

(For the candidates admitted from 2024-25 onwards)

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, AUGUST 2025.

Second Semester

English

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

PART A — ($10 \times 2 = 20$ marks)

Answer ALL the questions.

1. Define language.
2. What is the principle behind Yo-He-Ho theory?
3. What kinds of words were contributed to old English by the Danes or Scandinavians?
4. List the important Middle English dialects.
5. What is called slang?
6. When is a dialect given the label of a language?
7. What is a diphthong?
8. What are called nasal sounds?
9. What is hyponymy? Give one example.
10. Define polysemy.

PART B — ($3 \times 5 = 15$ marks)

Answer any THREE of the following questions.

11. What is meant by displacement?
12. Explain the salient features of Old English spelling and pronunciation.
13. Distinguish between applied linguistics and theoretical linguistics.
14. What are front vowels? Explain with examples.
15. Explain Synonymy and Antonymy with examples.

PART C — (5 × 8 = 40 marks)

Answer the following questions.

16. (a) Describe the distinguishing characteristics of the Indo-European family of languages.

Or

- (b) Discuss the distinctive features of the Germanic branch of Indo-European.

17. (a) “Middle English is a language of levelled inflections” Discuss.

Or

- (b) Give an account of the characteristics of modern English.

18. (a) What are the phonological, morphological, lexical, syntactic and semantic levels of analysis set up by linguists?

Or

- (b) What are the important differences between regional and social dialects?

19. (a) Discuss the air stream mechanism in detail.

Or

- (b) Write an essay on morphology and its types.

20. (a) Examine the criteria for IC cuts.

Or

- (b) Explain the syntactical structures in English.
