

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 advocate 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 defeatist attitude.</i>	Fatalistic Resigned
3. Demeaning	Adjective: to damage or lower the character, status of reputation of someone or something.	<i>It was demeaning 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 derisive 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 desensitised to unfeeling comments.</i>	Immune Numb
6. Despondent	Adjective: in low spirits from loss of hope or courage.	<i>She grew more and more despondent 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 detrimental 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 divisive issue.</i>	Contentious Fraught
9. Facetious	Adjective: treating serious issues with deliberately inappropriate humour; flippant.	<i>She kept interrupting the teacher with facetious 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 farcical 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 futile.</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 idealistic, 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.		
13. Impassioned	Adjective: filled with or showing great emotion.	<i>He looked at her and was struck by the impassioned expression on her face.</i>	Fervent Ardent
14. Inevitable	Adjective: something that is certain to happen/ unavoidable.	<i>Despite their ambitious plan to avoid their detention, failure was inevitable.</i>	Certain Assured
15. Marginalised	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>Marginalised groups in society should have fairer representation in the government.</i> <i>(When will the poorer members of society stop being marginalised?)</i>	Disempowered Disadvantaged
16. Obnoxious	Adjective: very unpleasant or rude.	<i>At best, he was tactless: at worst, he was obnoxious.</i>	Disagreeable Intolerable
17. Paramount	Adjective: more important than anything else.	<i>Everyone should surely agree that improving the NHS is the paramount issue facing today's society.</i>	Overriding Principal
18. Perpetuate	Verb: to cause something to continue; to spread opinions or beliefs among a lot of people.	<i>Sexist jokes only perpetuate gender inequality.</i>	Exacerbate Spread
19. Poignant	Adjective: evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret.	<i>It was a poignant portrayal of the effects of a war that touched every aspect of society.</i>	Touching Distressing
20. Problematic	Adjective: something that is controversial or presents an issue.	<i>The careless remarks made by the politician were problematic.</i>	Troublesome Controversial
21. Reverent	Adjective: feeling or showing deep and solemn respect.	<i>The school bowed their heads in reverent silence.</i>	Respectful Devout
22. Sensationalise	Verb: (especially of a newspaper) present information about (something) in a sensational way.	<i>There is no doubt that reality television tends to sensationalise minor arguments and disagreements.</i>	Fabricate Exaggerate
23. Sobering	Adjective: making you feel serious or think about serious matters.	<i>Experiencing a car accident is a sobering experience.</i>	Grave Sombre
24. Unequivocal	Adjective: total, or expressed in a clear and certain way.	<i>The Prime Minister, he said, had the party's unequivocal support.</i>	Undeniable Absolute

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