

## **Applied Linguistics S2 Exam Answer Key**

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### **TASK I: True or False**

1. Cultural specificity influences the genesis and articulation of ideologies. - True
2. Second Language Acquisition and Applied Linguistics are distinct fields with different focuses, although they share some common interests. True
3. Cultural relativism asserts that all cultures are equal in every aspect rather than the idea that cultural practices should be understood within their own context without imposing external judgments of superiority or inferiority. False
4. According to Van Dijk, ideologies are solely solitary constructs within individual minds. - False
5. Applied Linguistics emphasizes the dominance of linguistic theories in language teaching. False

### **TASK II: Filling in the gaps**

1. Social media platforms hosting a variety of voices and perspectives on climate change, ranging from scientists and environmental activists to climate change skeptics and industry representatives is an example of the **polythetic** nature of discourse as per Stuart Hall's view.
2. **Culturalist** individuals may hold the belief that Middle Eastern individuals are prone to conflict and violence as it is part of their cultural heritage, overlooking the diverse histories, traditions, and complexities within the region, thus perpetuating harmful stereotypes and misconceptions.
3. **Homogeneity (or inflexibility)**, characteristic in essentialism, result in the oversimplification of diverse individuals or groups into singular categories, disregarding their variations and complexities, which can neglect individual differences and enforce rigid, unyielding identities.
4. **Ideological distortions**, according to the Marxist perspective, refer to the ways in which dominant ideologies in society conceal or misrepresent the true nature of social relations, serving the interests of the ruling class while obscuring the exploitation of subordinate classes.

5. **Ethnocentric** individuals may disdain the practice of some Arab countries using their hands to eat instead of utensils and perceive that to be uncivilized and unsanitary, viewing their own use of spoons or forks as the civilized standard.
6. **Decentralisation (or decentralised construction)** disperses decision-making and resources across diverse entities, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of the process and the emergence of meaning from dynamic interactions within a distributed framework.
7. Chandler, being a **cultural relativist** person, might appreciate that practices like arranged marriages, which might seem unusual or even oppressive in his culture, hold deep cultural significance and meaning in some South Asian countries.
8. **False consciousness** refers to a condition in which individuals, influenced by prevailing ideologies, adopt beliefs or perspectives that are contrary to their own class interests, ultimately leading them to accept ideas that work against their socio-economic well-being.
9. Arising from ethnocentrism, **cultural insensitivity** exhibits itself where a person's failure to empathize with individuals from diverse cultures leads to behaviors or remarks that marginalize or alienate those who don't conform to their own cultural norms.
10. A **national essentialist** person might argue that individuals from Algeria are fundamentally less hardworking than others, while a **racial essentialist** person might claim that Chaoui people are naturally more intransigent than others.
11. **Selective dissemination** is the strategic control of information by the ruling class to reinforce ideologies that serve their interests, perpetuating social divisions and maintaining power.
12. Influencers and influential organisation within the social media space may have more significant impact and influence in shaping discourse, thus contributing to the construction and dissemination of particular ideologies and highlighting the inherent **power dynamics** at play.
13. Van Dijk notes that categories such as membership, values, and group relations, which form the schema of ideologies, are integral components of **social identity**.
14. A common **essentialist** belief about Germans is the perception that they are inherently rigid and efficient in their approach to work and life.