

3 Language learning

Answer key

- 2** 1 Verbal/spoken, and written or gestured
 2 To share experiences, feelings and knowledge, to create visual images and to be part of a group
 3 *Suggested answer*
 Language is a method of communication that allows humans to share experiences, feelings and emotions in order to be part of a group.
- 3** 1 Signals with fixed meanings that relate to the present situation
 2 They don't have the physical attributes needed to produce some sounds.
 3 *Suggested answer*
 Human and animal communication differs in the sense that humans can talk about past and future and abstract topics, whereas animals can only communicate about the here and now.
- 4** a 1 F 2 O 3 O 4 F 5 O 6 F
 b *Suggested answers*
 2 Statistics on the size of the economy and the amount of trade done with Chinese companies; the number of speakers of Chinese; the increasing numbers of speakers of Chinese as a second language
 3 Evidence showing how languages help you, for example to get a job
 5 Studies comparing level of attainment or speed of learning between young people and adults
- 5** a Extract 1 is a fact; Extract 2 is an opinion.
 b *Suggested answers*
 How does language shape our thoughts and perceptions?
 What evidence is there?
 What studies have been done?
 Is it possible to think without language?
 c They disagree. They don't believe that language has a significant impact on our thoughts and behaviour.
- 6** 1 Both use sounds, gestures, touch and smell to communicate. Both can communicate about present situations.
 2 Without language, we cannot have certain perceptions or experiences of those features.
 3 Changes in titles, e.g. *Ms, chair, chairperson*; changes in signs, e.g. *men working* → *people working*; genderless job titles, e.g. *firefighter*
 4 Language expresses a culture, and people learn about their culture through language.
 5 Language is used to keep people in their place and to divide society.
- 7** 1 An argument essay
 2 What else language is, other than a tool for communication
 How language represents a culture or society
 Why it is/isn't important for language learners to understand and know about a culture
 3 *Suggested answer*
 \$1 A definition of language and what it communicates
 \$2 How language and culture are connected
 \$3 Whether it's important for language learners to know about this or not