

Level: First Year

Full Name:

Group: All groups.

Date: January 15th, 2026

Time Allotted: 1 hr 30 min

Lecturers: Dr. Kacha & Dr. Rehioui

First Term Exam in Linguistics and Phonetics

Task 1: For each of the statements below, select the right option by circling the appropriate letter ____ (2.5pts)

1. In the sentence “*The child is reading a book*”, replacing *child* with *student* illustrates a:.....

a) syntagmatic relation	b) phonological process
c) paradigmatic relation	d) diachronic change
2. The diachronic approach to language is concerned with:

a) language structure at one moment	b) language change and evolution over time
c) language use in society	d) language acquisition
3. The relationship between morphemes in a word (e.g. *un + kind + ness* in *unkindness*) is:

a) paradigmatic	b) syntagmatic
c) diachronic	d) arbitrary
4. In the word *love*, the sound sequence /lʌv/ functions as the:

a) signified	b) symbol
c) signifier	d) concept
5. Langue is considered:

a) individual and variable	b) social and abstract
c) physical and concrete	d) personal and creative

Task 2: Define the terms given below in the space provided _____ (4 pts)

1. ***Sociolinguistics:*** _____

2. ***Syntax:*** _____

3. ***Allophone:*** _____

4. ***Macrolinguistics:*** _____

Task 3: “The worlds in which different societies live are distinct worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached ... We see and hear and otherwise experience very largely as we do because the language habits of our community predispose certain choices of interpretation.” (Edward Sapir)

In light of this quote, explain how language can influence or control the way we think and perceive the world. _____ (3.5 pts)

Task 4: State whether the following statements are True or False (correct the false ones) (6pts)

1. Allophones in complementary distribution can occur in the same phonetic environment.

2. Teenagers’ language use on social media applications is studied in both psycholinguistics and computational linguistics.

3. There are 24 vowel sounds in English.

4. In a flower field, you can hear bees’ buzz; the underlined word is arbitrary.

5. Vowels are sometimes voiced.

6. The sounds /w/ and /j/ are plosives.

Task 5: 1- Describe how consonant sounds are produced and provide one example. (2 pts)

2- Describe how vowel sounds are produced and provide one example. (2 pts)

Answer 1 :

Answer 2 :

Level:First Year

The Student's Full Name:.....

Group:G1, G2,G3,G4andG5

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First Term Exam in Linguistics and Phonetics

Task 1: Choose the best option to complete the statements below _____ (2.5 pts)

- In the sentence "The child is reading a book", replacing *child* with *student* illustrates a:.....
 - Syntagmatic relation
 - paradigmatic relation
 - phonological process
 - diachronic change
- The diachronic approach to language is concerned with:
 - Language structure at one moment
 - Language use in society
 - language change and evolution over time
 - language acquisition
- The relationship between morphemes in a word (e.g. *un+kind+ness* in *unkindness*) is:.....
 - paradigmatic
 - diachronic
 - syntagmatic
 - arbitrary
- In the word *love*, the sound sequence /lʌv/ functions as the:
 - signified
 - referent
 - signifier
 - concept
- Langue is considered:.....
 - Individual and variable
 - physical and concrete
 - social and abstract
 - personal and creative

Task 2: Define the terms given below in the space provided _____ (4pts)

- Sociolinguistics***: The branch of linguistics that deals with the relationship between language and society/the scientific branch that deals with how social factors influence language use .
- Syntax***: is the study that deals with sentence structure and correctness.
- Allophone***: is a phonetic variant/ version of the same phoneme/ it can occur either in free variation or in complementary distribution.
- Macrolinguistics***: is an approach to linguistics/ category that examines language, analysing its relationship with external factors like society, psychology,...etc.

Task3:“The worlds in which different societies live are distinct worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached...We see and hear and otherwise experience very largely as we do because the language habits of our community predispose certain choices of interpretation.” (Edward Sapir)

In light of this quote, explain how language can influence or control the way we think and perceive the world. _____ (3.5 pts)

Students need to write a well developed paragraph mentioning:

- That Sapir and Whorf have suggested a hypothesis (linguistic determinism) emphasizing the total control the language has on our understanding and perception to the world.
- This very first hypothesis has been widely criticized.
- This gave birth to the second version (the weak version/ linguistic relativity) which explains that language influences/ affects (not controls/ regulates) our view to the world.
- Illustrations for both versions of the hypothesis.

The following points are taken into consideration:

- Clear topic sentence
- Organization of ideas
- Sentence structures and grammatical correctness/ use of orthography tactics.
-

Task 4: State whether the following statements are True or False (correct the false ones)

(6pts)

1. Allophones in complementary distribution can occur in the same phonetic environment. **False**
They cannot occur in the same phonetic environment

Teenagers' language use on social media application is studied in both psycholinguistics and computational linguistics. **True**

2. There are 24 vowel sounds in English. **False**
There are 20 vowel sounds in English.

3. In a flower field, you can hear bees' **buzz**; the underlined word is arbitrary. **False**
The underlined word is an onomatopoeia.

4. Vowels are sometimes voiced. **False**
Vowels are always voiced.

5. The sounds/w/and/j/are plosives. **False**
These sounds are semi-vowels.

Task5:1-Describe how consonant sounds are produced and provide an example. (2 pts)

2-Describe how vowel sounds are produced and provide an example. (2 pts)

Answer1:

- The student needs to explain the process of sound production very briefly (stating phases, organs, articulators and state of the glottis) + the manner of articulation (with example).

Answer 2:

- The student needs to explain that vowels are produced with no obstruction to the air flow and that they are always voiced (with at least one example).
- Vowels are categorised according to:
 - Their length
 - Position of the tongue
 - Shape of the lips

/gɒdlɔk/