

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO – SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF ARTS
FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS – SEMESTER I – 2020/21
ESL 1101 – Introduction to the English Language
Time: Two (02) Hours

Duration: You are given **5 hours** for submission of your answer script to the LMS.

All questions carry **equal marks**.

This paper carries 50% of the total marks.

Follow the instructions given in Part A & Part B.

Instructions to Students:

- The question paper starts on page 2.
- All written assessments must be **handwritten**. Handwriting must be **clear and readable**.
- Answers should be written on an **A4 size paper** (ruled/lined paper/or otherwise), using a **black ball point pen**.
- The **index number must be written on the top right-hand side of each page** of the answer script. DO NOT write your name anywhere on the answer script.
- **Number the pages** of the answer script using the following format at the **bottom of the page**: E.g., if it consists of 5 pages 1/5, 2/5...etc.
- Use the **common front page** (provided on LMS) as the first page of the answer script. You may print, or hand write the front page which must be the first page of your assessment.
- The **total number of pages** should be indicated on the front page of the answer script.
- **Scan/take photos of the answer script and convert it to a single PDF file** in the order of the page numbers.
- The full page of the answer script must be properly covered in the scanned image, and the scanned image must be clear/readable.
- **LMS does not permit** individual pages to be uploaded separately.
- **The only acceptable file format is PDF. The PDF file should be named with your index number**, e.g. A 12345 (file name)
- Uploading answer scripts as JPEG/JPG or any other form will NOT be permitted.
- Complete and upload the final version of the answer script to LMS **within the stipulated 5 hours**
- Once the answer script has been uploaded to LMS, take **a screen shot of the full page** of the LMS with the word 'submitted', as an acknowledgement and keep it with you.
- **If** there is an **unexpected technical issue** with the uploading of an answer script to LMS, you may send your answer script via email to exam1@arts.cmb.ac.lk immediately.

Part A: Sounds in English & Words in English

Answer **any three (03)** questions from **Part A**.

1. Use your knowledge of various classifications of consonants to answer the following questions.

- a. *Most consonants are not as smooth sounding as vowels; they pop, hiss, snap, or hum.* Briefly discuss the validity of the above statements with examples from English. (10 marks)
- b. What are glottal sounds? Explain briefly with examples from English. (5 marks)
- c. Write the phonetic symbol for the **first** consonant sound in each of the following words and name their place of articulation. (5 marks)

e.g. Linguistics [l] **alveolar sound**

- i. band []
- ii. calcium []
- iii. sheer []
- iv. western []
- v. wholesome []

- d. Write the phonetic symbol for the **last** consonant sound in each of the following words and name their manner of articulation. (5 marks)

e.g. Stop [p] **stop sound**

- i. mallet []
- ii. fridge []
- iii. mango []
- iv. swerve []
- v. lean []

2. Use your knowledge of various criteria for the classification of vowels to answer the following questions.

- a. *Vowels are sounds in which the air stream moves up from the lungs and through the vocal tract very smoothly; there's nothing blocking or constricting it.* Briefly discuss the validity of the above statements with examples from English.

(10 marks)

- b. What are diphthongs? Briefly explain with examples from English. (5 marks)
- c. Write the phonetic symbol for the (first) vowel in each of the following words and name each vowel in relation to its tongue height. (5 marks)

e.g. freezing [i] **close vowel**

- i. moon []
- ii. torn []
- iii. irate []
- iv. cram []
- v. kremlin []

- d. Write the phonetic symbol for the (last) vowel in each of the following words and name each vowel in relation to its tongue position. (5 marks)

e.g. freezing [i] **front vowel**

- i. circle []
- ii. hook []
- iii. mar []
- iv. hate []
- v. head []

3. Answer the following questions using your knowledge of the morpheme.

- a. *Words have internal structure that is rule governed.* Briefly discuss the validity of the above statement with examples from English. (10 marks)
- b. What is meant by the discreteness of morphemes? Briefly explain with examples from English. (5 marks)
- c. Mention all the affixes in the following words and mention the category to which they belong. (5 marks)

e.g., impoliteness **im- – prefix, -ness – suffix**

- i. unfailing
- ii. beautification
- iii. disembark
- iv. incipient
- v. indecisive

