

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BOMBAY

PH.D. ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

LINGUISTICS

(Note: For students who are applying to the programme in the subject area of Linguistics)

IMPORTANT:

- Please answer all questions in the answer booklet provided.
- Please observe word limits strictly.
- Your answers should be well-organized, include suitable examples and clearly illustrate your understanding of the theoretical issues under consideration.

PART I:

Describe in less than 500 words (not more than 2 sides) your research/academic interests and how your educational and research background has equipped you to pursue further research in the area of your choice and/or in linguistics in general. **Do not repeat topics/ideas presented in the questions below.** (NB: If you are interested in particular languages or in fieldwork or in specific problems say why.) [10 marks]

PART II:

Write notes on any **four** of the following and illustrate your answer with adequate examples. (Word limit, 500 words - two sides or less of your answer booklet). (15x4= 60 marks)

1. Valency-changing morphological operations.
2. Representation and access of the mental lexicon.
3. Syllable structure with reference to one specific phonological process (such as stress, metre, tone, compensatory vowel lengthening, phonotactics etc.)
4. Truth conditional semantics.
5. Language as a species-specific cognitive ability.
6. Arguments versus adjuncts.
7. The ambiguity in the sentence: *All that glitters is not gold.*
8. *Case* as a morpho-syntactic phenomenon.
9. The internal hierarchy of words.
10. Distinctive properties of first language acquisition.
11. Creolisation
12. The tacit nature of grammatical knowledge.