

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
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Level: Second Year
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Model Answer of Linguistics and Phonetics Exam

Part One: Linguistics:

I. Read each statement and choose only ONE correct answer from the given options. (5 pts)

1. Which of the following best illustrates the feature "arbitrariness" in human language?

B) The English word "dog," the German word "Hund," and the Spanish word "perro" all refer to the same animal but have no inherent connection to its nature.

2. Which of the following best describes the distinction between 'sense' and 'reference' in the context of semantics?

B) Sense refers to the conceptual understanding of a word, while reference pertains to the physical or real-world entity the word points to.

3. Which of the following best defines the three types of context in pragmatics?

A) Situational Context refers to the time and place of communication, Linguistic Context refers to the words used in the conversation, and Cultural Context refers to the rules governing social interactions within a community.

4. In the tree diagram representation of a sentence, what does the NP (Noun Phrase) typically consist of?

B) Determiner + Modifiers + Noun.

5. Which of the following examples best illustrates the overlap between syntax and semantics?

A) A sentence that is grammatically correct but semantically nonsensical, such as "*Colorless green ideas sleep furiously.*"

II. Explain the relationship between pragmatics and semantics by highlighting the semantic interpretation and the pragmatic interpretation of the following sentence: (5pts)

"It is cold in here."

Semantics is the study of the **literal and figurative** meanings of words, sentences and expressions, it studies the relationships between the meanings of entities of language, semantics focuses also on the different **layers of meanings** like denotative, connotative, sense and reference meanings.

However, **pragmatics** is the study of meaning within **context**, the context is very important in shaping **hidden** meaning of words, sentences and expressions. The context can be situational (time and place) linguistic and/or cultural

Semantic interpretation of the sentence “it is cold in here” its literal meaning is that the temperature is low in this place

Pragmatic interpretation of the same sentence: the speaker suggests to change the place or close the window or switch on the heater

Part Two: Phonetics:

I. Read each statement and choose only ONE correct answer from the given options. (5 pts)

1. What is a minimal pair?

C) Two words that differ by only one sound in the same position.

2. Which of the following words changes meaning based on stress placement?

D) All of the above

3. Which of the following statements best describes the difference between function words and content words?

C) Content words provide meaning and are open-class, while function words provide grammatical structure and are closed-class.

4. Which of the following words has stress on the first syllable?

a) none of them

5. Which of the following statements best describes an allophone?

B) It is a variant of a phoneme that does not change the meaning of a word.

II. Transcribe the following sentence phonetically, focusing on: (5 pts)

1. Weak forms and reductions in connected speech.
2. Aspiration and final release (or lack thereof) of plosives.

"Can I park next to the taxi?"

[kʰən aɪ pʰɑːk nɛkst tə ðə 'tʰæksi]