

Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Programme: **B.A. (Hons)**

II Semester Examination April/May 2026

Course Title: **Building Blocks of Language (Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology and Syntax)**

Course Code: **BNLX201DCT**

Time: **3 Hours**

Total Marks: **70**

Note: This question paper consists of three parts: Part – A, Part-B and Part-C. Number of words to answer each question is only indicative. Attempt all parts.

Part–A contains **10** compulsory questions of multiple choice/fill in the blank/very short answer type question. Answer all questions. Each question carries 1 mark. **(10x1=10-marks)**

Part-B contains 08 questions of which students are supposed to answer **05** questions. Answer each question in approximately 200 words. Each question carries 06 marks. **(5x6=30 marks)**

Part-C contains 05 questions of which students are supposed to answer **03** questions. Answer each question in approximately 500 words. Each question carries 10 marks. **(3x10=30 marks)**

Part-A

1. Answer the following:

- i. What is the main purpose of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)?
 - a. To simplify spelling rules
 - b. To represent sounds of all languages accurately
 - c. To translate languages
 - d. To study grammar
- ii. Which of the following best describes a vowel sound?
 - a. Produced with complete closure of airflow
 - b. Produced with partial or complete obstruction
 - c. Produced without significant obstruction of airflow
 - d. Produced only using lips
- iii. The smallest distinctive sound unit in a language is called _____.
 - a. Phoneme
 - b. Morpheme
 - c. Allophone
 - d. Grapheme
- iv. Phonemic transcription is written using:
 - a. Square brackets []
 - b. Curly brackets { }
 - c. Slashes / /
 - d. Parentheses ()
- v. Which of the following is an example of assimilation?
 - a. 'cats' pronounced as /kæts/
 - b. 'handbag' pronounced as /'hæmbæg/
 - c. 'know' pronounced as /nou/
 - d. 'film' pronounced as /filəm/
- vi. Metathesis involves:
 - a. Deleting sounds
 - b. Adding sounds
 - c. Switching the position of sounds
 - d. Stressing syllables
- vii. Which of the following is a feature of prosody?
 - a. Phoneme inventory
 - b. Stress and intonation
 - c. Word meaning
 - d. Syntax rules
- viii. Inflectional morphology primarily deals with:
 - a. Creating new words
 - b. Changing word class
 - c. Grammatical variations without changing core meaning
 - d. Borrowing words
- ix. Which of the following is an example of derivational morphology?
 - a. cats
 - b. walked
 - c. happiness
 - d. runs
- x. Morphological analysis primarily involves:
 - a. Studying sentence structure
 - b. Breaking down complex words into morphemes
 - c. Analyzing sound waves
 - d. Translating texts

Part-B

2. Define phonetics and briefly outline its main branches.
3. Differentiate between articulatory phonetics and acoustic phonetics.
4. Explain the relationship between phonetics and phonology.
5. Write a short note on the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).
6. Comment on the role of phonemic transcription in linguistic analysis.
7. Give an account of prosodic features such as *stress* and *intonation*.
8. Differentiate between morpheme and allomorph with suitable examples.
9. Bring out the key differences between phonetic and phonemic transcription.

Part-C

10. Discuss various phonological processes with examples.
11. Write a detailed note on morphological processes.
12. Define phrase and discuss its various types with suitable examples.
13. Comment on the manners of articulation with suitable example.
14. Examine the concept of morphological typology and explain different language types with suitable examples.
