



8

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
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INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES
SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION 2017/2018
UGRC: 235 – LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (3 CREDITS)
DAGBANI

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS IN YOUR ANSWER BOOKLET. WRITE THE LANGUAGE AND THE NAME OF YOUR LECTURER ON YOUR ANSWER BOOKLET.

SECTION A: INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN LANGUAGES (10 MARKS)

ANSWER ONLY ONE QUESTION FROM THIS SECTION.

1. Discuss four ways in which learning indigenous languages can enhance the acquisition of a second language (foreign language).
2. Discuss the significance of indigenous African writing systems as sources of information for the study of Africa.
3. What critiques have African scholars made of the language phyla model developed by Euro-American scholars? What is the basis of these critiques?
4. African languages are known to have/possess certain unique characteristics. Using any two African languages of your choice, discuss four of these characteristics.

SECTION B: GRAMMAR
(20 Marks)

THIS SECTION IS IN FOUR PARTS: I, II, III & IV. ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS.

PART I
ADVERBS

From the options lettered A – D, select the appropriate form of the adverb to complete each of the sentences in 5 – 9.

5. Abu di sayim maa
A. vienyelinga. B. bua C. Duunja D. chan
6. Ti ni chan daa
A. tooi B. pumpoŋo C. nasara D. daai
7. O kpe
A. kuŋa B. kom C. kpe D. yuuni
8. Adam mini Kofi chan
A. kodu B. fula C. kom D. Kumahi
9. ka o sa kana.
A. dali la B. daantali la C. asiba ŋo D. Sohila

9

PART II

TENSE AND ASPECT

Select the most suitable TENSE or ASPECT form of the sentences listed in A-D.

10. Habitual Aspect (Transitive verb)

- A. Adam sa ko puu.
- B. Adam kori puu.
- C. Adam korila puu pumpoŋo.
- D. Adam mi puu kɔbu.

11. Future tense

- A. Kofi mi gbaŋ sabbu.
- B. Kofi sabiri gbaŋ.
- C. Kofi ni sabi gbaŋ
- D. Kofi daa sabi gbaŋ.

12. Progressive Aspect (Transitive verb)

- A. Wumbee su kom
- B. Wumbee surila kom.
- C. Wumbee suri kom biɛyɛ kam.
- D. Wumbee suya.

13. Past Aspect

- A. Atika tu bia.
- B. Atika turi bia.
- C. Atika turila bia.
- D. Atika tuya.

14. Habitual Aspect (Intransitive)

- A. Asiama dira.
- B. Asiama dirimi.
- C. Asiama dirila sayim.
- D. Asiama diya.

PART III

QUESTION FORMS

Provide the right question forms from the following statements from A-D.

15. Adamu chanla Naya.

- A. Adamu chanla ya?
- B. Naya Adamu chanla?
- C. Adamu Naya chan?
- D. Adamu chanla Naya?

16. O borila Amina.

- A. Amina ka o bora?
- B. Ya ka o bora?
- C. Wula ka o bora?
- D. Bo zuyu ka o bora?

17. Tidoo chanla Tamali.

- A. Tidoo chanla Tamali?
- B. Tidoo Tamali chanla ya?
- C. Bo Tidoo Tamali chanla ya?
- D. Wula Tidoo Tamali chanla ya?

18. Amina zula m bua.

- A. Amina zula bo?
- B. Amina chanla ya?
- C. Amina zula bua?
- D. Amina zula bo zuyu?

19. N yuun' pia.

- A. A yuma ala?
- B. N yuma ala?
- C. N yuun' pia?
- D. N yuun' pia n-nye n yuma?

PART IV

POSTPOSITIONS

Provide the most appropriate postpositions for sentences 20-24 from options A-D.

20. Bia maa kpe duu maa

- A. zuyu B. puuni C. ya D. puli

21. Buku maa pa teebuli maa

- A. loj B. zuyu C. gbuni D. puuni

22. James kpe baanjira maa

- A. loj B. zuyu C. ni D. puli

23. Doo be daa, o wayi pam.

- A. zuyu B. lojni C. luyili D. gbunni

24. Kuyili maa paai lu biliga maa

- A. ni B. zuyu C. luyili D. gbunni

12

SECTION C
TRANSLATION
(5 marks)

From options A-D, select the best translation of sentences 25-29.

25. The food is very tasty.

- A. Bindirigu maa to.
- B. Bindirigu maa miha.
- C. Bindirigu maa nyayisa.
- D. Bindirigu maa malisa.

26. Please, may I help you?

- A. Jaande, n ni tooi ti a?
- B. Jaande, n ni tooi soŋ?
- C. Jaande, n ni tooi soŋ a?
- D. Jaande, n ni tooi soŋ ya?

27. Bintu bought okro and groundnuts.

- A. Bintu da gala mini sima.
- B. Bintu zu mana mini sima.
- C. Bintu da mana mini sima.
- D. Bintu da zuna mini mana.

28. Amina will not to Tamali tomorrow.

- A. Amina sa bi chaŋ Tamali sohila.
- B. Amina sa ni chaŋ Tamali bieyuni.
- C. Amina sa ku chaŋ Tamali bieyuni.
- D. Amina daa ni chaŋ Tamali.

29. I am twenty-one years old.

- A. N yuun' pishi ni ka.
- B. N yuun' pishi ni yini.
- C. N yuun' pihita ni yini.
- D. N yuun' pihita yini ka.

SECTION D

READING COMPREHNSION

(5 marks)

Read the passage carefully and answer all the questions that follow. Your answers must be written in Dagbani.

Tani mini o ma chanla daa. Napari bi chan dama o mini o tuzo Danaa n-diemda. Be ma da nyuli mini zahim ni naanzua ni yalim ni bolli. Be ni labi yiya, Tani sonla o ma ka be nyeligi kpaam ka dui nyuli. Be ni di bindirigu n-naai, Napari payila nmana ka kali duduhigu. Be maa zanla bolli la n-ti Napari.

- 30. Duni n-chan daa maa?
- 31. Bo zuyu ka Napari bi chan daa maa?
- 32. Bo ka be maa da?
- 33. Duni n-son ka be dui bindirigu la?
- 34. Bo zuyu ka be ma zan bolli maa ti Napari?

SECTION E ESSAY WRITING (10 marks)

Write an Essay on one of the following topics. Your Essay must be written in DAGBANI. The length of your Essay must not be less than 150 words.

- 35. N shikuru (My school)
- 36. M manmanja (Myself)