

Level: First Year

Student's Full Name:

Group: G1, G2, G3, G4 and G5

Date: 12. 05. 2026

Time allotted: 1hr 30 min

Lecturers: Dr. Kacha & Dr. Rehioui

Second Term Exam in Linguistics and Phonetics

Task 1: Correct the mistake where necessary (6 pts).

- a. According to Chomsky, language acquisition is a habit formed when a child receives a stimulus from the environment and produces a correct response that is then reinforced by parents. **FALSE**

According to Bloomfield, language acquisition is a habit formed by stimulus and reinforcement; for Chomsky, it is an innate biological capacity.

- b. In Generative Grammar, if a native speaker makes a mistake in a sentence, it means he has a problem at the level of linguistic competence. **FALSE**

If a native speaker makes a mistake, it is a problem at the level of linguistic performance, not linguistic competence.

- c. Bloomfield's main goal was to create a set of rules that tell people how they should speak correctly in social setting. **FALSE**

Bloomfield's main goal was to describe language objectively (Descriptivism) rather than telling people how they should speak (Prescriptivism).

- d. The coda is an essential element in every English syllable. **FALSE**

The Nucleus is the only essential element in every English syllable; the coda is optional.

- e. English allows a maximum of three consonants in the onset position. **CORRECT**

- f. In certain English syllables, a consonant can act as a nucleus. **CORRECT**

Task 02: Analyze the following scenarios identifying whether each word written in bold is an icon, an index, or a symbol, then explain them very briefly (6 pts).

- a. A doctor sees a patient with **high fever**, then looks at the thermometer, and finally writes infection. **Index. There is a direct causal relationship between a fever and an infection.**

- b. The driver immediately slowed down when he saw **the red sign**. **Symbol. The association between the color red and "stopping" is an arbitrary social convention.**

- c. He was waiting patiently for **the sound of beeping for blind persons** to step onto the road. **Symbol. This is a learned conventional signal used to indicate safety for crossing.**

- d. The detective carefully dusted for **fingerprints on the glass** to see who had handled the vase before it was broken. **Index. The fingerprint is a physical trace directly caused by the person touching the glass.**

e. The dusty shelf held many unlabeled containers, but the one caught his eye featured **drawing of a skull**

on

a

bottle 

Symbol. It represents “danger” or “poison” through a socially agreed- upon meaning.

f. An artist draws a political cartoon (caricature) of a leader with an enormous nose and tiny eyes. The leader does not actually have a nose that large and eyes that small; yet everyone can recognize him. Does this exaggeration in drawing the figure stop it from being an icon? Explain

Icon. It relies on the physical resemblance and likeness to the leader’s features.

Task 03: Answer the following questions (3 pts).

a. If the sender encodes a message perfectly and there is zero “physical noise” in the room, can the message still fail to be decoded by the receiver? Explain.

Yes, A message can fail to be decoded due to Semantic noise (misunderstanding of words).

b. If you are talking to a friend on the phone and he keeps saying “Uh-Huh....Emm” only while you are still speaking, does this mean you are using a transactional or an interactive model of communication? Why?

The model used is the transactional model because there is a simultaneous communication. While one person is speaking, the other person is still sending messages through responses like “Uh-Huh” and “Emm.” These sounds act as continuous feedback and show that both participants are sender and receiver at the same time.

c. In fast and natural speech, the phrases “an aim” and “a name” often sound identical [ə.neɪm]. What phonological process allows the /n/ in “an aim” to change its structural position and boundaries? Explain

Briefly The process is Resyllabification. In connected speech, the final consonant /n/ moves to the onset of the next syllable to create a smooth transition.

Task 04:

[ðə kʰwī:n wɪl træv] fa: ɪ tə faɪnd ə kju:ɪ fə:ɪ ðə reəɪ fi:vəɪ]

- a. Spell the sentence above (1 pt). **The queen will travel far to find a cure for the rare fever.**
- b. Complete the table using the transcribed sentence above (4 pts).

Diacritics (name of the Diacritic with its symbol)	Initial consonant clusters	Syllabic consonant	Types of the underlined syllable	
[<u>h</u>] Aspiration	Queen [kʰwī:n]	[træv]	[<u>fi:</u> /vəɪ]	Open Syllable
[<u>ɫ</u>] Velarization (dark l)	Cure [kju:ɪ]		[<u>wɪl</u>]	Closed Syllable
[<u>ɪ</u>] Nasalization				
[<u>:</u>] Length Mark				

