

## Entrance Examinations 2017

PhD, English Language Studies

(Ph.D Admission - January 2018 Session)

Time: 2 hours

Maximum marks: 80

There are two parts to this question paper--Part A and Part B. Part B is divided into two sections. Answer Part A and Section 1 of Part B (questions 1 to 60) in the OMR sheet and Section 2 of Part B in the answer book provided.

### PART A

#### Research Methods

(40 marks)

Answer the following questions in the OMR sheet.

1. In which type of study is prediction an important goal?
  - A. Cross-sectional quantitative study of the language of apology
  - B. Qualitative study of 20 ELLs on their attitude to English
  - C. Ethnographic study of five German children in India learning Hindi
  - D. Longitudinal study of a child's language acquisition
  
2. Which of the following is a characteristic of quantitative approach?
  - A. It is rather subjective.
  - B. It has broad and complex focus.
  - C. It has concise and narrow focus.
  - D. It is rather interpretive.
  
3. Purposive sampling is synonymous with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. qualitative research
  - B. quantitative research
  - C. mixed-method research
  - D. survey method
  
4. In a study of management styles, if a researcher chooses an organization that did exceptionally well and/or another exceptionally badly, what kind of sampling is being done?
  - A. Deviant case sampling
  - B. Typical case sampling
  - C. Negative case sampling
  - D. Critical case sampling
  
5. Longitudinal studies are vulnerable to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. socio-political changes
  - B. differential selection
  - C. statistical regression
  - D. control group contamination

6. A research study which investigates the effect of portfolio assessment as a learning tool on writing performance of EFL learners is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ study.
- A. critical
  - B. descriptive
  - C. analytical
  - D. predictive
7. Survey method is most likely to be used for \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. needs assessment of a programme
  - B. evaluation of the planning of a programme
  - C. assessment of the process of a programme
  - D. evaluation of the outcomes of a programme
8. Piloting has greater importance in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. quantitative studies
  - B. qualitative studies
  - C. ethnographic studies
  - D. programme evaluation studies
9. Null hypothesis begins with the assumption that the performance of the control group and the experimental group \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. differs largely
  - B. differs minimally
  - C. does not differ
  - D. does differ in certain situations
10. The reason for the inclusion of references in a research study is to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. identify the source of information and ideas discussed in the report
  - B. show respect for the authors
  - C. show your scholarship
  - D. keep a record of everything that you have read in writing the report
11. Hypotheses in research reports are normally justified in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Results chapter
  - B. Discussion chapter
  - C. Introduction chapter
  - D. Literature review chapter
12. The term that dominates the qualitative-quantitative debate is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. pragmatism
  - B. realism
  - C. post-positivism
  - D. positivism
13. Which of the following is true of qualitative research?
- A. Human experience and interaction is too complex to be reduced to variables.
  - B. Qualitative research focuses on numbers and statistics rather than concepts.
  - C. Qualitative researcher may fail to appreciate the characteristics of the day-to-day social world which become irrelevant to their findings.
  - D. The findings of the research are generalized for larger population.

14. Triangulation refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. building the argument in the literature review
  - B. using different methods of data collection for corroboration
  - C. citing the evidence drawn from source text
  - D. the degree of certainty in the claims made
15. Which of the following is **not** a source of qualitative data?
- A. Textbooks
  - B. Experiments
  - C. Reflective journals
  - D. Think-aloud protocols
16. Which of the following is **not** evidence of researcher's voice?
- A. The language of research
  - B. Claims carrying the big picture of the issue
  - C. The order imposed on the evidence drawn from literature
  - D. Textual borrowings in the form of quotations
17. Which of the following is **not true** of the research hypothesis?
- A. It is most often found in experimental and quasi-experimental studies
  - B. It provides a suggested response or expected outcome to the problem described in the problem statement
  - C. It is a hunch that the researcher and the participants have about the existence of relationships between the variables used
  - D. It is often couched in language of prediction, which sounds as if the author is making a bet with the reader
18. ERIC stands for \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Educational Research Integrating Centre
  - B. Educational Resources Information Centre
  - C. Educational Reviews Index Centre
  - D. English Research Index Centre
19. Which of the following is **not** a feature of an annotated bibliography?
- A. It usually figures in a research proposal.
  - B. It is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents.
  - C. It is a brief descriptive and evaluative paragraph.
  - D. It informs the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of sources cited.
20. In research study, the researcher, initially, has some key participants and later these participants are asked to recruit other participants for the same study. This is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. snowball sampling
  - B. convenience sampling
  - C. opportunistic sampling
  - D. critical case sampling

