

Subject: Elective English

Paper Name: History of English Language and Phonetics

Paper No: II (ENG/II/EC/2)

Semester: II

Unit I

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which theory of language origin is developed by Wilhelm Wundt and Sir Richard Paget?
 - a) The pooh-pooh theory
 - b) The gesture theory**
 - c) The ding-dong theory
 - d) Onomatopoeia

2. The _____ theory suggests that speech originates from man's attempt to imitate the characteristic sound of the creature/object he is referring to
 - a) Bow-wow theory**
 - b) Ding-dong theory
 - c) Pooh-pooh theory
 - d) Gesture theory

3. Which theory holds that man's earliest speech was produced by an attempt to imitate the sounds of creatures or objects he was referring?
 - a) Bow wow theory**
 - b) Ding dong theory
 - c) Pooh-pooh theory
 - d) Gesture theory

4. What is the other name for Primitive Germanic?
 - a) Esperanto
 - b) Teutonic**
 - c) Italic
 - d) Gothic

5. Which of the four dialects became the most dominant in the Old English period?
 - a) Northumbrian
 - b) Mercian
 - c) Wessex**
 - d) Kentish

6. The four chief aspects of any language are –
- a) Grammar, Spelling, Vocabulary, and Idioms
 - b) Spelling, Vocabulary, Pronunciation, and Grammar**
 - c) Grammar, Syntax, Vocabulary, and Spelling
 - d) Grammar, Spelling, Syntax, Idioms
7. The Authorised Version/ King James Version of the Bible came out in
- a) 1604
 - b) 1640
 - c) 1611**
 - d) 1620
8. The modern grammatical system had come into existence by the end of the ____ century.
- a) Fifteenth
 - b) Sixteenth
 - c) Seventeenth**
 - d) Eighteenth
9. The Norman Conquest of England was in the year
- a) 1660
 - b) 1066**
 - c) 1166
 - d) 1661
10. Which dialect became the standard of Old English?
- a) West Saxon**
 - b) Kentish
 - c) Celtic
 - d) Yorkshire
11. The Scandinavians and Norsemen who settled in England spoke what language?
- a) Old English
 - b) Old Norse**
 - c) Danish
 - d) Swedish
12. After the Norman Conquest, which language became the language of courts and government?
- a) Latin
 - b) Old English
 - c) Norse
 - d) French**

13. Who was the famous Old English writer who wrote *Canterbury Tales*?
- a) John Lydgate
 - b) John Wyclif
 - c) Geoffrey Chaucer**
 - d) John Babour
14. What was said to be the theory that came from automatic human responses to pain, fear, surprise, laugh etc
- a) Ding-dong Theory
 - b) Pooh-Pooh Theory**
 - c) The Ta-ta Theory
 - d) Bow-wow Theory
15. Which dialect attained prominence during the middle English period
- a) West Saxon
 - b) East Midland**
 - c) Northern England
 - d) East Saxon
16. Language is a social phenomenon
- a) True**
 - b) False
 - c) both (a) and (b)
 - d) none of the above
17. Max Muller ,German Philologist is associated with
- a) Bow -wow theory**
 - b) Gesture theory
 - c) Ding-Dong theory
 - d) Pooh-Pooh theory
18. Anglo-Saxon is otherwise called as
- a) New English
 - b) British English
 - c) Old English**
 - d) Middle English
19. Renaissance reached England about the year
- a) 1300
 - b) 1400
 - c) 1500**
 - d) 1700

20. _____ of the English language distinguish three main stages in its development
- a) **Historians**
 - b) Europeans
 - c) Philosopher
 - d) Foreigners
21. The Indo-European language was spoken around the area of
- a) The Baltic Sea
 - b) The Dead Sea
 - c) **The Black Sea**
 - d) The Mediterranean Sea
22. The original language of Britain was
- a) **Celtic**
 - b) Anglo-Saxon
 - c) Norman
 - d) Latin
23. The most important dialect during the Old English period was:
- a) Welsh
 - b) **Wessex**
 - c) Kentish
 - d) Mercian
24. The Latin influence in Old English period was mainly due to:
- a) The Renaissance
 - b) The Norman Conquest
 - c) **Roman occupation**
 - d) All of the above
25. The Norman Conquest of England began with the rule of:
- a) Alfred the Great
 - b) **William of Normandy**
 - c) Edward the Confessor
 - d) Richard the Lionheart
26. In 1453, _____, the seat of European learning fell to the Turks.
- a) Rome
 - b) **Constantinople**
 - c) London
 - d) Athens

