

---

# OXFORD AQA INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## UNIT 4: LANGUAGE EXPLORATION

---

SPECIMEN 2

Time allowed: 2 hours

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page answer booklet.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book.
- There is one section.
- Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- It is recommended that you spend 30 minutes on the reading and preparation of the data to be analysed in answering the question.

---

Answer **either** Question 1 **or** Question 2.

---

**Either**

**Question 1**

**0 1**

Your task is to carry out a language investigation using **two or more** of the texts that have been provided for you.

An investigation is an analysis of language use, where **you** decide what to analyse and how to do it. You can choose your own title for your investigation.

**[50 marks]**

**Description of Texts**

Text	Title	Description
1	QuietComfort® 25 Acoustic Noise Cancelling™ headphones	A page from the website of a headphones retailer named Bose
2	Noise-cancelling headphones: the secret survival tool for modern life	A page from the website of the Guardian newspaper
3	Pedestrians and Headphones Don't Mix	A page from the website of LiveScience

**Suggested structure for writing up your investigation**

**1: Aim(s)**

State the aim(s) of your investigation and identify which texts you are using.

**2: Method**

Explain the linguistic frameworks you are using to analyse your data - what aspects of language are you focusing on?

**3: Analysis**

Present a detailed analysis of your data.

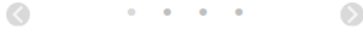
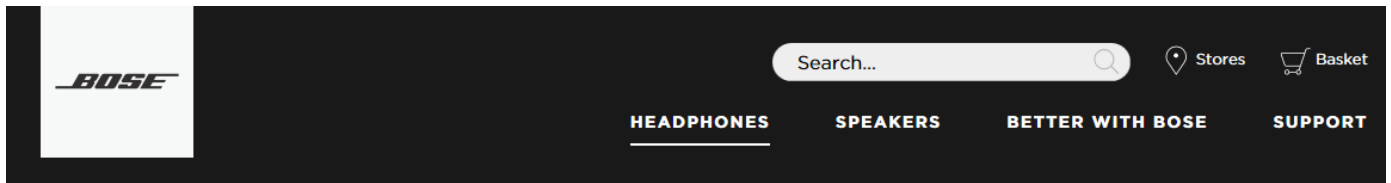
**4: Conclusion**

Draw your conclusions in response to your aim(s) and based on your analysis.

---

## Text 1

## QuietComfort® 25 Acoustic Noise Cancelling™ headphones



## QuietComfort® 25 Acoustic Noise Cancelling™ headphones

★★★★☆ 4.0 (130)

### SHOP WITH CONFIDENCE

30-day Risk Free Trial


Free delivery & free returns

### SPECIAL OFFER

Order now and save 35% of the original price!

£179.95 ~~£289.95~~

IN STOCK

 BUY

[Overview](#) [Specs](#) [Reviews](#) [Accessories](#) [FAQs](#) [Support](#)

## Headphones on. World off.

QuietComfort® 25 headphones are engineered to sound better, be more comfortable and easier to take with you. Put them on, and suddenly everything changes. Your music is deep, powerful and balanced, and so quiet that every note sounds clearer. Even air travel becomes enjoyable, as engine roar gently fades away. No matter how noisy the world is, it's just you and your music—or simply peace and quiet.

- Significant noise reduction for travel, work and anywhere in between
- Deep, powerful sound for the music you love
- Lightweight around-ear fit you can wear all day long

## Better by design

We've designed our industry-leading headphones with higher-quality materials and finishes. They're lightweight, and earcups rotate even more for a better fit. The headband sits closer to your head, with luxurious suede-like material underneath for extra comfort. If the AAA battery runs out, you can still enjoy music without noise reduction. And the earcups pivot to fit in a compact case that's easy to carry.

## Less noise. More relaxing.

QC\*25 headphones let you focus on what matters—your music, films and videos. And they reduce noise you don't want to hear. Like a crowded city street. Cabin noise inside an aeroplane. Or a busy office. Advanced noise reduction technology and unique electronics make it happen. Even the ear cushions give you an extra level of quiet by sealing out some of the world around you.

## True-to-life sound

Many of our engineers are also musicians, with a passion for music. So when you wear these headphones, you'll hear ringing guitars. Soaring vocals as the chorus kicks in. Deep bass and crisp drums drive the beat forward. Bose® Active EQ and TriPort® technology deliver performance so compelling, you'll want to listen for hours. And the fit's designed so you can.

