

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname

Other names

Centre Number

Candidate Number

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1)

Tuesday 4 November 2025

Morning (Time: 3 hours)

Paper
reference

4EB1/01

English Language B
PAPER 1

You must have:

Source Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A, the question in Section B and **one** question in Section C.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*
- Plan your answers in the lined spaces provided. Plans will not be marked unless no other response is provided.

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 100.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Dictionaries may **not** be used in this examination.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.
- You are reminded of the importance of clear English and careful presentation in your answers.

Turn over ►

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SECTION A

Reading

Answer ALL questions in this section.

You should spend 1 hour on this section.

Read Text One in the Source Booklet, adapted from an article called *Netiquette: A Guide to Digital Manners*.

- 1** In the section **A Communications Revolution** the writer gives some benefits of the Internet.

State **one** of them.

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.....

(Total for Question 1 = 1 mark)

- 2** In lines 49–56, the writer gives parents and children advice about using social media.

Identify **one** piece of advice.

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(Total for Question 2 = 1 mark)

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3 Explain how the writer presents ideas about manners in digital communication.

You should support your answer with close reference to the passage, including **brief** quotations.

(10)

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(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)



Read Text Two in the Source Booklet, adapted from an article called *Would Grandma approve? The new rules of etiquette.*

4 In lines 25–37, the writer gives some reasons why manners might have changed recently.

Identify **one** of them.

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.....

(Total for Question 4 = 1 mark)

5 Using the section **Does including punctuation in text show aggression?** identify **two** points the writer makes about online written communication.

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(Total for Question 5 = 2 marks)

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6 How does the writer present her ideas about manners in the 21st century?

You should support your answer with close reference to the passage, including **brief** quotations.

(10)

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(Total for Question 6 = 10 marks)



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Refer to **BOTH Text One and Text Two** to answer the following question.

7 Compare how the writers of Text One and Text Two present their ideas and perspectives about good manners.

Support your answer with examples from **both** texts.

(15)

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(Total for Question 7 = 15 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 40 MARKS



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(Total for Question 8 = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 30 MARKS



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SECTION C

Writing

Answer ONE question from this section.

You should spend 1 hour on your chosen question.

Do not re-tell events from Text One or Text Two in the Source Booklet.

Write approximately 400 words on one of the following:

EITHER

9 'People are not always kind to each other.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

(Total for Question 9 = 30 marks)

OR

10 Write a story (true or imaginary) entitled 'The Missed Message'.

(Total for Question 10 = 30 marks)

OR

11 Describe your favourite possession.

(Total for Question 11 = 30 marks)

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen question number: **Question 9** **Question 10** **Question 11**

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TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 30 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 100 MARKS



Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1)

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English Language B
PAPER 1

Source Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

Turn over ▶

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Text One

Netiquette: A Guide to Digital Manners

adapted from an article on The British School of Etiquette website

In this passage, the writer advises people about how to behave online.



The advent of modern technology, social media and instant communication has brought a new set of rules on how we conduct ourselves in a digital world. 'Netiquette' is a combination of the words 'network' and 'etiquette'¹ and refers to the use of good manners in online communication.

A Communications Revolution

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It is no exaggeration to say that the Internet has revolutionised our everyday communication. It has removed all physical barriers and opened up a new world of connecting with other people without the conventional constraints of time, space and distance. From ordering a takeaway to buying a new television or sharing the first pictures of your newborn child, all it takes is just the click of a button. We can now send messages across the globe that land in the recipient's inbox in a matter of seconds and watch news stories unfold in front of our eyes in real time. However, with new opportunities come new responsibilities and how we behave online is now just as important – if not more so – as our behaviour offline.

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Set Clear Boundaries

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Just because we have the ability to communicate with one another 24/7, we shouldn't feel that we have to make ourselves available around the clock. While technology has made it easier to connect with friends, family and business associates in different parts of the world, the disadvantage is that we are expected to always be 'on'. This always-on work culture causes an increase in stress levels and disrupts employees' work-family balance. A couple of decades ago, it was also considered a social faux pas² to telephone someone after 7 or 8pm whereas now we're often swiping away WhatsApp notifications late into the night. We all need time to switch off and recuperate in order to perform at our full

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capacity and protect our mental health.

If you find that you are reaching for your mobile phone whenever there is a lull in your day – for example when you are on the train home or waiting for a friend to arrive – it may be time to introduce some restrictions to change your technology habits. Try putting your mobile phone in a different room or turning it onto airplane mode in the evenings. 25

Social Media Etiquette

Social media has altered our personal space, completely transforming the way we interact with large groups of people and share information about our personal lives. 30

While there are many positive aspects to social media, there is no doubt that the distractions of Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat etc are interfering with our face-to-face communication. A recent US poll of millennials (i.e. those born between 1981 and 1996) found that 76 per cent of women and 56 per cent of men checked their social media platforms at least ten times when they were out with friends. 35

The principles of netiquette aim to make us more deliberate in our social media use so that we can build a profile that represents who we really are. Everything you say on social media is in the public domain and once something has been posted you can never retrieve it so it is vital that you are selective of what you post or share online. 40

Be a Role Model

Children and young people learn the rules of acceptable social behaviour from their surroundings so make sure that you model the netiquette rules you would like them to follow.

