The exam consists of two sections. Answers must be provided to both Section A and Section B. Each section counts for 50%.

Section A: short answers

*Answer three of the five questions below (expected answer length is approximately 1 page per question)*

a) How and why might the table below be described as an oversimplification?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>American English</th>
<th>British English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center</td>
<td>Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalog</td>
<td>Catalogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie</td>
<td>Film</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

adapted from Svartvik & Leech (2006)

b) Give a brief account of how and why Old English became Middle English.

c) Describe and give examples of three factors that affect individual dialect preference and performance.

d) What are the three ways in which speaker miscommunication can occur? Provide examples to illustrate your answer.

e) How is a pidgin different from a creole?

Section B: Essay

*Answer one of the following essay topics (expected length is approximately 3 pages)*.

1. Discuss the idea that the native speaker of English is, and always will be, the ultimate authority on its usage.
2. To what extent are the speakers of a given variety of English influenced by the history of their language community*? Discuss with reference to one or two language communities of your choice.

* A language community may refer to a country, nation, state or territory

Good luck!