has been affected by technology. It should be no more than 500 words long.

[24]

2 *'In our society it is important that we have a standard form of spoken English.'*

Write an entertaining column which engages critically with the quotation above (a column is a type of article where writers can express their own opinions), suitable for a national daily newspaper. You do not need to include the exact words of the quotation and you may invent your own title if you wish. You should write about 500 words.

[24]

2 *'All language is biased.'*

Write an entertaining blog post which critically engages with the statement above. 'Biased' language is that which supports a particular point of view and aims to influence the receiver to agree with it. You do not need to use the statement as your title.

[24]

2 *'The era of prescriptivism is dying.'*

Write a blog article for a website belonging to a recognised language expert which critically responds to this statement. You need to engage a reasonably well-educated audience with an interest in language change.

[24]

2 *'We need to self-censor our public discourse in order to protect people.'*

Write a broadsheet newspaper article, critically responding to this statement. 'Public discourse' can refer to any written or spoken communication which is widely available to the general public. Valid areas for discussion might be the media, news, political arenas, social media or public debates. You need to engage a reasonably well-educated, non-specialist audience. It should be no more than 500 words.

[24]