- d. Mention the roots of the following words. (5 marks)

e.g., unbelievable **believe**

- i. unsavoury
- ii. displacement
- iii. theology
- iv. recapture
- v. prosperous

4. Answer the following questions using your knowledge of the rules of word formation.

- a. Briefly discuss the key differences between derivational morphemes and inflectional morphemes with examples from English. In your answer refer to at least 4 key differences that exist between the two types of morphemes. (10 marks)
- b. What are the eight inflectional suffixes found in English? Mention one example for each suffix. (5 marks)
- c. Draw tree diagrams for following words to illustrate their hierarchical organization. (10 marks)

- i. unprofessional
- ii. inactive
- iii. multi-coloured
- iv. falsification
- v. bemusing

Part B: English Sentence Patterns

Answer **any three (03)** questions from Part B.

5.

- a. The following sentences are ill-formed for they violate some syntactic dependencies of the English language like *structure dependency*, *selection restrictions*, *subjacency* and so on. Identify the violated syntactic dependency in each sentence and explain the ungrammaticality in each sentence. You do not have to draw phrase structures for this purpose. (16 marks)

- i. *The trade union representatives wanted that the minister gives into their demands.*
- ii. **Is the man who in the car is my uncle?*
- iii. **Who did he invite and Supun to the party?*
- iv. **Who did the teacher question the boy who hit?*

b.

- i. Draw the recursive V-bars for an English verb phrase (VP) containing three prepositional phrases. (4 marks)
- ii. Now draw the phrase structure for the VP *quickly ran on the stairs into the room*. All necessary steps need to be shown. (5 marks)

6.

- a. Draw the three-tiered phrase structure for a typical XP both for English and Sinhala/Tamil (The XP should contain a specifier, head, complement & adjunct. Spec, head, complement & adjunct need to be named in the phrase structure). (7 marks)

- b. Draw the three-tiered structure for a typical TP for both English and Sinhala/Tamil. (The TP should contain the X-bar levels, a VP, a complement XP for V & a VP adjunct). (8 marks)

- c. Imagine you are a teacher of English as a second language, and you hear some of your students utter sentences like **My brother watched last night TV* and some others uttering sentences like **He what bought at the supermarket?* Explain the English linguistic competence your students may lack in relation to the examples given above. (10 marks)

7.

- a. A. Explain why we do not assume auxiliaries like “be” & “have” and auxiliaries like “may”, “should”, “must” etc. to originate in the same place in the phrase structure. Support your argument with example sentences. (5 marks)
- b. Draw phrase structures for the following sentences. In the case of questions, show the transformations/movements involved in them assuming that questions are formed from declarative sentences. You are required to show transformations/movements using arrows in the phrase structures.
- i. *It is possible that he is mad.* (5 marks)
 - ii. *Why did the government consult the World Bank?* (5 marks)
 - iii. *Has she resigned from the company?* (5 marks)
 - iv. *That the son is depressed worries the parents.* (5 marks)

8.

- a. Consider the NP *the country manager of the company in India for two years*. Now, name the syntactic relationship that exists between the following items (say whether it is an **adjunct**, **complement** or **specifier** relationship):
- the* and *company*:
manager and *of the company*:
company and *in India*:
India and *for two years*:
for and *two years*:
- (5 marks)
- b. Draw the phrase structure for the NP *the country manager of the company in India for two years*. All phrases need not be brought down to the category level. (5 marks)
- c. Assume an adult learner of English keeps producing structures like **the country manager in India of the company for two years*. Imagining yourself as a teacher of English, say what syntactic knowledge the learner lacks and how you would try to correct this error. (5 marks)
- d. Now, consider the sentence *Kamala scolded her daughter wearing a saree*. If you think the sentence has syntactic ambiguity, draw two different phrase structures to show the two interpretations. You are required to write the different meanings using your own words for each structure. (10 marks)