27. The Renaissance and the coming of the printed book tended to set and standardize __
- a) Grammar
 - b) Vocabulary
 - c) **Spelling**
 - d) Pronunciation
28. Italian words also begin to make their appearance in English, especially in connection with music and the arts during the __
- a) Old English period
 - b) Middle English period
 - c) **Renaissance**
 - d) Modern period
29. Name the two languages spoken side by side during the Middle English period.
- a) **English and Norman- French**
 - b) English and Celtic
 - c) English and Latin
 - d) English and Scandinavian
30. The most important dialect used during the Old English period is
- a) Celtic
 - b) **East Midland**
 - c) Wessex
 - d) Anglo- Saxon
31. This theory traces all forms of speech utterance back to emotional interjections evoked by pain, surprise, pleasure, wonder etc.
- a) The bow- wow theory
 - b) The ding- dong theory
 - c) **The pooh- pooh theory**
 - d) The gesture theory
32. We must realize that language is __.
- a) Static
 - b) Fixed
 - c) Unvarying
 - d) **Evolutionary**
33. The best designation given to the parent language is
- a) Aryan
 - b) Indo- Germanic
 - c) **Indo- European**
 - d) Primitive Germanic

34. It is believed that the original Indo-European has split up into __ distinct language groups.
- a) Five
 - b) Six
 - c) Seven
 - d) Eight**
35. Primitive Germanic split ultimately into three important branches which are;
- a) Gothic, Scandinavian and West Germanic**
 - b) Gothic, Celtic and Albanian
 - c) Spanish, Rumanian and Portuguese
 - d) Swedish, Danish and Icelandic
36. The Anglo Saxon belongs to the _____ branch of the Indo European languages.
- a) Easter Sanskrit
 - b) Celtic
 - c) Primitive Germanic**
 - d) Romanic
37. The modern day ‘sister’ comes from _____
- a) Old English ‘*sweostor*’
 - b) Norse ‘*syster*’**
 - c) Norse ‘*storr*’
 - d) The Sanskrit ‘*sita*’
38. In the year _____, English replaced French as the language of the law courts.
- a) 1385
 - b) 1372
 - c) 1362**
 - d) 1331
39. In the year, _____, the seat of the European learning, Constantinople, fell into the hands of the Turks.
- a) 1643
 - b) 1453**
 - c) 1673
 - d) 1667
40. Who established the beginnings of the modern English legal system?
- a) The Normans**
 - b) The French
 - c) The Scandinavians
 - d) The Germans

Unit II

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The word ‘exam’ is an example of the growth of vocabulary by –
 - a) Telescoping
 - b) Back-formation
 - c) Abbreviation**
 - d) Acquisition

2. Which of the following word is a Portmanteau word?
 - a) Nickname
 - b) Electrocute**
 - c) Enthusiasm
 - d) Convivial

3. The word ‘boycott’ originates from _____
 - a) A popular boy-scout anthem
 - b) Workers on strike in colonial cotton fields
 - c) An unpopular captain named Boycott**
 - d) A German origin word

4. A term which at one time had a specialized and restricted meaning comes, in course of time, to have a wider application, is said to have undergone _____
 - a) Specialisation
 - b) Generalisation**
 - c) Polarisation
 - d) Modification

5. The term ‘idiom’ derived from Greek, means _____
 - a) Standing apart on its own**
 - b) The words of the wise
 - c) Having a great idea
 - d) A state of being

6. Which of the following word is an example of imitation/onomatopoeia?
 - a) Giggle**
 - b) Meddle
 - c) Cradle
 - d) Cuddle

7. The formation of the word ‘lunch’ from the words ‘lump and hump’ is an example of –
a) Telescoping
b) Portmanteau Words
c) Addition of Prefix/Suffix
d) Acquisition
8. Euphemism refers to –
a) Political Correctness
b) A figure of speech designed to conceal something repugnant or unpleasant
c) Usage of a double metaphor
d) Joining two words together to form a new word
9. Which famous English poet is deeply involved in the movement towards a ‘purer’ English?
a) Matthew Arnold
b) John Keats
c) Lord Alfred Tennyson
d) Samuel Johnson
10. The academic word ‘radius’ has been incorporated into the English language from –
a) Latin
b) Arabic
c) Celtic
d) German
11. Before 1756 the type of language we now call slang was designated as
a) Portmanteau
b) Cant
c) Camouflage
d) Balderdash
12. A figure of speech by which one seeks to hide the real nature of something unpleasant or repugnant
by giving it a less offensive name is
a) Polarisation
b) Extension
c) Specialisation
d) Euphemism