21. Which of the following is **not true** of 'stimulated recall'?
- A. It is a type of introspective research procedure.
  - B. This research tool is used to investigate cognitive processes.
  - C. It uses video and audio recordings of the participants in action.
  - D. These recordings are replayed to the participants to make them understand their language errors.
22. *Instruction in certain reading comprehension strategies is hypothesised to result in fewer errors of comprehension and/or better acquisition of vocabulary.*  
The hypothesis above is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. positive hypothesis
  - B. directional hypothesis
  - C. null hypothesis
  - D. non-directional hypothesis
23. Which of the following determines what data is best for your research?
- A. The nature of the participants
  - B. The research question
  - C. The researcher's personal preferences
  - D. The supervisor's advice
24. Identify the correct sequence of the sections in a research report.
- A. Abstract-Title page-Title-Introduction-Method-Results-Conclusion-Discussion-References-Appendices
  - B. Title page-Title-Abstract-Introduction-Method-Results-Discussion-Conclusion-References-Appendices
  - C. Title page-Abstract-Title-Introduction-Method-Results-Discussion-Conclusion-References-Appendices
  - D. Title page-Abstract-Title-Introduction-Method-Results-Discussion-Conclusion-Appendices-References
25. A confounding variable is \_\_\_\_\_ in a research study.
- A. an anticipated variable unaccounted for
  - B. an unanticipated variable which does not change any other variable
  - C. an anticipated and accounted for
  - D. an unanticipated and unaccounted for variable
26. Focus group interviews are **not** \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. interview surveys
  - B. unstructured
  - C. done in small groups
  - D. ones that use open ended questions
27. We can say that a test has validity if \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the results are the same every time the test is administered to the same set of people
  - B. it produces the same result whether the first half or the second half of the test is used
  - C. it measures exactly what it is supposed to measure
  - D. all the questions are answered correctly by the test-taker

28. In qualitative research, data gathered is **not** \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. in controlled settings
  - B. gathered through concentrated contact over time
  - C. verbal data
  - D. meant to analyse, compare and contrast the patterns

Given below is an excerpt from the Methods section of a research paper titled, "Creative Writing Assignments in a Second Language course: A Way to Engage Less Motivated Students".

Read it carefully and answer questions 31 and 32.

<sup>1</sup>The study was conducted with the IRB approval. <sup>2</sup>The creative writing assignments constituted a required part of the advanced-level ESL writing course content.

<sup>3</sup>However, this article utilized the writing excerpts of students who agreed to participate in the research. <sup>4</sup>In order to protect research participants' privacy, the participants' names were not disclosed.

29. What is the information element in Sentence 3?
- A. Sample
  - B. Sampling technique
  - C. Method
  - D. Materials
30. Which of the sentence (s) in the given text relate(s) to ethics in research?
- A. Only S1
  - B. Only S2
  - C. Both S1 and S2
  - D. Both S1 and S4
31. Providing 'thick description' is the main goal of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. quantitative research
  - B. ethnographic research
  - C. survey research
  - D. co-relational research
32. Which of the following is incorrect in relation to qualitative research?
- A. It is interpretive.
  - B. It is subjective.
  - C. It is exploratory.
  - D. It is reductionist.
33. Which of the following is **not** a purpose of mixed methods research?
- A. To achieve a complete understanding of a target phenomenon.
  - B. To verify one set of findings against the other.
  - C. To collect data on a single perspective
  - D. To corroborate the findings through triangulation.
34. Verbal protocol refers to data gathered \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. by introspective method of research
  - B. by administering questionnaire
  - C. by maintaining journals
  - D. using Likert scale

35. A researcher, as part of her study, had pre-test and post-test with experimental and control group. The assignment of subjects was not random. This study can be called \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. quasi-experimental
  - B. experimental
  - C. survey research
  - D. case study
36. Operationalization of variables in research is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. selecting the variables
  - B. controlling unwanted variables
  - C. defining the variables
  - D. operating the variables in an intelligent way
37. Central tendency and dispersion are characteristic of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. normal distribution
  - B. skewed distribution
  - C. peaked distribution
  - D. marginal distribution
38. Before beginning to do any research, doing an exhaustive literature survey relevant to the research would facilitate in formulating:
- i. Research questions
  - ii. Research hypotheses
  - iii. Analyses of research results
  - iv. Statistical predictions
- A. i and ii only
  - B. ii and iii only
  - C. iii and iv only
  - D. i and iv only
39. Participant mortality, maturation, social desirability bias, and practice effect are threats to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. validity
  - B. reliability
  - C. feasibility
  - D. fairness
40. An English teacher of class VIII notices that her students are not motivated to learn English. She wants to check if using technology enhances their motivational levels and conducts a study with them. The study is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. historical study
  - B. pilot study
  - C. action research
  - D. ethnographic research

**PART B**  
**SECTION 1**  
**Content Questions**  
**(20 marks)**

Answer the following questions in the OMR sheet.

