

## English Language Paper 2 – Vocabulary List

Word	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms
1. Advocate	Noun: a person who publicly supports someone or something.	<i>For years, he had been an <b>advocate</b> for the vulnerable members of society.</i>	Supporter Champion
2. Defeatist	Noun: a person (or tone) who expects or is excessively ready to accept failure.	<i>They will never be beaten if every one of their opponents adopts such a <b>defeatist</b> attitude.</i>	Fatalistic Resigned
3. Demeaning	Adjective: to damage or lower the character, status of reputation of someone or something.	<i>It was <b>demeaning</b> to be criticised in front of my peers.</i>	Degrading Mortifying
4. Derisive	Adjective: expressing contempt or ridicule.	<i>The politician's attempt to answer the question drew <b>derisive</b> laughter.</i>	Mocking Jeering
5. Desensitised	Adjective: to cause someone to experience something, usually an emotion or a pain, less strongly than before.	<i>Having been surrounded by insensitive people for so long, he had become <b>desensitised</b> to unfeeling comments.</i>	Immune Numb
6. Despondent	Adjective: in low spirits from loss of hope or courage.	<i>She grew more and more <b>despondent</b> about her ability to pass her Chemistry exam.</i>	Dispirited Disconsolate
7. Detrimental	Adjective: to cause harm or damage.	<i>A lack of sleep can be <b>detrimental</b> to your wellbeing.</i>	Damaging Lethal
8. Divisive	Adjective: something that tends to cause a disagreement between people.	<i>Who you vote for can often be a very <b>divisive</b> issue.</i>	Contentious Fraught
9. Facetious	Adjective: treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humour; flippant.	<i>She kept interrupting the teacher with <b>facetious</b> remarks.</i>	Flippant Glib
10. Farcical	Adjective: very silly, unlikely, or unreasonable, often in a way that is humorous.	<i>The public refused to believe the politician's <b>farcical</b> excuses.</i>	Ridiculous Absurd
11. Futile	Adjective: something that produces no end result; useless and pointless.	<i>All my attempts to cheer her up proved <b>futile</b>.</i>	Pointless Hopeless
12. Idealistic	Adjective: characterised by idealism; unrealistically aiming for perfection; someone who believes that very good things can be achieved, often when	<i>Perhaps he was being <b>idealistic</b>, but his dream was to build a better future for all concerned.</i>	Utopian Romantic

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	this does not seem likely to others.		
<b>13. Impassioned</b>	Adjective: filled with or showing great emotion.	<i>He looked at her and was struck by the <b>impassioned</b> expression on her face.</i>	Fervent Ardent
<b>14. Inevitable</b>	Adjective: something that is certain to happen/ unavoidable.	<i>Despite their ambitious plan to avoid their detention, failure was <b>inevitable</b>.</i>	Certain Assured
<b>15. Marginalised</b>	Adjective: a group within a society who are not given the same opportunities or power as others. (As a verb: to treat someone or something as if they are not important).	<i><b>Marginalised</b> groups in society should have fairer representation in the government.</i>  <i>(When will the poorer members of society stop being <b>marginalised</b>?)</i>	Disempowered Disadvantaged
<b>16. Obnoxious</b>	Adjective: very unpleasant or rude.	<i>At best, he was tactless: at worst, he was <b>obnoxious</b>.</i>	Disagreeable Intolerable
<b>17. Paramount</b>	Adjective: more important than anything else.	<i>Everyone should surely agree that improving the NHS is the <b>paramount</b> issue facing today's society.</i>	Overriding Principal
<b>18. Perpetuate</b>	Verb: to cause something to continue; to spread opinions or beliefs among a lot of people.	<i>Sexist jokes only <b>perpetuate</b> gender inequality.</i>	Exacerbate Spread
<b>19. Poignant</b>	Adjective: evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret.	<i>It was a <b>poignant</b> portrayal of the effects of a war that touched every aspect of society.</i>	Touching Distressing
<b>20. Problematic</b>	Adjective: something that is controversial or presents an issue.	<i>The careless remarks made by the politician were <b>problematic</b>.</i>	Troublesome Controversial
<b>21. Reverent</b>	Adjective: feeling or showing deep and solemn respect.	<i>The school bowed their heads in <b>reverent</b> silence.</i>	Respectful Devout
<b>22. Sensationalise</b>	Verb: (especially of a newspaper) present information about (something) in a sensational way.	<i>There is no doubt that reality television tends to <b>sensationalise</b> minor arguments and disagreements.</i>	Fabricate Exaggerate
<b>23. Sobering</b>	Adjective: making you feel serious or think about serious matters.	<i>Experiencing a car accident is a <b>sobering</b> experience.</i>	Grave Sombre
<b>24. Unequivocal</b>	Adjective: total, or expressed in a clear and certain way.	<i>The Prime Minister, he said, had the party's <b>unequivocal</b> support.</i>	Undeniable Absolute

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