13. Homonyms are
- a) **Words which are spelt and pronounced the same but which differ in meaning.**
 - b) Words with a religious or political significance
 - c) Words which undergo a change in meaning through specialisation
 - d) Metaphorical expressions in English vocabulary.
14. The study of the historical evolution of the meaning of words is called
- a) Semiotics
 - b) Phonetics
 - c) Articulation
 - d) Semantics**
15. Romance languages are languages that are derived from
- a) Latin**
 - b) French
 - c) Germanic
 - d) Scandinavian
16. Words like *alter*, *clerk*, and *monk* are influences of which language?
- a) French
 - b) Germanic
 - c) Latin**
 - d) Spanish
17. What are ‘loan words?’
- a) Words which are borrowed and then given back
 - b) Words which have been adopted from other languages**
 - c) Words which have no meaning in different languages
 - d) None of the above
18. ‘Kindergarten’ is an English loan word from which language?
- a) Latin
 - b) German**
 - c) Norse
 - d) Italian
19. The Romance languages which English adopted came from which language family
- a) Indo-European**
 - b) Germanic
 - c) Celtic
 - d) Baltic

20. The Roman settlement in England brought with it what religion that continued to have long influence on the English language?
- a) Islam
 - b) Zoroastrianism
 - c) Hinduism
 - d) Christianity**
21. Which of these words is based on the phenomena, ‘Onomatopoeia’?
- a) Cuckoo**
 - b) Book
 - c) Door
 - d) Blackboard
22. Which of these people receives language as a means to interpret human experience?
- a) Anthropologist
 - b) Sociologist
 - c) Philosopher**
 - d) Students of literature
23. Before the term ‘slang’ came to general use, such type of language was called
- a) jargon
 - b) hackney
 - c) cant**
 - d) none of the above
24. Which of these is the study of meaning of word, and the development of the meaning of words
- a) Morphemics
 - b) Phonetics
 - c) Semantics**
 - d) Syntax
25. When part of one word is combined with part of another in order to form a new word, it is called
- a) freak formation
 - b) Syncopation
 - c) portmanteau words**
 - d) false etymology
26. When a new meaning is given to an old word, with the old word meaning remaining intact, it is called
- a) specialization
 - b) generalization**
 - c) extension
 - d) none of the above

27. A word which is formed in imitation of the sound it makes is called
- a) acronym
 - b) metaphor
 - c) onomatopoeia**
 - d) personification
28. The ancient method of word formation, which can be found in almost any language is:
- a) Abbreviation
 - b) Corruption and misunderstanding
 - c) Abbreviation
 - d) Addition of prefixes and suffixes**
29. Formation of a new word when one part of one word is combined with part of another is called:
- a) Syncopation
 - b) Telescoping
 - c) Abbreviation
 - d) Portmanteau words**
30. The word ‘box’ is an example of:
- a) Specialization**
 - b) Generalisation
 - c) Extension
 - d) Association of ideas
31. The real meaning of the word ‘traffic’ is:
- a) Vehicle
 - b) Policeman
 - c) Road
 - d) Trade**
32. The word ‘Christian’ was originally a term of :
- a) Pride
 - b) Endearment
 - c) Derision**
 - d) Euphemism
33. One of the most influential factors for the emergence of Standard English is:
- a) The Renaissance
 - b) Loan words
 - c) The invention of printing**
 - d) The publication of Johnson’s Dictionary

34. The word idiom, which is Greek in origin means:
- a) Nonsensical
 - b) Standing apart on its own**
 - c) Funny
 - d) Difficult to understand
35. Davy Jones' locker is a metaphor connected with:
- a) The sea**
 - b) The army and warfare
 - c) Superstitions
 - d) Sports and pastimes
36. The great influx of Latin in English is mainly due to:
- a) The Roman occupation of Britain
 - b) The early Christian missionaries
 - c) The invention of printing
 - d) The Renaissance**
37. The word ‘bungalow’ is of _____ origin.
- a) Indian**
 - b) Arabic
 - c) American
 - d) Portuguese
38. The American influence upon British English was seen most after:
- a) World War I
 - b) World War II**
 - c) The Vietnam War
 - d) The Gulf War
39. The most important foreign contributions in English have come from__.
- a) Latin, Celtic and Italian
 - b) Latin, French and Scandinavian**
 - c) Latin, French and Italian
 - d) Latin, Spanish and German
40. The term for words which have been adopted from foreign tongues is ____.
- a) Foreign words
 - b) Onomatopoeia
 - c) Loan words**
 - d) Polarization

