Explore some of the similarities and differences between spoken conversation and web-based communication such as messaging, Twitter and Facebook.

Your answer should be 800-1000 words in length and use extensive examples from your transcripts or those provided in this booklet.

It may also:

- **Identify** the distinctive features for each spoken language type: both **instant messaging (or multi-modal)** and **spoken**
- **Explain** how the instant message uses a variety of these devices to shorten the message
- **Explore** the **differences** and **similarities** between speaking and messaging
- **Indicate** ways that the two types of communication may **influence** each other
- **Discuss** what the language used in the transcripts may tell us about the people speaking/messaging: their age, relationship to each other, their location and their control over the conversation.

You have two 2 hour sessions to complete this controlled assessment, with an overnight break between these. The first session should be used for planning and drafting your response, and the second for editing and producing a final copy.
Conversation takes many different forms. People communicate through speaking, through messaging, through body language and even through facial features. In this essay I am going to explore and discuss some of the ideas behind spoken and web-based communication. I will explore some of the similarities and differences as well as some of the features that are used in every type of communication.

Spoken language is a very open way of communicating - a lot can be expressed and conveyed through words. In the spoken conversation transcript, it is obvious from the start that the people involved in the conversation are from a place where a certain slang is used, they use language that is very rich in homophones, colloquialisms, abbreviations, acronyms and lots of other language techniques. For example, the first sentence starts with “This weekend what’s the motive?” This sentence would be quite easy for anyone of any age or background to understand, except for the last word, “motive”. This is a word that obviously both understand otherwise it would not have been used - this gives the impression that this is a piece of youth slang or a colloquialism, a word that is only used or characterized by where it is used or from, for example, a certain area. The
This is called colloquial (or idiomatic) usage. I don't dispute your desire to explain the concept of colloquial language use, but the word guide of the essay suggests you might be better to assume the reader's understanding of the term and move more quickly to how you believe it functions in the types of text provided.

The notion of the re-cycling of words and terms definitely warrants a mention. Had you considered the relationship between the word 'bruv' and the word 'guy' from cockney slang?

Demonstrating an additional level of sophistication – discussing the idea of terms like 'innit' representing a need in the speaker for reassurance.

word motive already has a meaning, but not one that would fit into context in this situation. A word like this has been adapted from its original form and used as a word for something different, but still similar to the original meaning, there are a lot of words like this that are being used by young people - words are almost being recycled by this new generation. "Bruv" is another word used in this conversation, it is an abbreviation from the word "Brother" which is an Americanism, it came around in the 1950's and was used by black americans to show respect and closeness. It has been adapted to 'Bruv' now but still retains the same idea of respect and family. Then there are two big parts of language today, people show respect in the words they choose but also feel the basic need to familiarize themselves with people.

"Innit" is used in this conversation, this is an abbreviation, but more importantly in a confirmation request, it is a need for approval, a plea for assurance - and also in a way of familiarizing again, it is a way of getting people on your side. People need other people to agree with them. 'Fam' is very similar to 'bruv', it is a relation term, abbreviate from family - it connects people and so al
Very convincing argument, well supported with specific examples.

This use of 'k' to mean different things depending on tone and context will be interesting when it is explored in the context of text communication.

The understanding of the difference between visual decoding and phonetic decoding of language is highly advanced and takes your work beyond the scope even of what we covered in our classroom preparation. This is a clear example of excellence in your English work.

The text conversation transcript is full of abbreviations, every line pretty much has one in. Text language obviously has a lot of abbreviations because it is designed to be a language that is quick and easy and brief. Words like 'kl', 'v', 'yn', 'nm', 'kr', are all used frequently, they are all abbreviations but are also communicative and visual decoders - they are very visually recognizable, like a lot of text language, you can see the word before you read it. The reason that text language is this way is because it lacks the emotion and
feeling you can put into words, people use abbreviations and emoticons to express themselves – because there is no way to transcribe an accent or tone of voice in a message, people have created a way of typing it, for example, if you typed “what is going on?” it is very stiff and unemotional and sterile, whereas if you typed “what’s up?,” you can instantly feel the characteristics and emotion. Text language has evolved into a language that is now not just quick and fast but full of expression – people don’t write words because they want to use less characters; they type them as a way of expression and style. It has become a fashion and an ideal.