## You're in control

The [inline microphone/remote](#) puts music and call controls at your fingertips. Many features are also compatible with today's most popular phones.

---

Text 2

Noise-cancelling headphones: the secret survival tool for modern life

Support The Guardian    Subscribe    Find a job    Sign in    Search ▾

**News**    Opinion    Sport    Culture    Lifestyle    More ▾

**The Guardian**    UK edition ▾

UK World Business Football UK politics Environment Education Science **Tech** Global development Cities Obituaries

**Headphones**

**Noise-cancelling headphones: the secret survival tool for modern life**

Headphones that block out sound were first invented for airplane pilots on long flights and have for some become a vital part of daily life

**Jessica Furseth**

Thu 16 Mar 2017 11.05 GMT



2,967



In the ever-rowdy city, are noise-cancelling headphones becoming a necessity? Photograph: iStock.com/vusta

**T**here's one thing other than my wallet and my travel card I wouldn't be without in a big city, and it's my headphones. But I don't actually listen to music that much: I just activate the noise-cancelling feature, and leave it at that.

No sound plays into my ears - instead a quiet fills my head, as if the sounds of the world have been turned down. Until I got noise-cancelling headphones, I had no idea how loud the city always was, and just how hungry I'd been for silence.

On public transport, using the noise-cancelling feature will soften the roar of engine and traffic. In the open-plan office, it eliminates the constant chatter and limits interruptions. On an airplane, it's a revelation. I'm not alone in using state-of-the-art headphones not for music, but to tune out the constant drone of urban living - it's becoming a modern life survival tool.

### **'It was like that moment in a film where the sound cuts out'**

Matt Thomas, an animator and motion graphics designer in London, is a convert. He discovered he could use the silencing feature on its own one day by accident, when his music cut out on the tube: "I thought, wait a minute, there's this really nice peace and quiet. It was like that moment in a film where the sound cuts out and everything goes into slow motion."

Heavy traffic generates noise levels of up to 85 decibels (dB), which the Health and Safety Executive deems **sufficient to cause permanent hearing damage** if we're exposed to it for several hours every day. Underground trains can pass the 100dB mark when roaring around a loud corner.

Thomas often puts his headphones on silent when on public transport (he no longer does this in the street after nearly getting run over), but prefers music for work. For Johanna Vogel, an economist in Vienna, Austria, it's the opposite: she plays music on the bus but works in silence. Vogel bought her noise-cancelling headphones hoping they would help her concentrate in an open-plan office. "It's so relaxing," she says. "At first I was doubtful it would make a big difference, but now couldn't live without them. In noisy environments I really need some way to create quiet for myself."



Underground trains can pass the 100dB mark when in transit. Photograph: iStock.com/Marco\_Piunti

Text 3

Pedestrians and Headphones Don't Mix

**LIVESCIENCE** NEWS TECH HEALTH PLANET EARTH STRANGE NEWS ANIMALS HISTORY CULTURE SPACE.COM

f F t g+ Google Custom Search SEARCH

Live Science > Health

# Pedestrians & Headphones Don't Mix (Infographic)

By Live Science Staff | January 20, 2012 01:08pm ET

f 55

t 8

F

u

u

MORE ▾

## Mortal Headphones



The use of headphones with handheld devices may pose a safety risk to pedestrians, especially in environments with moving vehicles, according to the journal Injury Prevention.



