

BA PROGRAMME - STATE EXAM TOPICS

LINGUISTICS

Phonetics and Phonology

1. Phonetics: Articulatory phonetics; the articulators; production of speech sounds; vowels and consonants; phonetic description of all English vowels and consonants (voice, place and manner of articulation), the IPA.
2. Segmental Phonology: definition of a phoneme (and an allophone); minimal pairs; systematic examination of each of the 44 phonemes of English
 - a. the 12 monophthongs of English (7 short and 5 long vowels),
the 8 diphthongs
the 5 triphthongs
 - b. the 22 consonants of English
3. Voicing and aspiration - their importance for Czechs; pronunciation of final letter *-s* in plurals and *-ed* in simple past tense of regular verbs
4. Word stress: its significance; stress patterns
5. Suprasegmental Phonology:
 - a. Economy of articulatory effort, progressive and regressive assimilation of voice, elision, liaison (in particular, avoiding the glottal stop before words beginning with vowels)
 - b. schwa; weak and strong forms; sentence stress, stress-timed rhythm
 - c. forms and functions of intonation, pitch range
6. Phonology and orthography: rules and patterns, silent letters, homophones
7. Phonological difficulties for Czech native speakers of English (L1 interference)
8. Accents of English. American and British English

Morphology

1. Countable and uncountable nouns: the formation of plural, nouns always uncountable, partitives, nouns used both as countable and uncountable
2. Nouns - gender, the genitive
3. Articles – the form and the basic rules for their use with countable and uncountable nouns, articles with proper nouns
4. Pronouns – personal, demonstrative, reflexive and emphasising, interrogative and relative
5. Quantifiers and numerical expressions
6. Adjectives – formation, position, comparison
7. Adverbs – form and grading, position in a sentence, adverbs with two forms derived from the same adjective
8. Classification and inflection of verbs
9. The form and use of tenses in English
10. Active and passive voice
11. The infinitive and its different forms
12. The infinitive versus *-ing* form

13. Modal verbs
14. Phrasal verbs

Syntax

1. Sentence, clause, sentence/clause elements, word order
2. Statements, questions, commands, exclamations, negation
3. Compound sentence – coordination
4. Complex sentence – subordination
5. Noun clauses – direct, indirect speech, noun clauses after wish, subjunctive, introductory It
6. Relative clauses
7. Adverbial clauses – time, place, reason, condition, concession, purpose, result, comparison
8. Appositive clauses, comment clauses
9. Non-finite clauses – participial constructions, gerund phrases, infinitive phrases, dangling participle, absolute participle construction
10. The complexity of noun phrases
11. Cleft/pseudo cleft sentences
12. Pro-forms
13. Ellipsis
14. Theme – focus, the division of communicative dynamism
15. Scope of negation

In the exam, students will be given a short authentic text. Below the text there will be two tasks from the linguistic disciplines that are studied in the BA programme (phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax). The exam candidates will be asked to identify examples in the text which illustrate a particular linguistic feature.

- ex. 1. Find verbs in the present form which have a future meaning.
2. Find words which contain the seven short vowels of English.

CULTURE

Literary and Cultural Theory

1. The Basics of Poetry: Rhyme, Meter, Tropes (Figures of Speech)
2. Structuralism and the Basics of Narratology (Saussure, Claude-Lévy Strauss, Propp)
3. Psychoanalytical criticism: Freud and Lacan
4. Postcolonial theories (Said, Spivak, Ashcroft)
5. Gender Studies and Queer Studies in Literary and Cultural Criticism (Butler, Cixous, Rich, Wittig)
6. Marxism and cultural theory (Marx, Althusser, Zizek, Macherey)

British Studies

1. British History and Culture before the Tudors (The Celts, the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons, the Normans and Their Art)
2. The Tudors and Renaissance in Britain (History, Life and Culture)

3. The Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries in Britain, the Culture of the Restoration and the Age of Enlightenment (Philosophy, Culture and History)
4. British Romanticism
5. The Victorian Period in Art and History
6. Modernism in Britain: Life and Culture before the Second World War
7. The 50s, the 60s and Beyond: Movements, Changes and their Reflection in British Culture

American Studies

1. The United States up to the American Revolution
2. The United States from the American Revolution to the Civil War
3. The United States from the Civil War to the Progressive Era
4. The United States from the Progressive Era to WWII
5. The United States in the 1950s and 1960s
6. The United States from Woodstock to the fall of the Iron Curtain
7. The United States since the fall of the Iron Curtain

Each question includes the following aspects of the period in question (Society, Economy, Religion, Philosophy, Politics, Art and Culture).

METHODOLOGY OF TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

1. TEFL Methodology – subject matter, key concepts and related disciplines
2. Psychological aspects of ELT – learner variables
3. Lesson planning, aims and objectives, national and school curriculum
4. Teacher's role in the classroom, classroom language and management
5. Materials and aids in ELT
6. Teaching language systems
7. Developing receptive skills
8. Developing productive skills