

## 4/5 Shared English Resources 2023

### English Language Syllabus A (1190)

#### [Summarised Language Booklet]

This document was written by Pan Yijie. Any queries should be forwarded to the author directly.

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Dear student,

This document was written to assist you in preparing for the GCE 'N(A)' Level English examinations. Each word or phrase is accompanied by its definition as well as a usage example. Additionally, sample essays and other notes are attached towards the end. This booklet is free to distribute. Any queries with materials that are published by other sources should be forwarded to the respective authors directly. (refer to the next page for acknowledgements)

**This booklet consists of 18 printed pages and 2 blank pages.**

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This booklet belongs to \_\_\_\_\_ (     ).

You got this! - Yijie

## **Table of contents**

Pages 3 to 8: Words/Phrases with definitions and usage examples.

Pages 9 to 10: Word Bank (adapted from SGExams)

Pages 11 to 13: Argumentative essay example

Pages 14 to 15: Hybrid essay example

Pages 16 to 17: Additional words with definitions

Page 18: Situational writing notes

Page 19 to 20: Blank pages

## **Acknowledgements**

Definitions – Cambridge Dictionary

Page 9 & 10 – Resources removed due to copyright restrictions.

Thank you to all other individuals who have contributed.

**At the eleventh hour**

Definition: the last moment or almost too late;

Usage example: You should not do things **at the eleventh hour**, such as rushing your Specimen Paper Essay assignment hours before it is due.

**Ameliorate**

Definition: to make a bad or unpleasant situation better;

Usage example: Darron was reprimanded by his art teacher for not submitting his assignments punctually. Subsequently, he decided to **ameliorate** the situation by going out with his friends for some ice cream after school.

**Vacillate**

Definition: To be indecisive

Usage example: When Mr Phoon brought his students out to the ice cream vendor, Chandily vacillated, "Should I have chocolate, or vanilla today?"

**A far cry // as different as night and day // worlds apart**

Definition: Used to describe something very different from the other.

Usage examples:

Technology today is **a far cry** from what it was decades ago. Smartphones didn't even exist back then.

The N(A) and O-Level syllabuses for Additional Mathematics are **as different as night and day**. One would have to put in plenty of effort to bridge the gap in Secondary 5.

Tanishq and Yijie's personal preferences are **worlds apart**. While the former prefers McDonald's, the latter would rather grab a bite at the hawker centre.

**Alacrity**

Definition: Brisk and cheerful readiness

Usage example: As Mr Phoon makes his way to class, the students looked forward to English lessons with **alacrity**.

**Skyrocket**

Definition: increase exponentially

Usage example: Sales of ADLV shirts have **skyrocketed**. Avid buyers like Tanishq can't wait to get one at the earliest opportunity.

**Nosedive**

Definition: decrease exponentially

Usage example: Aqueous's English prelim results took a **nosedive** from WA1. Turns out, he failed his paper 2.

**The ball is now in someone's court**

Definition: it is time for someone to deal with a problem/make a decision, as others have already done as much as they can;

Usage example: Dany's art teacher had been helping him as much as possible for his coursework. The **ball is now in his court**, should he put in extraordinary effort, he could get an A1!

**Water under the bridge**

Definition: used to refer to events that are in the past and no longer important.

Usage example: Nicole expresses frustration, "Bruh, I did not get the Taylor Swift tickets.." However, it's **water under the bridge**, as all have already been sold out.

**Burn bridges // burn one's bridge**

Definition: To do something/anger someone to where you cannot go back to how things were and cannot expect help in the future.

Usage example: Hilmi and Haney have **burnt their bridges**, now they don't even talk.

**Rain or shine**

Definition: whether it rains or not; whatever the weather

Usage example: **Rain or shine**, Kah Hou would still cycle to school in the morning as it is more convenient than public transport.

**Fly off the handle**

Definition: lose one's temper suddenly and unexpectedly

Usage example: Tanishq **flew off the handle** after finding out that the owner of Uncle Shop had scammed him.