A study by Bookatable (an online restaurant reservation service) found that a third of parents give their children iPads or other gadgets to keep them occupied whilst eating out as a family. While screens can solve short-term issues of keeping children quiet, it also limits their opportunities to learn how to engage confidently in social situations. 45

Young people often struggle to regulate their own social media usage and it is important to instil good habits as soon as they get their own mobile devices. These may include turning notifications off during mealtimes, leaving mobile phones in a different room during homework time and switching devices to airplane mode before bedtime. Remind them that the Golden Rule of treating others as one would wish to be treated is just as important in cyberspace as it is in face-to-face interactions. Make sure that they are aware that everything they post leaves a digital footprint that can be seen by teachers, friends' parents and potential employers. 50
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Glossary

¹*etiquette* – good manners

²*faux pas* – an embarrassing mistake



Text Two

Would Grandma approve? The new rules of etiquette

adapted from an article by Michelle Price

In this passage, the American writer presents her ideas about good manners in the 21st century.



The last time you hosted a party, did half the people you invited let you know whether or not they could make it? When you see someone entering a building behind you, do you hold the door for them? Do manners still matter, or have they become relics of the past? The answer, like most things in our rapidly evolving world, isn't a simple yes or no.

How have manners changed over time?

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How we interact with each other has undergone a significant transformation in the past generation. The rise of smartphones and social media has fundamentally altered how we communicate, often diminishing face-to-face interactions and replacing them with texts, tweets and emojis.

This shift has undoubtedly impacted the way politeness is perceived, particularly among Generation Z, the first generation to grow up entirely in the digital age. However, it isn't just those in Gen Z who behave differently from their grandparents and great-grandparents.

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For many previous generations, certain manners were considered pillars of social etiquette. Writing thank-you notes after receiving a gift, putting your napkin on your lap before you start eating and using proper grammar and punctuation in written communication were all seen as essential marks of respect and consideration for others.

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Today, however, these traditions seem less rigid to some, particularly members of Gen Z. A text message of thanks might suffice and using punctuation in texts may be seen as aggressive.

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Why have the expectations around manners changed?

This shift in etiquette can be attributed to several factors. And this is not the first time the rules of politeness have changed. Less than a hundred years ago, not wearing a hat to church or other formal functions was considered the height of rudeness.

The widespread availability of smartphones has created a culture of instant communication, where brief textual exchanges have replaced more formal written communication. The increase in two-income homes has meant less time for parents to instill traditional manners in their children. And more recently, the isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic further eroded opportunities for face-to-face social interaction and the practice of etiquette in real-world settings. 25 30

Decades ago, people generally lived in neighborhoods where they knew everyone. They grew up in the same city where they got married and raised their own children. The significant increase in mobility results in less of a sense of collective responsibility towards each other which lowers the cost of bad manners. The person walking past you is less likely to know you and correct your bad behavior. There is rarely a fear or threat of 'I'll tell your mother' when those in public witness what had been considered bad behavior. 35

As society has become more accepting and equal, the reduction in division between classes and races means that some rules about behavior have also become less strictly enforced. The increase in global travel and cultural mixing also changed expectations as people witnessed and accepted different manners and behavior. 40

Are thank-you notes old-fashioned?

Once a foundation of polite society, the handwritten thank-you note has become increasingly rare. While older generations see it as a necessary expression of gratitude, Gen Z might find a text message more appropriate for the informal nature of their communication style. When digital photo design and printing arose, busy parents started printing a simple thank-you photo card. The thank-you text is an extension of that change. 45

Does including punctuation in text show aggression?

Formal grammar and punctuation were once considered essential in all written communication. Today, texting and online communication often embrace informality, with emojis, abbreviations and slang taking center stage. 50

While older generations might see this as sloppy or disrespectful, millennials and Gen Z might view it as a faster and more natural way to communicate. They see capitalization and punctuation as hostile, which confuses their elders. 55

Older generations often lament how easy it is to misunderstand tone and meaning in texts, but digital natives developed their own rules to share exactly what they mean and how they mean what they say through the use of emojis, lack of punctuation and more. This perceived lack of manners by some generations is a new use of language designed to increase communication and one older generations have yet to learn. 60

So, do manners still matter? Absolutely.

It's important to note that this generational shift in etiquette doesn't necessarily equate to a decline in respect or kindness. Gen Z often expresses politeness differently, valuing

authenticity and directness in their communication. A quick text expressing thanks might hold the same weight as a handwritten note for them.

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Respect, consideration and kindness remain the foundations of positive social interaction. However, the way we express these qualities may evolve with each generation. Ultimately, fostering a spirit of mutual respect and understanding is more important than rigid adherence to outdated rules.



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Sources taken/adapted from:

Text One: <https://thebritishschoolofexcellence.com/business-etiquette/netiquette-good-manners-online/>

Photograph: © Drazen_ / Getty Images

Text Two: <https://www.seattletimes.com/life/food-drink/would-grandma-approve-the-new-rules-of-etiquette/>

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