

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY

Programme: BA

IV Semester Examination April/May 2026

Course Title: **Introduction to Historical Linguistics**

Course Code: **BNLX401DET**

Time: **2 Hours**

Max. Marks: **35**

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. **(5x1=5-marks)**

Part-B contains 08 questions of which students are supposed to answer 05 questions. Answer each question in approximately 100 words. Each question carries 06 marks. **(5x4=20 marks)**

Part-C contains 02 questions of which students are supposed to answer 01 question. Answer each question in approximately 250 words. Each question carries 10 marks. **(1x10=10 marks)**

Part-A

1. Answer all questions.

(i) Classification based on origin is known as:

- a) Typological b) Structural c) Genealogical d) Functional

(ii) The rearrangement of sounds within a word is termed:

- a) Assimilation b) Metathesis c) Elision d) Insertion

(iii) The improvement in meaning of a word over time is:

- a) Pejoration b) Narrowing c) Amelioration d) Extension

(iv) The language family to which English belongs is the _____.

(v) Addition of sounds at the beginning of a word is known as:

- a) Apocope b) Prosthesis c) Syncope d) Clipping

Part-B

2. Illustrate the genealogical classification of languages with examples.

3. Clarify the notion of phonemic transformation, and illustrate how sounds are added or lost in linguistic evolution.

4. Identify the Indo-European language family and comment on its importance in linguistic studies

5. Examine the processes of metathesis and compensatory lengthening within phonological development.

6. Compare amelioration and pejoration, providing appropriate examples to highlight the contrast.

7. Outline the concept of semantic change, focusing on the processes of narrowing and broadening with illustrations.

8. Differentiate between typological and genealogical approaches to language classification.

9. Give an account of the Indo-Aryan language family and enumerate the languages associated with it.

Part-C

10. Critically examine the major processes of phonological change with linguistic illustrations.

11. Define historical linguistics and explain its scope in the study of language change over time. Provide examples to illustrate.