**Evocative**

Definition: bringing strong images, memories, or feelings to mind.

Usage example: The song "Super Shy" by NewJeans recently gained traction for its **evocative** and catchy lyrics.

**When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.**

Definition: to make the best out of difficult situations

Usage example: When Yijie was suspended from attending school, he decided to embrace the philosophy of: "**When life gives you lemons, make lemonade,**" using the time at home to study for his upcoming national examinations.

**Once in a blue moon**

Definition: a rare occurrence // happens rarely

Usage example: **Once in a blue moon** does a student achieve an A1 in the 'O' Level Elementary Mathematics examination due to grade standardisation.

**Inutile**

Definition: Useless // Pointless

Usage example: Some would say that detentions are **inutile**, as students still come late and disregard the school rules.

**On tenterhooks**

Definition: In a state of nervousness/suspense about a future event.

Usage example: Chan Le was **on tenterhooks** during his POA examination, as he had forgotten the Objectivity and Matching theory, costing him 4 marks.

**Vociferate**

Definition: To shout, complain or argue loudly.

Usage example: Hilmi began to **vociferate** when his classmates talked about the previous individual he loved.

**Inundate**

Definition: overwhelm someone with something

Usage example: Although it's our September holidays, the school still **inundated** us with homework and academic support.

**Cornerstone**

Definition: an important quality or feature on which a particular thing depends or is based.

Usage example: The GCE N(A) Level examination is the **cornerstone** for Secondary 5 eligibility.

**Ubiquitous**

Definition: present, appearing or found everywhere

Usage example: During the 2023 Presidential Election, Tharman Shamugaratnam's posters are **ubiquitous** on the streets!

**Indubitable**

Definition: undeniable, unquestionable

Usage example: It is **indubitable** that Hilmi likes burgers. He munches on one everyday!

**Malicious**

Definition: intending or intended to cause harm.

Usage example: Presidential candidate Tan Kin Lian suggested his followers to delete **malicious** comments that are against him for his portrayal of women amidst his criticism for his portrayal of women.

**Tyro**

Definition: a beginner or novice.

Usage example: Xiao Hu was a **tyro** to cycling, he fell a couple of times while attempting to cycle in the carpark.

**Abysmal**

Definition: extremely bad; appalling

Usage example: The quality of Xiao Ming's art homework was **abysmal**.

**Insipid**

Definition: lacking flavour; weak or tasteless

Usage example: The coffee that Xiao Ming purchased at the Starbucks outlet was **insipid**. He almost threw up!

**Cupidity**

Definition: greed for money or possessions

Usage example: Xiao Han's **cupidity** is at an all time high. Despite owning two luxury cars, he wants more!

**Epitome**

Definition: a standard or typical example

Usage example: Jamus is the **epitome** of an average Singapore resident. He stays in a HDB flat.

**Disgruntled**

Definition: angry or dissatisfied

Usage example: Mr T was **disgruntled** upon looking at his Chinese test results. He nearly failed.

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Sample Essays section

**Artificial Intelligence will soon replace the need for humans in the workforce essay. Do you agree? (Written by Yijie)**

Decades ago, the idea of having a rectangular display in our hands was almost non-existent. This is known as the smartphone. Today, smartphones have become a necessity. Our lives have evolved so drastically from a simple lifestyle to a complex one that heavily involves technology. Soon, I believe that AI will follow suit with rapid advancement, and eventually, replace the need for humans in the workforce.

You may not immediately believe it, but AI is developing way faster than we think. What AI can do today would be considered science fiction many years ago. It can already easily replace some of our daily chores and tasks and that's just the beginning. The recent launch of a smart vacuum device from Xiaomi is an example. Not only can it automatically sweep and mop the floor for you at home, it can also empty its bin after its job so you won't have to bother doing it! Thus, there is no surprise that our jobs will be gradually replaced sooner or later as time progresses.

