



**PROGRAM** : BA DEGREE  
*LANGUAGE PRACTICE*

**SUBJECT** : LINGUISTICS 1A

**CODE** : LIN1AA1/LIN1A11/LINEX1A/LIW1AA1

**DATE** : WINTER EXAMINATION  
3 JUNE 2015

**DURATION** : (Y-PAPER) 12:30 - 15:30

**WEIGHT** : 50 : 50

**TOTAL MARKS** : 200

---

**EXAMINER** : MS S DOSE  
MS TN ADAMS

**MODERATOR** : MS L ROKEBRAND

**NUMBER OF PAGES** : 5 PAGES

---

**INSTRUCTIONS** : QUESTION PAPERS MUST BE HANDED IN.

**REQUIREMENTS** : 2 SEPARATE EXAM BOOKS (ONE FOR EACH  
SECTION)

---

---

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:**

PLEASE ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS.

---

**SECTION A (Ms S Dose)****100 MARKS****Question 1**

Name five theories of the origin of language.

(10)

**Question 2**

Name one argument in favour of and one argument against the natural sound source (bow-wow theory).

(4)

**Question 3**

Distinguish between communicative and informative signals. **Describe** each type of signal and also give an **example** of each.

(2 x 4 = 8)

**Question 4**

**List** five unique features of human language that distinguish it from all other communication systems. **Explain** what each feature means and use an appropriate **example** to illustrate each feature.

(5 x 4 = 20)

**Question 5**

The chimpanzee Sarah used a blue triangle to refer to an apple. What unique feature of human language did Sarah therefore display?

(2)

**Question 6**

Define the concept "alphabetic writing system" and provide an example of a language that uses an alphabetic writing system.

(4)

3/...

**Question 7**

Give three reasons why there are often mismatches between the forms of written English and the sounds of spoken English. (6)

**Question 8**

Name four **places** of speech articulation of consonants. **Explain where** the relevant sounds are formed and provide an **example** of each.

**OR**

Name four **manners** of speech articulation of consonants. **Explain how** the relevant sounds are formed and provide an **example** of each. (4 x 4 = 16)

**Question 9**

**Explain** what diphthongs are and provide an **example** of a diphthong. (4)

**Question 10**

**Explain** the basic structure of a syllable. Do so briefly in **writing**, using appropriate **terms**, and augment your explanation with a **diagram** and an **example**. (12)

**Question 11**

Identify four minimal pairs in the list of words below:

ban, fat, pit, bell, tape, heat, meal, more, pat, tap, pen, chain, vote, bet, far, bun, goat, heel, sane, tale, vet, fun, man (8)

**Question 12**

**Explain** what **assimilation** is and when it occurs. Provide an **example**.

**OR**

**Explain** what **elision** is and when it occurs. Provide an **example**. (6)

MARKS: [100]

**SECTION B (Ms TN Adams)****100 MARKS****Question 13**Define any **FIVE** of the following terms:

- (a) Backformation
- (b) Conversion
- (c) Zero morph
- (d) Descriptive grammar
- (e) Structural ambiguity
- (f) Semantics

(5 x 2 = 10)

**Question 14**Identify the **word-formation processes** used to form the following words. Write down the letter and the process next to the letter.

- (a) *yuppie*
- (b) *sofa*
- (c) *flu* in *She responded well to the flu medication given to her by the doctor.*
- (d) *vacation* in *They vacationed in France last year.*
- (e) *brunch*

**OR**

\* Choose any **two** of the **word-formation processes** listed below and explain how new words are

created in a language by way of these processes. Provide suitable examples in each case.

- (a) Blending
- (b) Clipping
- (c) Compounding
- (d) Borrowing
- (e) Coinage

(2 x 5 = 10)

5/...

**Question 15**

The sentence below contains only free morphemes. Categorise all the **free morphemes** in the sentence below as either **lexical** or **functional morphemes**. Write down the free morpheme and then indicate whether the morpheme is lexical or functional.

*The man stands near the table next to the window.*

(10 x 2 = 20)

**Question 16**

In the sentences below, indicate which morphemes are **derivational** and which are **inflectional**. The morphemes you have to classify are underlined. Remember, derivational morphemes are used to make new words of a different grammatical category from the stem. Inflectional morphemes indicate aspects of grammatical function.

*Her happiness gives him the fulfilment he longed for since childhood.*

(3 x 2 = 6)

**\* Question 17**

Discuss the **prescriptive** approach to grammar in a brief essay. Explain the **origins** of the approach, what its **aims** are, and examples to help illustrate your discussion. (10)

**Question 18**

Explain in what way the following sentence is an example of **structural ambiguity**:

*He gave her cat food.*

**OR**

Explain in what way the following sentence is an example of **structural ambiguity**:

*Sam finally decided on the boat.*

(3 x 2 = 6)

**Question 19**

Draw a **tree diagram** to illustrate the syntactic structure of the following sentence:

*My grandmother cooked a delicious lunch.*

**OR**

Provide a **labelled and bracketed** analysis of the following sentence:

*Annie loves the small dog.*

(10)

**Question 20**

- (a) What is the difference between **conceptual** and **associative meaning**? (2 x 2 = 4)
- (b) Use the word *gym* as an **example** to illustrate each concept. (2 x 1 = 2)

**Question 21**

What is the **lexical relation** between the following pairs of words:

- (a) *Peace/piece*
- (b) *Furniture/table*
- (c) *Bank/bank*
- (d) *Married/single*
- (e) *Damp/moist*
- (f) *Head/head (e.g. of a company)*
- (g) *Salt and pepper* (2 x 7 = 14)

**Question 22**

Identify the **semantic roles** in the following sentences:

- (a) Agent and theme: The boy kicked the ball.
- (b) Instrument and experiencer: Did she draw the picture with wax crayons?
- (c) Source: He drove the car back from the mall. (2 x 3 = 6)

**Question 23**

Look at the following sentence:

The television drank my water.

While the sentence is syntactically correct, it is semantically odd. Explain why this is so by using **semantic features** to explain the oddity. (2)

MARKS: [100]

-----