Credit: Army Europe Libraries

Science Newsletter: Subscribe

enter email here  submit

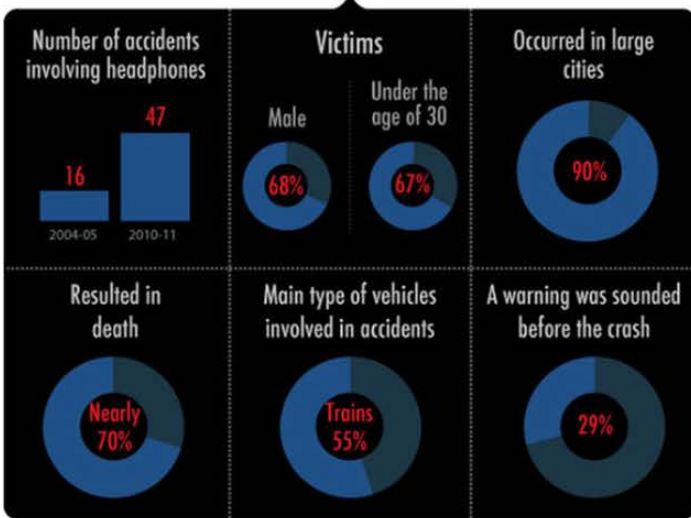
### Follow Us

f F t g+

### Most Popular

- Why Every Parent Will Love This 'Everything Repellent'
- NASA's Got a Plan for a 'Galactic Positioning System' to Save Astronauts Lost in Space
- A City-Sized 'Telescope' Could Watch Space-Time Ripple 1 Million Times a Year
- 2 Military Satellites Launched into Orbit Around Earth
- Why We Might Miss Extraterrestrial Life Even If It's Staring Us in the Face

**116**  
 Reports of death or injury among pedestrians wearing headphones (2004-2011)



SOURCE: INJURY PREVENTION

R. TORO / © LiveScience.com

The best headphones often block out any surrounding noise so you can zone out with your favorite tunes. But that same feature can be a lethal one for pedestrians, finds a new study revealing serious injuries linked with pedestrians wearing headphones has more than tripled in the past six years.

The reason: With these electronic earmuffs on pedestrians likely can't hear the trains or cars around them, the researchers said. In many of the cases the scientists studied, the cars or trains were sounding horns that the pedestrians couldn't hear, leading to fatalities in nearly three-quarters of cases.

"Everybody is aware of the risk of cell phones and texting in automobiles, but I see more and more teens distracted with the latest devices and headphones in their ears," lead study author Dr. Richard Lichtenstein, an associate professor of pediatrics and director of pediatric emergency medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, said in a statement. "Unfortunately as we make more and more enticing devices, the risk of injury from distraction and blocking out other sounds increases."

---



or

## Question 2

**0 2**

Your task is to carry out a language investigation using **two or more** of the texts that have been provided for you.

**[50 marks]**

### Description of Texts

Text	Title	Description
4	What to expect on a Great Barrier Reef LiveAboard	A page from the travel company website liveaboard.com
5	Importance of Coral Reefs	A page from the website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
6	David Attenborough's Great Barrier Reef: An Interactive Journey	Transcription of a voiceover to a video produced by attenboroughsreef.com

### Suggested structure for writing up your investigation

#### 1: Aim(s)

State the aim(s) of your investigation and identify which texts you are using.

#### 2: Method

Explain the linguistic frameworks you are using to analyse your data.

#### 3: Analysis

Present a detailed analysis of your data.

#### 4: Conclusion

Draw your conclusions in response to your aim(s) and based on your analysis.

---

## Text 4

### What to expect on a Great Barrier Reef LiveAboard

LiveAboard.com

GBP ▾



Support

---

[Home](#) / [Australia](#) / Great Barrier Reef


#### WHAT TO EXPECT ON A GREAT BARRIER REEF LIVEABOARD

Take a liveaboard in the **Great Barrier Reef**, Australia and you will be diving one of the ultimate bucket list destinations for not just every diver, but most of the world's population. Great Barrier Reef [liveaboards](#) visit this world famous and stunning marine area which has earned it's name as a 'must visit area' in this spectacular part of the world. Delving a little deeper into people's ambitions, they'll likely cite diving on the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) as one of their life goals. This is for good reason too, as the reef is a 2300 kilometre stretch of unrivalled natural beauty, one of the seven natural wonders of the world, a **World Heritage Site**, and is THE place to dive on our planet. A liveaboard dive trip is the best way to explore this region as it consists of more than 900 islands and 2900 individual reefs, forming a spectacular turquoise chain from **Lizard Island** in the north of Queensland, all the way down to close to Heron Island in the south of Australia's 'Sunshine' state.

A Great Barrier Reef liveaboard will take you to the crystal clear tropical waters of the **Coral Sea**, which is comprised of billions of coral polyps, making it the largest living organism on the planet. It is so large and vast that it is visible from outer space - even if you spent a lifetime exploring the reef, it would be impossible to view it all. Day trips are possible but will only allow you to witness the crowded inner reef for a few hours, and will leave you wishing for more time to explore what is on offer. The best way to truly experience the underwater marvels of this iconic structure is by setting sail on a diving liveaboard cruise lasting a number of days, meaning you will be able to witness a wide variety of the incredible biodiversity that the reef supports. Even aboard a liveaboard cruise, you'll still only touch the surface (pardon the pun!), and no doubt by the end you'll be thinking of planning another similar trip in the near future!