One job and industry that AI most certainly will replace humans in the future is the logistics industry. Particularly, the manpower currently required to sort out the customer's parcels in warehouses for shipping, and the delivery courier personnel manually sending the parcel to the customer's doorstep. For example, if I order an item from an online shopping site, Taobao today, it could take up to a week or even longer for my parcel to arrive at my doorstep. This is mainly because much of the package sorting and shipping process is still very manual, with human workers working hard in warehouses to scan, sort and send each parcel they receive. With Artificial Intelligence, this process would be way more efficient. On average, a human can only work for seven or eight hours straight before needing an overnight rest break. In contrast, a robot could scan and sort parcels for 24/7 without coming to a halt. Furthermore, AI will be way more reliable as it would make way less mistakes, as they are able to maintain constant productivity and not feel tired like a human worker would. For delivery, robots and drones can be used to complete the last mile delivery to the customer as they are quicker as well as inexpensive to operate. This would ultimately lead

to greater customer satisfaction due to fewer mishandled parcels and unsuccessful delivery attempts. Also, just imagine how cool it would be to see a robot showing up at your doorstep with your parcel!

That being said, there is still lots of room for Artificial Intelligence to improve. Creating technology for a device that simulates human intelligence is no small feat. The costs for development can be extensive and not commercially viable. In addition, regular software and hardware updates and maintenance are required to meet the latest requirements, which still requires a human to complete. Another huge disadvantage of AI is that it is unable to learn to think outside of the box. AI is only capable of learning over time with pre-fed data and past experiences, but cannot be creative in its approach. An example would be the chatbot recently released by the company OpenAI. This intelligent tool can be used to write essays, summarise research findings and long pieces of texts, assist coders and debuggers and even pass certain examinations. However, ChatGPT relies on a pre programmed backend of data to work, and thus would not understand the latest news, for example without being updated beforehand by a human.

Despite the drawbacks of Artificial Intelligence, I still believe that it will become more advanced and capable in the future and replace us in the workforce. While it is true that the development of AI technology requires a huge cost, it has become much more accessible, making it commercially viable. Computers with powerful processors and high storage configurations have become decently affordable, making the development of AI appealing to even small companies. I also believe that as technology advances, we will reach a point where AI can update and learn from itself, without requiring human intervention. This would be a game changer, allowing AI to be fully automated and take over humans in our workforce.

To conclude, the rapid advancement of AI technology has greatly impacted our lives and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. While there are certainly challenges to overcome in the development and testing of AI, I believe that as technology continues to evolve, the road ahead for AI to replace us in the workforce is set, and we will get there. While this topic is still highly debatable,

there is one thing that is certain – the advancement of Artificial Intelligence is inevitable, and we must prepare for it.

**Written by Yijie 4/5**

**Word Count: 810 words**

The world we live in today is completely different from ten years ago. In Singapore, the number of places of nature today has been decreasing after we gained independence. This is due to the rapid development of housing estates, office buildings and city infrastructure which mostly requires the clearing of natural locations such as forests, or nature reserves. Now, with many locations occupied by humans instead of nature, the cleanliness of the city is being affected, as well as the serenity. For example, when I take a walk in East Coast Park or even the streets, I would see a plastic bottle just sitting in the grass, polluting our earth. The amount of cars travelling on the adjacent ECP expressway does not help make the park a peaceful place as well, with loud noises almost every few seconds.

Despite that, this does not mean that places of nature which impress me do not exist. Just recently I have visited the Macritchie Reservoir Park on a CCA learning journey. Contrary to popular belief, Macritchie Reservoir Park is not just a reservoir. There are lots of fun activities to do there, from jogging, trekking, mountain-biking to even kayaking in the reservoir is a choice if you are there on weekends. However, the two things that I am amazed by the most are its cleanliness and serenity. Firstly, although you may encounter some small pieces of litter along the trails, the park is mostly clean. This is because there are frequent cleanups done by Nparks' appointed cleaning companies, combined with the great attitude of most visitors of the park, who dispose of their trash responsibly at the many litter bins scattered around.

