# Learning Outcomes

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<td>1 Explore key issues in contemporary English</td>
<td>1.1 Discuss how context and situation affect linguistic choices made by speakers and/or writers</td>
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<td>sociolinguistics</td>
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<td>2 Understand aspects of the relationship between</td>
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## Assessment Methodology

Exam/Alternative Assessment.

## Grading of this Unit

The following grade descriptors will be applied to the assessment of this unit:

1 Understanding of the Subject
2 Application of Knowledge
4 Use of Information
5 Communication and Presentation
7 Quality

Please refer to the QAA Grade Descriptors for detail of the components of each descriptor.
Indicative Content

Please note that the indicative content supplied below is intended as a suggested guide only. It is not meant to be a prescriptive, exhaustive or fully delivered content list.

Exam or Alternative Assessment

The exam will consist of a choice of essay questions, from which the candidate has to choose two. Some of the essays may contain a short extract of stimulus material, but learners are not required to undertake a full text analysis.

1.1 Discuss how context and situation affect linguistic choices made by speakers and/or writers

Knowledge of context in speaking and writing
Register – levels of formality including choice of lexis and syntax
Social context, situation – relationship with other speakers, audience
Investigation of language choices at a number of linguistic levels
Understanding of concepts, relevant theories and issues underpinning language use
Utilise examples in support of own argument within essays
Discuss relationship between context and meaning in texts and interactions

2.1 Analyse some of the ways in which variation in language use reflects differences in identity

Relationship between language and identity – idiolect
Personal, regional, social identity
Social class and gender identity
Language used by self and others
Representation, especially in writing
Changing language, e.g. in relation to diversity

2.2 Explore ways in which language can be used to impose and/or assert power

In spoken language – the relationship between participants, the function of the interaction
Identify and discuss relevant features of spoken and written language including standard and non-standard English – prestige varieties
Lexical and grammatical choices
Contextual factors including relationships, equal and unequal exchanges
Language and power – specific varieties, e.g. legal, education, other specialist jargon

3.1 Discuss how the English language is changing to reflect and respond to technological change

The influence of changing technology over time, and particularly in the present
For example, language usages from radio, TV, cinema, the Internet and social media
Contemporary changes in the nature of English, e.g. changes in spelling, use of signs such as emojis, changes in discourse practice as a result of changing technologies
Influence of new language varieties, e.g. within social media channels, for gaming
Changing relationships between producer and consumer, e.g. impact of live feedback (e.g. Twitter)

3.2 Explore how the English language is changing to reflect cultural and social change

The broader picture of how English is changing, e.g.: English as a world language (including national varieties of English, e.g. Indian English)
Changing features of accent and dialect within the UK
Impacts of changing economic and social forces, e.g. class, gender and sexuality
Multilingualism
Language and disadvantage/deprivation
Attitudes to correctness and prescriptivism, stigma