

Section A - Sample Short Questions

(All the short questions are **obligatory**, in other words, there is **no choice** in Section A; **each** short question will be worth **10 marks**; **4** short questions will be **set**.)

1. Say whether the following pairs of sentences differ in tonality, tonicity or tone, or possibly in a combination of any of these:

a) You can have ' cheese | ' salad | or ` quiche.
You can have ' cheese ' salad | or ` quiche.

b) Well _v I think | he's a ' great ` guy.
Well ` I think | he's a great ' guy.

c) ' Which _v I think | he's a ' great ` guy.
Which part of England do you come from?
Which part of England do you ` come from?

d) You ` haven't finished your homework.
You ' haven't finished your ` homework.

Briefly explain the difference in meaning between the two interpretations of **two** of the above pairs.

2. Contextualise the following three interpretations of the sentence 'My parents have been to China':

- a) My ` parents have been to China.
- b) My ' parents have been to ` China.
- c) My ` parents | have been to _v China

Identify the different parts of the intonational/phonological phrase in each case using the terms: Pre-head, Head, Nucleus and Tail.

Now, using the appropriate notation as well as contextualisation, give two possible interpretations of the each of the following sentences:

It was a difficult problem
She wants four tickets for Saturday's show

(Final punctuation marks have been purposely omitted in order to allow full freedom of interpretation.)

3. "Although lexical stress in languages can be unpredictable, it is more often than not predictable." Discuss this statement with reference to at least two languages of your choice, illustrating by means of appropriate examples wherever possible.

4. Which of the following pairs are distinct in speech? Annotate the unambiguous examples using appropriate notation.

a) It's all over my friend.

It's all over, my friend.

- b) The Swedes, say the Danes, drink too much.
The Swedes say the Danes drink too much.
- c) What is this thing called love?
What is this thing called, love?
- d) Look at that dog with one eye!
Look at that dog with one eye!

What do examples such as the ones above tell us about the relationship between prosodic features and their encoding in writing?

- 5. "Although lexical stress in languages can be unpredictable, it is more often than not predictable." Discuss this statement with reference to at least two languages of your choice, illustrating by means of appropriate examples wherever possible.

Section B - Sample Long Question

(**One** EITHER/OR/OR question will be set; it carries **20** marks and should be answered in **essay** form using **appropriate and annotated examples** to illustrate wherever possible.)

EITHER

The non-segmental aspects of a language are not **all** considered to have suprasegmental or prosodic status. Outline the difference between the non-segmental aspects distinguished by Couper-Kuhlen, i.e. a) non-linguistic; b) para-linguistic; and c) prosodic components in speech. In what way/s do prosodic (unlike para-linguistic and non-linguistic) features contribute to linguistic meaning? Illustrate your answer using examples from a language or languages of your choice.

OR

To what extent can the suprasegmental features of pitch, length and loudness be said to be independent of each other? Illustrate using examples wherever appropriate.

OR

Intonation refers to the use of *suprasegmental* phonetic features to convey *sentence-level* meanings in a *linguistically structured* way." (Ladd 1996:6). Discuss illustrating by means of examples from a language or languages of your choice.