

**STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) CHENNAI – 86**  
**(For candidates admitted from the academic year 2023 – 2024 and thereafter)**

**B. A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2024**  
**BRANCH XII - ENGLISH**  
**FIRST SEMESTER**

**COURSE : ALLIED CORE**  
**PAPER : INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS (VISUALLY CHALLENGED)**  
**SUBJECT CODE : 23EL/AC/LG15**  
**TIME : 3 HOURS** **MAX. MARKS: 100**

Q. No.	SECTION A	CO	KL
1.	<p><b>Answer the following by selecting the appropriate options.</b>  <b>(10x1=10 marks)</b></p> <p>i. Which of the following is not a characteristic of human language?  a) Productivity b) Displacement c) Reflexivity d) Instinct</p> <p>ii. Which of the following term refers to the smallest unit of meaning in a language?  a) Phoneme b) Morpheme c) Lexeme d) Syllable</p> <p>iii. Phonology is the study of _____.  a) Word formation b) Sound systems and patterns  c) Sentence structures d) Meaning in language</p> <p>iv. Minimal pairs are word pairs that differ by only one sound. For example, _____.  a) ship and sheep b) car and cart c) try and trial d) bed and sad</p> <p>v. Vowels differ from consonants in that they _____.  a) Are always voiced  b) Have no obstruction in the vocal tract  c) Cannot stand alone as syllables  d) Are formed by the closure of vocal folds</p> <p>vi. Intonation in linguistics refers to _____.  a) The rise and fall of pitch in speech  b) The stress placed on specific syllables  c) The rhythm of a sentence  d) The pronunciation of vowels</p> <p>vii. A hyponym is _____.  a) A word with multiple meanings  b) A word that is a more specific term within a category  c) A word with the same sound but different meanings  d) The opposite of a synonym</p> <p>viii. Which of the following is an example of homonymy?  a) Rose (flower) and rose (past tense of rise)  b) Dog and puppy  c) Walk and run  d) Child and children</p>	1	K1

	<p>ix. According to Saussure, "langue" refers to:</p> <p>a) The individual's speech b) The abstract system of language c) The use of language in conversation d) Dialects of a language</p> <p>x. Which of the following word pairs are not considered relational antonyms?</p> <p>a) Teacher and Student      b) Parent and Child c) Beautiful and Ugly      d) Employer and Employee</p>		
2.	<p><b>State whether the following statements are true or false.</b> <b>(10x1=10 marks)</b></p>	1	K1
	<p>i. Human language is unique in its use of productivity, meaning new sentences can be generated indefinitely.</p> <p>ii. All morphemes in a language are free morphemes, meaning they can stand alone.</p> <p>iii. Phonemes are the smallest meaningful units of sound in a language.</p> <p>iv. All consonants in English are voiceless.</p> <p>v. Vowels are characterised by a clear obstruction in the vocal tract.</p> <p>vi. Intonation can affect the meaning of a sentence in some languages.</p> <p>vii. The word 'apple' is a hyponym of 'fruit.'</p> <p>viii. Homonyms are always spelled the same but pronounced differently.</p> <p>ix. Saussure's concept of "parole" refers to the language system shared by a community.</p> <p>x. A word with the same spelling or pronunciation but different meanings is called a homonym.</p>		
<b>Q.No</b>	<b>SECTION B</b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>KL</b>
3.	<p><b>Identify the sentence pattern in the following sentences.</b> <b>(5x2=10 marks)</b></p>	2	K2
	<p>i. Ron gave Harry a new wand.</p> <p>ii. The results of the experiment were surprising.</p> <p>iii. Moushumi signed the contract.</p> <p>iv. The jury found the defendant guilty.</p> <p>v. The aroma wafted through the windows.</p>		
4.	<p><b>Locate the primary stress in the given words.</b>      <b>(5x2=10 marks)</b></p>	2	K2
	<p>(i) auctioneer (ii) utilitarian (iii) ability (iv) freedom (v) translate</p>		

Q. No.	SECTION C	CO	KL
5.	<b>Fill in the blanks with appropriate answers. (10x1=10 marks)</b>	3	K3
	<p>i. The ability to talk about things that are not physically present is called _____.</p> <p>ii. A _____ is the smallest unit of meaning in a language.</p> <p>iii. Vowels are produced without any significant _____ in the airflow.</p> <p>iv. In linguistics, a _____ is a word that is a more specific term within a category, such as 'dog' under 'animal.'</p> <p>v. According to Saussure, the abstract system of rules and conventions in a language is called _____.</p> <p>vi. In the word "record," when the stress is on the first syllable, it is a noun. When the stress is on the second syllable, it becomes a verb. This change in meaning based on stress is an example of a _____ feature.</p> <p>vii. The sound produced by blocking the airflow in some way, like in the letter "t" in "top," is called a _____.</p> <p>viii. A _____ is a combination of two vowel sounds within the same syllable, like the "oi" in "coin."</p> <p>ix. In linguistics, _____ refers to the emphasis given to certain syllables in a word.</p> <p>x. The process of adding the prefix "un-" to the word "happy" to form "unhappy" is an example of _____ in morphology.</p>		
6.	<b>Attempt a morphemic analysis of the following words. (10x1=10 marks)</b>	3	K3
	<p>(i) deer</p> <p>(ii) painted</p> <p>(iii) unconsciously</p> <p>(iv) multinational</p> <p>(v) children</p> <p>(vi) exploration</p> <p>(vii) disorient</p> <p>(viii) syllabify</p> <p>(ix) desks</p> <p>(x) carpet</p>		

7.	<b>Attempt an IC analysis of the following sentences. (4x2.5=10 marks)</b>	4	K4
	(i) The little boys played soccer. (ii) Gretel lost her brother in the woods. (iii) My father has been working in Dubai. (iv) My friends spent the holiday in Tokyo.		
8.	<b>Answer any two of the following in about 75 words. (2x5=10 marks)</b> Explain word stress and sentence stress with relevant examples.	4	K4
9.	Write a note on morphology in English with suitable examples.		
10.	Discuss the key principles of traditional grammar and evaluate their relevance and limitations in analysing language today.		
<b>Q. No.</b>	<b>SECTION D</b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>KL</b>
	<b>Answer any one of the following in about 150 words. (1x10=10 marks)</b>	5	K5
11.	Critically evaluate the role of synonymy, antonymy, and polysemy in shaping meaning within natural language.		
12.	Analyse the significance of Saussure's linguistic sign (signifier and signified) within the context of modern semiotics. Provide examples to support your analysis.		
	<b>Answer any one of the following in about 150 words. (1x10=10 marks)</b>	5	K6
13.	Critically assess the distinct characteristics of human language, such as arbitrariness, productivity, displacement, and cultural transmission. Use relevant examples to discuss how these features distinguish human language from other forms of communication and evaluate their roles in the evolution and complexity of linguistic systems.		
14.	Discuss how dialect, idiolect, and register reflect social, geographical, and situational factors, and evaluate their influence on communication within diverse communities. Use examples to explore how shifts in register or dialect may affect mutual understanding and social dynamics.		