41. Who among the following is **not** associated with the theories of language learning?
- A. Stephen Krashen
  - B. Lev Vygotsky
  - C. Noam Chomsky
  - D. N.S. Prabhu
42. The first argument for English Language education in India was prepared by\_\_\_\_\_.
- A. T.B. Macaulay
  - B. Wilberforce
  - C. Charles Grant
  - D. Lord Bentinck
43. Linguistic relativism does **not** suggest that\_\_\_\_\_.
- A. people who speak different languages think differently
  - B. language structure is dependent on the thinking of the speakers
  - C. semantics of the language affects the way speakers perceive the world
  - D. language is a tool to disambiguate the complex reality around
44. Critical Discourse Analysis aims at\_\_\_\_\_.
- A. impacting social change
  - B. analysing language structure
  - C. examining style of discourse.
  - D. articulating discursive practices
45. Which of the following is **not** a branch of Semiotics?
- A. Pragmatics
  - B. Semantics
  - C. Syntax
  - D. Phonology
46. In the field of syllabus design, "Necessities, Lacks and Wants" form part of\_\_\_\_\_.
- A. needs analysis
  - B. environmental analysis
  - C. format and presentation
  - D. content and sequencing

47. According to Ferdinand de Saussure, the signifier and the signified are \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the word and the meaning
  - B. the word and its perception
  - C. the sound image and its perception
  - D. the sound image and its meaning
48. Task-based learning believes that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. grammar learning should be subconscious
  - B. grammar learning should be automatic
  - C. grammar learning should be camouflaged
  - D. grammar learning should be gradual
49. Mother-tongue based multilingual education believes in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. linguistic ecology
  - B. linguistic equality
  - C. linguistic imperialism
  - D. linguistic relativism
50. The feature analysis [+ sonorant, + continuant] will apply to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. approximants
  - B. fricatives
  - C. plosives
  - D. nasal stops
51. Which of the following is **not** a test quality?
- A. Reliability
  - B. Validity
  - C. Practicality
  - D. Uniformity
52. "The grammar-translation method of teaching is a process-based approach." Which of the following applies to this statement?
- A. It is true.
  - B. It is false.
  - C. It is partially true.
  - D. It cannot be determined whether it is true or false.
53. A \_\_\_\_\_ test that helps to identify the language needs of the students on a programme.
- A. prognostic
  - B. diagnostic
  - C. achievement
  - D. aptitude

54. In a \_\_\_\_\_ lesson the focus is on the completion of a set of activities and the language studied is determined by what happens as the students complete them.
- task-based
  - grammar-translation
  - TPR
  - direct
55. The phenomenon of pronouncing /θ/as /f/ in Estuary English and some other varieties is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- fricativisation
  - th-fronting
  - voiceless cohesion
  - phoneme shift
56. Which of the following is the correct bracketing?
- [The child [who was sleeping was carried carefully by her mother]].
  - [[The child who was sleeping] [was carried carefully by her mother]].
  - [The child [who was sleeping] was carried carefully]] [by her mother]].
  - [The child [who was sleeping was carried] [carefully by her mother]].
57. Which of the following syntactic structures are related?
- Mary has bought Chetan Bhagat's book.*
  - Has Mary bought Chetan Bhagat's book?*
  - Did Mary buy Chetan Bhagat's book?*
  - Which book did Mary buy?*
- i and ii.
  - i and iii.
  - i, ii and iii.
  - i, ii, iii and iv.
58. The following set exemplifies a relationship of \_\_\_\_\_.
- rodent: rat, squirrel, hamster*
- polysemy
  - hyponymy
  - synonymy
  - metonymy
59. Which of Gricean maxims is flouted in the following?
- Student 1: Where are you going?*
- Student 2: The post office is round the corner.*
- Quantity
  - Quality
  - Relevance
  - Manner
60. Attitudes to language refer to \_\_\_\_\_.
- negative feelings about varieties
  - behavioural characteristics towards communities
  - evaluative reactions to varieties
  - status associated with varieties

**PART B**  
**SECTION 2**  
**ESSAY QUESTIONS**  
**(20 marks)**

**Write your answer in the separate answer book provided.**

**Write an essay on any one of the following, giving suitable examples wherever necessary.**

1. How do socio-cultural theories of language learning impact teaching-learning methods? Explain with reference to at least two approaches.
2. Is the development of metacognitive awareness important in teacher training programmes? Argue out your stance.
3. What is the role of non-native teachers in ESL/EFL contexts? Elaborate.
4. Attempt a description of the discipline of English Language Studies. How would it differ from and interact with other English disciplines?
5. It is held by some scholars that English is an endangered language rather than a killer language. Do you agree with this view? Explain giving definitions of the key concepts.
6. What has traditionally been considered to be code-switching is described as translanguaging by some scholars and as multilingual discourse by others. Which of these is more appropriate in the Indian context and why?
7. What is the relevance of the study of culture along with the study of language in the post-colonial context?
8. Do you agree with Jennifer Jenkin's concept of international English and her specification of phonetic features in the context of world Englishes? Justify your answer.
9. What is assessment literacy? For whom is it relevant and how can it be developed?
10. Marshall McLuhan says, "The medium is the message". Do you agree with this view? Elaborate with reference to conventional writing and writing in social media.

**END OF PAPER**