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Ref.nr.: MFTK-AAI-6/2022
Veszprém, February 1, 2022

MA in English Final Examination Topics

The student picks one topic from both fields:


Exam Topics from Compulsory Courses:

1. English as a global language (Standard English varieties, new Englishes, language variations).
2. Phonological theory (phonemes and allophones, complementary distribution and minimal pairs, distinctive features and their use in rules, phonological processes - assimilation, voice assimilation, place assimilation, nasalization, palatalization, dissimilation, deletion, insertion, etc., rule ordering).
3. The Indo-European languages and the Germanic branch (Proto-Indo-European, Proto-Germanic, sound changes).
4. The history of English (orthography, pronunciation, morphology, syntax and vocabulary).
5. Multiplicity of perspectives, identities and voices: making sense of English speaking cultures and their representations in the 20th and 21st centuries.
6. Linguistic imperialism and linguisticism: definitions and examples from past and present.

Exam Topics from Compulsory Elective Courses (tailored only to the courses a student has accomplished):

1. Bilingual education: approaches, models and expected outcomes in U.S. contexts.
2. The Irish-English language shift and its contemporary legacy from a language political perspective.
3. Varieties of North American English (the main regional varieties - Eastern New England, New York City, Middle Atlantic, Northern Cities/Inland North, Coastal Southern, Inland Southern/Southern Mountain, North Central/Upper Midwestern, Western, Canadian, social varieties - General American, African American Vernacular).
4. Classifications of speech sounds in the world's languages (organs of speech, airstream mechanisms - ejectives, implosives, clicks -, places and manners of articulation of consonants, voicing, primary and secondary cardinal vowels, tongue height, backness-frontness, lip-rounding).
5. Contactlinguistics (language contact situations, interlingual, intralingual linguistic manifestations, linguistic landscape research methods).
6. Translation and sociolinguistics (individual speech styles, reproduction of regional and social dialects); The role of culture and social networks in the translation process; Translation methods (lexical and transfer operations, grammatical transfer operations).
7. Sociolinguistics (social study of language; speech community; bilingualism, societal bilingualism).

8. English for Academic Purposes: General and specific EAP; Academic reading into writing; Acquiring academic and disciplinary vocabulary, Genre approaches to theses and dissertations.
9. Media literacy; Medialects; Persuasion techniques.
10. Concepts of intercultural communication; Multicultural/Intercultural societies; Verbal and non-verbal communication; Cultural dimensions; Intercultural adaptation.
11. Manifestations of the American Creed in key U.S. documents.
12. Language ideologies: definitions and illustrative examples in U.S., U.K. and EU contexts.


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