Spoken language and text language share a lot of features and characteristics. I think the most important similarity is the words that are used to greet people, to relate to people, words like ‘yo,’ ‘alright,’ ‘cool,’ ‘bro,’ ‘fam,’ ‘bro,’ ‘cheers,’ ‘safe’ and ‘sweet,’ are all friendly, casual, and familiar. They appear often in text and spoken because they are habitual words, words that you use the most, the words that most easily express what you are trying to say – they are natural and comfortable. Domination is a big part in both spoken and text conversation.
Nice topic sentence, leading the reader into a new realm of analysis with clarity and ease; however, there is little factual analysis of this idea — it needs to be supported by fully developed examples and explanations thereof.

This is all true, but specific examples are needed.

This arises from the fact that the conversations are both interpersonal and spontaneous. (two useful terms)

People prefer different positions in a conversation. Some people like to take control and dominate, others like to sit back and listen, others don’t even think about it, but subconsciously weaken their position by using confirmation requests too often — making them appear desperate and needy. Respect and status is often conveyed through the domination of a conversation, although, in a lot of different ways, some people can come across as being very powerful and high in status by using very little language, while others have to constantly remain active throughout the conversation to retain domination.

A lot of features are shared by text and spoken conversations, but I think the most important similarity is the need to express emotion. People need to know what the other person is feeling or thinking all the time. This is why it takes such a big part in conversation: text and spoken. People would have no interest in a conversation if there was no emotion involved in it.

There are a lot of boundaries that potentially should be in place when it comes to text language, it should be less easy to express emotion or feeling, it should be less easy to use an accent, and it should be less easy to explain how you are feeling with a language that is based on speed and abbreviations.
It would be interesting to hear your opinion on the subtle differences between a reported laugh (lol) and a real one.

Is it the case that people have come to tend to over-use facial expressions, tone of voice and gesture to the extent that they have lost all meaning?

Very good observation.

but it isn’t. Text language has evolved over time and has developed new and more ways for people to have conversation as they would face to face. Things like emoticons are used to express emotions and feeling, and abbreviations like ‘LOL’ and ‘ROFL’ express what you are doing. The problem with techniques like these is that they become so overused that they lose meaning, for example, ‘LOL’ is now used as a standard reply to pretty much anything - just because someone types ‘LOL’ doesn’t mean they are actually ‘Laughing Out Loud’, the same applies to emoticons, smiley faces are used so often that they no longer actually mean anything - they quite often do the opposite, they reveal that the person has nothing to say and have just automatically typed a smiley face instead. This also happens in spoken conversation as well, people smile too often, and so when they do smile it doesn’t mean anything.

A lot of words that are used in text language that then go on to be used in spoken language are mostly used ironically or jokingly, people don’t quote text language seriously, they will say ‘LOL’ mimicingly or ‘DFMO’ - ‘Don’t Push Me Off’ sarcastically but never seriously. I think this is because
Simply put, it is arguably HARDER to say “DPMO” than “don’t piss me off” and thus it must have a secondary motive to be specifically used. As with many idioms it is often used to demonstrate a belonging to a certain group or culture.

Insightful, natural reasoning.

Text language and spoken language share a lot of features and also have a lot of differences - but I think that because conversation as a whole is a basic human act, people will always find ways to communicate and express themselves, whatever platform they are communicating through. People run on the energy that is given by communicating and interacting with people, they like to explore and experiment and question. People need other people, and that's why language is the easiest and best way for them to relate and create and relinquish their thoughts and emotions. Language and speech adds colour to an otherwise monotone world - people live and breathe it. It has become so much part of our society that people take it for granted - it is a standard that has been cemented into the foundations of communities and society. I believe language and conversations is an essential piece of the patchwork of life and will always be used, regardless of form or means - whether it be body language, spoken language, social networking or text.

Nice use of the many layers of the word 'monotone'

I enjoyed your extensive use of metaphor in this conclusion and it made sense to introduce this change of register to support the point you were making. Brilliant work.
This is an outstanding piece of analytical work. You have demonstrated a sophisticated appreciation of the mechanisms of spoken and multi-modal language and expressed these in a style that is both clear and natural. Your selection of examples was accurate without being over-bearing and your editorialising was restricted to the domains of the essay (primarily the conclusion) where it is most suitably placed.

Your whole piece both demonstrated your understanding and represents a useful piece of analytical writing about a subject that is still very much in progress. As such you are contributing to the 'wider knowledge' on the subject.

To develop your work further you may wish to:

Refer to a wider range of examples with greater precision and dedicate a little more of your time to the analysis thereof. Many English assessments demand some element of formal language analysis, and thus your considerable skill in this area should be put to the best possible effect.
Use the introduction of your essay as an opportunity not only to restate the question but also to propose your 'thesis' (your over-riding answer) to it.
Gain a better balance between defining the terms and processes you are examining and their actual examination.

Grade: 19/20: Band 5 - outstanding.