UNIT V

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Adjectives in all degrees of comparison have the accent in the
 - a) **first syllable**
 - b) second syllable
 - c) third syllable
 - d) both a and b
2. The quality of sounds that makes it possible to judge their “highness” or “lowness” is
 - a) Tone
 - b) Pitch**
 - c) Musical
 - d) Loudness
3. The phonetic transcription of ‘coin’ is
 - a) /kɔrn/
 - b) /kɔɪn/**
 - c) /koor/
 - d) none of the above
4. The phonetic transcription of ‘pound’ is
 - a) /paʊnd/**
 - b) /paʊns/
 - c) /paʊd/
 - d) /pɔ:nd/
5. The word *subject* with a stress on the first syllable is a/an
 - a) Verb
 - b) Preposition
 - c) Noun**
 - d) Adjective

6. Phonemic transcription is also called
- narrow transcription
 - broad transcription**
 - simple transcription
 - close transcription
7. The correct placement of stress in the words conduct (N), conduct (V) and conflict (N), conflict (V) are
- 'conduct (N), con'duct (V) and 'conflict (N), con'flict (V)
 - con'duct (N), 'conduct (V) and con'flict (N), 'conflict (V)
 - con'duct (N), con'duct (V) and 'conflict (N), con'flict (V)
 - none of the above
8. The phonemic transcriptions of ‘colour’, ‘water’ and ‘singer’ are
- /kʌlə/, /wɔ:tə/, /sɪŋə/
 - /kalə/, /wɔ:tə/, /si:ŋə/
 - /kʌlər/, /wɔ:ta:/, /ʃɪŋə/
 - /kalər/, /wa:tə/, /sɪŋə/
9. The correct transcription for the word ‘rejoice’ would be
- /ri:jɔɪs/
 - /ri:dʒɔɪs/
 - /rɪ 'dʒɔɪs/**
 - /rɪ 'dʒɔɪz/
10. When words with the same stem do not keep the primary stress on the same syllable, it is known as
- secondary stress
 - stressed syllable
 - stress-shift**
 - unstressed syllable
11. When the word ‘accent’ is accented on the second syllable, it is a
- verb**
 - noun
 - pronoun
 - adjective

12. Accent makes the syllable on which it falls
- a) Change
 - b) Weak
 - c) Vibrate
 - d) Prominent**
13. Accent or stress is important in English because it affects
- a) Form
 - b) Meaning
 - c) Both form and meaning**
 - d) None of the above
14. _____ is the name given to the process, seen most clearly in the principal part of verbs, which by vowel sounds undergo a change according to whether they occur in a stressed or unstressed syllable.
- b) Gradation**
 - c) i-mutation
 - d) Primitive Germanic Consonant Shift.
 - e) Stress modification
15. What is the correct transcription for the word ‘accident’?
- a. /eksident/
 - b. /æksidænt/
 - c. /æksidənt/**
 - d. /aksident/
16. A vowel which remains constant and does not glide is called a _____
- a) triphthong
 - b) diphthong
 - c) pure vowel**
 - d) semi-vowel
17. _____ are located on the right hand side of each vowel pair of the IPA vowel Quadrilateral.
- a) Unrounded vowels
 - b) Rounded vowels**
 - c) Diphthongs.
 - d) Monothongs
18. The descriptive label for the vowel [a] is
- a) unrounded open front vowel**
 - b) rounded open back vowel
 - c) unrounded close front vowel
 - d) rounded close front vowel

19. When there are two or more consonants occurring together in a word, they are called _____
- a) **consonant clusters**
 - b) group consonants
 - c) initial consonants.
 - d) Consonant variation
20. For the production of speech sounds we need
- a) Air stream mechanism
 - b) Organs of speech**
 - c) Lung air
 - d) Articulation
21. How many distinctive speech sounds or phonemes are there in English (Received Pronunciation of England or RP English)?
- a) 42
 - b) 44**
 - c) 46
 - d) 48
22. All English sounds are produced with
- a) velaric air-stream
 - b) ingressive glottallic air-stream
 - c) pulmonic egressive air-stream**
 - d) none of the above
23. Which of these terms refers to the study of speech sounds of a given language and their function within the sound system of that language?
- a) Phonetics
 - b) Phonology**
 - c) Syntax
 - d) Morphology
24. Phoneme means the _____ unit in the sound system of a language.
- a) stressed
 - b) smallest**
 - c) longest
 - d) most prominent

25. The English phonology has
- a) 44 consonants & 20 vowels
 - b) 34 consonants & 20 vowels
 - c) 20 consonants & 24 vowels
 - d) 24 consonants & 20 vowels**
26. What kind of air-stream mechanism does the English language use?
- a) Pulmonic ingressive
 - b) Pulmonic egressive**
 - c) Glottallic ingressive
 - d) Glottallic egressive
27. During the production of speech sounds, when air is made to move out of the lungs we say that there is _____
- a) an egressive pulmonic airstream**
 - b) an ingressive pulmonic airstream
 - c) subglottal pressure.
 - d) A laryngo-coccal pressure