

University of London

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

For The Following Qualification:–

*B.A.*

**German B114: Introduction to German Linguistics**

**COURSE CODE : GERMB114**

**UNIT VALUE : 0.50**

**DATE : 03–MAY–05**

**TIME : 14.30**

**TIME ALLOWED : 2 Hours**

**GERMB114**  
**INTRODUCTION TO GERMAN LINGUISTICS**

Time allowed: **TWO** hours.

Answer **THREE** questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

Do not use the same material as the basis for more than one answer.

Do not answer on substantially the same topic as that of your assessed essay for this course.

1. Explain the following categories used to classify consonant sounds in German, providing relevant examples: *voicing, place of articulation, manner of articulation*.
2. How are phonemes distinguished from allophones in German? Explain, with examples.
3. To what extent can the German spelling reforms in the twentieth century be regarded as an attempt to democratise spelling? You may, if you wish, restrict your answer to the most recent spelling reform.
4. Explain FIVE of the following terms associated with inflectional morphology, with examples: *root, bound morpheme, free morpheme, zero plural morpheme, allomorph, suffix, infix, discontinuous affix*.
5. Outline the processes of word formation which result in the creation of new lexemes in German.
6. 'Words can have similar, contrasting or opposing meanings, and most of the relations of sense existing between items in the lexicon are based on the type or degree of closeness or opposition.' With reference to this quotation, discuss the various types of lexical structure.
7. EITHER (a) Explain the following terms associated with German word order, providing relevant examples: *Satzklammer, Vorfeld, Mittelfeld, Nachfeld*.  
  
OR (b) To what extent is word order in German influenced by factors such as style and register?
8. 'Although some Anglicisms are borrowed to fill conceptual or lexical gaps in the German language, most of them are unnecessary and are employed for reasons of prestige.' Discuss, with examples.
9. 'Contemporary forms of communication in German, such as email and text-messaging, have resulted in the creation of new text-types, complete with their own vocabulary and stylistic conventions.' Discuss, with examples.

-TURN OVER-

10. EITHER (a) How does Austrian Standard German distinguish itself phonologically, grammatically and lexically from German Standard German?
- OR (b) 'Although only one language is involved, the linguistic situation in German-speaking Switzerland is complex. Here the Swiss dialects and Standard German have complementary functions. Unlike their German equivalents, Swiss German dialects are not restricted socially, but are used by all classes of society.' To what extent is this an accurate description of language use in German-speaking Switzerland?
11. How far is the binary distinction between standard and dialect still relevant in understanding regional variation? Discuss, with reference to ONE OR MORE regional areas in Germany.
12. Describe the grammatical, lexical and syntactical features typically associated with non-native German and outline the potential communicative problems encountered by its speakers.
13. EITHER (a) How far do you agree with the claim that the structure and use of the German language favours men and disadvantages women?
- OR (b) Outline how speakers of youth register in German attempt to distinguish their language use from that of other sociolinguistic groups.

-END OF PAPER-