## Text 5

## Importance of Coral Reefs




U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
 NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

NOS

NOAA

search

noaa ocean service education


Edu Home
Students
Teachers
For Fun
NOS Home

## Corals

### Importance of Coral Reefs


Coral reefs are some of the most diverse and valuable ecosystems on Earth. Coral reefs support more species per unit area than any other marine environment, including about 4,000 species of fish, 800 species of hard corals and hundreds of other species. Scientists estimate that there may be another 1 to 8 million undiscovered species of organisms living in and around reefs (Reaka-Kudla, 1997). This biodiversity is considered key to finding new medicines for the 21st century. Many drugs are now being developed from coral reef animals and plants as possible cures for cancer, arthritis, human bacterial infections, viruses, and other diseases.

Storehouses of immense biological wealth, reefs also provide economic and environmental services to millions of people. Coral reefs may provide goods and services worth \$375 billion each year. This is an amazing figure for an environment that covers less than 1 percent of the Earth's surface (Costanza et al., 1997).

Coral reefs buffer adjacent shorelines from wave action and prevent erosion, property damage and loss of life. Reefs also protect the highly productive wetlands along the coast, as well as ports and harbors and the economies they support. Globally, half a billion people are estimated to live within 100 kilometers of a coral reef and benefit from its production and protection.

[\(top\)](#)

Healthy reefs contribute to local economies through tourism. Diving tours, fishing trips, hotels, restaurants, and other businesses based near reef systems provide millions of jobs and contribute billions of dollars all over the world. Recent studies show that millions of people visit coral reefs in the Florida Keys every year. These reefs alone are estimated to have an asset value of \$7.6 billion (Johns et al., 2001).



Healthy coral reefs contain thousands of fish and invertebrate species found nowhere else on Earth. [Click the image for a larger view.](#)

[Roadmap to Resources](#)

[Tutorial PDF](#)  
(pdf, 5.35Mb)

[Subject Review](#)  
(pdf, 163Kb)

---

[Welcome](#)

[What are Corals?](#)

[Zooxanthellae What's That?](#)

[How Do Stony Corals Grow?](#)

[How Do Coral Reefs Form?](#)

[Where Are Coral Reefs Found?](#)

[How Do Corals Reproduce?](#)

**[Importance of Coral Reefs](#)**

[Natural Threats to Coral Reefs](#)


[Anthropogenic Threats to Corals](#)

[Coral Diseases](#)

[Protecting Coral Reefs](#)

[References](#)

---



coral reef  
conservation

## Text 6

**David Attenborough's Great Barrier Reef: An Interactive Journey**

Transcription Key:

(.) pause of less than a second

(2.0) longer pause (number of seconds indicated)

Attenborough	<p>[Images to accompany the voiceover are displayed]</p> <p>This is one of the most spectacular complex (.) but fragile (.) ecosystems in the world (1.0) The Great (.) Barrier (.) Reef (1.0) sixty years ago I dived on the reef for the first time (.) and ever since (.) it has held a deep fascination for me (2.0) but in the intervening years (.) I've witnessed the reef reacting to a rapidly changing planet (1.0) in this unique online experience you will go on an interactive journey around this beautiful but threatened world (1.0) we will meet the visitors (.) some from half way across the world (1.0) and we will find out more (.) about a state of the art exploration vessel the Alucia (1.0) peel back the reef to reveal its structure and its past (1.0) see and hear the reef (.) as its inhabitants do (1.0) watch the entire ecosystem changing (.) live (.) hour by hour (.) and discover its uncertain future (.) and learn the crucial steps that can be taken (.) to help save it (1.0) join me (.) David Attenborough (.) and explore one of the earth's (.) greatest wonders (1.0) The Great (.) Barrier Reef</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p>
--------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------

**END OF TEXTS****END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and Oxford International AQA Examinations will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team, AQA, Stag Hill House, Guildford, GU2 7XJ.

Text 1 source: © Bose

Text 2 source: © Guardian News & Media Ltd 2018

Text 3 source: © Live Science

Text 4 source: © LiveAboard.com

Text 5 source: © NOAA

Text 6 source: © Video 77 Limited

Copyright © 2018 Oxford International AQA Examinations and its licensors. All rights reserved.

---

**Turn over ▶**