

Linguistics 1A03: Introduction to Linguistics 1

Midterm Test ANSWER KEY

Part A (12 for the first sentence, 8 for the second, for a total of 20)

Use the IPA to provide a narrow transcription of the following sentences as they would be pronounced in Canadian English. (The first is a quotation from actor Goran Višnjić, the second from author Donna J. Haraway)

0.5 deduction per segment error

1 point deduction from 20 for missing [brackets]

I don't want to lose my accent, I just want it to become smaller.

[aɪ doʊnt want tu luz maɪ æksent aɪ dʒʌst want it tu bɪk^hʌm smələ]
tə bɪk^hʌm
wanrə wanrɪt bæk^hʌm
wanə

Grammar is politics by other means.

[gɹæməɪz p^hələtɪks baɪ ʌðə mi:nz]
p^həlɪt^hɪks

Part B (4 points)

The following is a phonetic transcription of a quotation from author Ursula K. LeGuin. Provide a standard English spelling of the sentence.

1 point deduction per content word error, 0.5 per function word error

[fɔɪ ə wɜːd tə bi spoukŋ ðeɪ mʌst bi saɪləns bəfɔɪ ænd æftə]

For a word to be spoken there must be silence before and after.

Part C: For the following questions, mark all your answers by filling the bubbles on the Scantron sheet. Answers on this sheet will NOT be marked.

(1 point each for a total of 20)

1. The ability to produce and comprehend an infinite number of novel sentences that we have never spoken or heard before is called:

- ① spontaneity
- ② mental grammar
- ③ polyglotism

④ generativity

2. What IPA symbol represents a mid back unrounded lax vowel?

- ① [ɔ]
- ② [ɛ]
- ③ [ɜ]

④ [ʌ]

3. What is the IPA's articulatory description for the sound represented by the symbol [æ]?

- ① high front rounded tense vowel
- ② low front unrounded lax vowel
- ③ low back unrounded tense vowel
- ④ mid central unrounded lax vowel

4. What is the IPA's articulatory description for the sound represented by the symbol [ŋ]?

- ① alveolar nasal
- ② nasal sonorant

③ velar nasal

- ④ uvular nasal

5. When the articulators approach each other but still allow air to flow smoothly, the resulting sound is called:

① a flap

② a fricative

③ an affricate

④ an approximant

⑤ a diphthong

6. What IPA symbol represents a voiceless postalveolar fricative?

① [f]

② [s]

③ [ʃ]

④ [θ]

7. Which of the following shows the correct syllabification for the word *distasteful*?

① [dɪ . ster . stfʊl]

② [dɪs . teɪ . stfʊl]

③ [dɪs . teɪst . fʊl]

④ [dɪ . steɪst . fʊl]

8. In the standard Canadian English pronunciation of the word *important*, which syllable has primary stress?

① the first syllable

② the second syllable

③ the third syllable

9. Which of the following is the correct IPA transcription for the Canadian English pronunciation of the word *car*?

① [kær]

② [k^hɑr]

③ [k^hɑɪ]

④ [kaɪ]

10. In phonetics, the word *phonation* refers to:

① air flowing out of the lungs.

② the activity of the vocal folds.

③ the lips, tongue and teeth modifying airflow.

④ the glottis closing to block off air flow.

11. When linguists say that every language has a grammar, what do they mean?

① All humans have unconscious knowledge about the principles of the languages they speak.

② All proper languages have textbooks and dictionaries.

③ All languages have rules that speakers should follow correctly.

④ All languages should have equal social prestige.

12. The sound represented by the IPA symbol [ʃ] is produced by:

① Bringing the tip of the tongue between the teeth and allowing air to flow turbulently past the tongue.

② Blocking airflow with the lips at the teeth then releasing it with a burst of air pressure.

③ Rapidly vibrating the lips while air passes freely between the vocal folds.

④ Bringing the body of the tongue towards the soft palate while vibrating the vocal folds.

13. When linguists say that a word or sentence is *ungrammatical*, what do they mean?
- ① It's okay to say that word or sentence, even if your high school teachers think it's wrong.
 - ② Only people who speak low-status varieties would use that word or sentence.
 - ③ The mental grammar of fluent speakers of the language does not generate that word or sentence.
14. In which of the following words would the [ɹ] sound be likeliest to be pronounced as a syllabic [ɹ̥]?
- ① always
 - ② lollipop
 - ③ typical
 - ④ illustrate
15. What body part provides the energy that powers the speech signal?
- ① the lungs
 - ② the vocal folds
 - ③ the larynx
 - ④ the tongue
16. What is the IPA's articulatory description for the sound represented by the symbol [w]?
- ① voiced labial glide
 - ② voiced palatal liquid
 - ③ voiced bilabial sonorant
 - ④ voiced labial-velar approximant

17. Which of the following is the correct IPA transcription for the Canadian English pronunciation of the word *tongue*?

① [tɒŋ]

② [t^hʌŋ]

③ [t^həŋg]

④ [tʊŋg]

18. In the standard Canadian English pronunciation of the word *technology*, which syllable has primary stress?

① the first syllable

② the second syllable

③ the third syllable

④ the fourth syllable

19. Which of the following is an example of *inaccessible* knowledge?

① how to balance your weight on one leg at a time when you climb stairs

② how to log in to Avenue or Mosaic

③ how to bake your grandmother's famous chocolate babka

20. Which of the following shows the correct syllabification for the word *masculine*?

① [mæ . skjə . lən]

② [mæs . kjə . lən]

③ [mæsk . jə . lən]

④ [mæsk . jəl . ən]