Unfortunately, there will always be some errant users of the park, who irresponsibly litter on the trails or in the grass. Although there are fines which can be given to these individuals, the majority of them get away with it, as there is a lack of frequent

enforcement by the environment authorities such as Nparks or the National Environment Agency (nea). What could be done to maintain the cleanliness of Macritchie Reservoir Park is to educate the public to always throw their trash properly into the respective receptacles. I also strongly believe that if the members of the public received rewards for their good deeds to keep the park clean, they would be more willing to follow the rules. Lastly, NEA and Nparks should step up enforcement and regularly patrol the whole park, to ensure that the park-goers do not litter and if needed, to catch the litterbugs and issue them a stern warning or fine to prevent them from littering again.

The serenity of Macritchie Reservoir Park is just, amazing. While there are a few roads and a highway nearby, the park is still relatively a quiet and peaceful place to visit, as the roads that surround the park does not have that high of a traffic flow when compared to expressways. The park does not see lots of visitors on weekdays, making it the perfect place to go to distress or relax after a tiring day of lessons at school. The other noise-pollution source besides the vehicles on the nearby roads come from the aircraft that overflies the airspace above Macritchie Reservoir Park occasionally. The loud noise from the roaring engines when an aircraft takes off from Seletar Airport would definitely annoy a few people who want a silent atmosphere. A suggested improvement is to reduce the amount of flights departing/arriving from or into Seletar Airport, and if necessary, the air traffic controllers can reroute the flight's flight path to avoid the aircraft overflying the park. This way, a significantly less amount of noise pollution from planes will occur which will let park-goers enjoy the quiet environment of the park.

In conclusion, I love Macritchie Reservoir Park for its cleanliness and serenity and I hope that the above suggestions that I have given will be considered in the future to help maintain or improve the beauty of such places.

**Additional words with definitions**

**Abjure** - Solemnly renounce a belief, cause or claim

**Abrogate** - Repeal or do away with // Evade a responsibility or duty

**Abstemious** - Indulging very moderately in something, especially food

**Acumen** - Ability to make good judgements or quick decisions

**Antebellum** - Before the war / old

**Belie** - Fail to give a true impression or justify a claim

**Bellicose** - Demonstrating aggression or willingness to fight

**Bowlerize** - Censor

**Chicanery** - The use of deception

**Panacea** - A solution to everything

**Ephemeral** - Brief

**Aeonian** - Lasting for a long time

**Ebulliant** - Happy

**Ameliorate** - Make better

**Effervescent** - Bubbly

**Bursque** - Blunt

**Cavalier** - Showing a lack of concern

**Callous** - Insensitive

**Magnum opus** - Greatest achievement

**Juggernaut** - Large force of something

**Prima Facie** - On first glance

**Inter alia** - Among other things

**Fallacy** - Misconception

**Promulgation** - Spread of belief

**Burgeoning** - Growing

**Incandescent** - Passionate

**Faustian Bargain** - A trade of something moral for monetary gains

**Goad** -

**Strident** -

**Animus** - Hostility

**Proselytise** - Convert belief

## Situational Writing Notes

Intro:

1. Wellbeing sentence: I hope this finds you well. // How are you?
2. Background: Thank you for... I am interested in the program offered (etc.)
3. Purpose: I am writing to inform you that my choice is...

Body 1:

1. Background and development (use effective vocabulary)

Body 2:

2. Paraphrase points from the Insert  
(avoid copying and pasting as much as possible)

Body 3:

3. Paraphrase points from the Insert
4. Elaborate.

Conclusion:

5. Summary of points/ideas: Hence, I hope to further my interest in...
6. Call for action: Please inform me if you require any additional documents or references to strengthen my application. // Looking forward to your reply!
7. Wellbeing sign off: Thank you for your precious time and kind consideration.

How to sign off?

Yours Sincerely/Regards/Best regards – Highly recommended.

Yours Faithfully – Avoid using this. X

Cheers – Avoid using this. (alcohol vibes) X

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