

BACHELOR STATE EXAM TOPICS

1. Linguistic subjects

Introduction to Linguistics:

1. Genetic and typological classification of languages with special focus on English.
 - main branches of The Indo-European family of languages
 - morphological division of language types
 - English as a lingua franca
2. A brief history of linguistics; the main concerns in different periods.
 - Classical grammar, Medieval and Renaissance grammar
 - Early grammars of English, Recent grammars of English
 - 20th century: Structural linguistics, Descriptive linguistics, Generative linguistics, Systemic Linguistics
3. The structure of language. Features and functions of language.
 - The levels of structure in language and their linguistic units
 - Features of language, features of linguistic signs
 - Functions of language, concepts of different scholars
4. Language acquisition versus language learning.
 - Difference between children and adult learning the language
 - First language learning, second language learning, First language acquisition, second language acquisition
 - The complexity of language in the learning process

Phonology and phonetics:

1. English phonology versus English Phonetics – two fields of study
 - The system of Language sounds, the phoneme, phone, allophones
 - Symbols and transcription
 - Received pronunciation, other pronunciation variants of English
2. Segmental phonology
 - English vowels, diphthongs, triphthongs
 - English consonants, place and manner of articulation
 - Voicing and devoicing of consonants
3. Suprasegmental phonology
 - Phonotactics, the structure of English syllables
 - Stress in English words. Stressed-timed language versus syllable-timed language
 - Intonation, tones, tone-unit, functions of Intonation
4. The special character of connected speech and its features (demonstrated on examples)
 - Rhythm
 - Assimilation
 - Elision
 - Linking

Morphology:

1. Word classes a)
 - semantic distinctions underlying the classification
 - types with respect to lexical innovation
 - conversion as a typical feature of English word classes
2. Word classes b)
 - the reference and/or functions of individual word classes
 - semantic subclassification inside word classes
3. Word classes c)
 - grammatical meanings associated with individual word classes
 - related grammatical categories
 - form and meaning
4. Group structures – semantic and syntactic functions of their elements
 - endocentric and exocentric structures
 - syntactic functions of group elements
 - semantic functions of group elements

Syntax:

1. The simple clause
 - syntactic description
 - mood structures
2. Elements of clause structure
 - syntactic features of clausal elements
 - semantic functions of clausal elements
 - their realisations by linguistic units
3. The clause complex –
 - syntactic relationships between clauses in a clause complex
 - semantic relationships between clauses in a clause complex
 - conjunctive elements
4. Dependent clauses – semantic types,
 - semantic types of dependent clauses
 - specific morpho-syntactic features of projected, relative, temporal, and conditional clauses

Lexicology and Semantics:

1. Theories of lexical meaning
 - referential theory
 - formal theory
 - functional theory
2. Semantic categorization

- semantic features
 - prototypes
 - network structures
3. Cognitive semantics
 - Lexicalization and grammaticalization
 - conceptual metaphor
 - spatial language and iconicity
 4. Lexical processes
 - Mental lexical representations and lexical processing
 - lexical change
 - collocability

2. British and American Cultural Studies and Literary Topics

1. Medieval English society and culture. Characteristic features and genres of Anglo-Saxon and medieval literature. The Age of Chaucer.

2. The Period of the English Renaissance. Shakespeare and his contemporaries. English Renaissance poetry.

3. English life and culture in the 17th and 18th century. Roots of the novel.

4. The historical, social and cultural background of Romanticism. Aesthetics and poetics of Romanticism. Main representatives of British Romanticism.

5. The economic, political and social conditions of the Victorian period (1837-1901) and their impact on Victorian literature (poetry and prose and drama).

6. The colonial and postcolonial periods in British history. Multiculturalism in British literature: representatives, topics, the greatest literary achievements.

7. The changing role of women in Great Britain from the 19th century to the present day. Female and/or feminist writings in contemporary British literature.

8. The cultural development of Great Britain between 1900 and 1930, the most important events and their impact on literature. Modernism in fiction, the Great War poetry, Irish writing.

9. British society between 1940-2000 and its reflection in the development of modern British novel and poetry. Themes: tradition and experiment, postmodern poetry/fiction.

10. British culture in the first half of the 20th century. 20th century drama from Shaw to contemporary dramatic achievements. Theatre as form and function of cultural expression in Britain.

11. Cultural changes that led to the development of children's literature in Britain. The changes children's literature in English has gone through from its early stages to the present day. The factors which have contributed to the changes.

12. The period of Puritanism and its reflection in American literature.

13. The Age of Reason in American history, culture, and literature. American Independence reflected in literature.

14. Cultural and economic development that led to American Romanticism in poetry and fiction. New England Transcendentalism: representatives, important issues.

15. The history of slavery, segregation, and civil rights in America. African American fiction: representatives, themes.

16. Economic and sociopolitical changes in the USA on the turn of the 20th century. Realism and Naturalism reflecting the period in literature.

17. Native American experience. Native American cultures, American colonial history in relation to Indigenous peoples. Native American literature.

18. Immigration experience. Minorities in the U.S.A. The 20th century multiethnic writing.

19. America in wars in the 19th – 20th centuries. The theme of war in American literature.

20. America in the 20th century and the cultural influence of the USA in the world today. Postmodern fiction, contemporary literature.

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- NOTE: The reading list can be structured according to these questions/topics; it should also include critical literature covering the fields of British and American Cultural Studies and British and American literature