

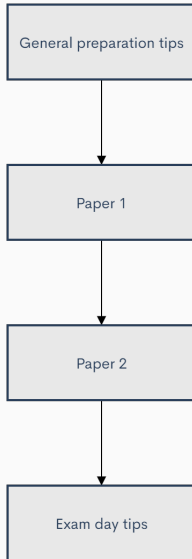
NET...set...go

a workshop on studying smart for NET-JRF Linguistics

September 16, 2021

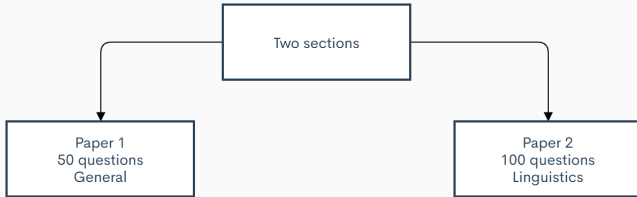
Jadavpur University

Roadmap



General things

Exam format



- NET cutoff (approx.): 70%
- JRF cutoff: don't think about it
- Preparation rule-of-thumb: 70% in each paper
- ...which leads us to...

STRATEGIZE.

- High-level overview: what doing, how much done, what needs to be done
- Detailed 'syllabus'
- Checkboxes are great

Go meta

4-6: prepare for NET

Bad

4-4:30 paper 1 reasoning
4:30-5 phonology notes
revise
5-5:15 chill
5:15-6 past paper 2 half

Good

- Clear target
- dedicated slots for paper 1 and 2 : 40:60
- divide into: studying, solving past papers

Paper 1

Syllabus overview

- 10 sections X 5 questions each = 50 questions [\[link\]](#)
- Target: 35 questions

- Teaching Aptitude
- Research Aptitude
- Reading Comprehension
- Math
- Logical Reasoning
- Data Interpretation

- Information and Communication Technology
- People, Development and Environment
- Higher Education System
- Communication

- Book?
- Official syllabus
- YouTube summaries **one option** (don't scroll through 10 please)
- **avoid the study-video-rabbithole**
- Past papers

- Make a cheat-sheet:
 - Math: formulae for percentage, interest, profit/loss
 - Reasoning: number sequences (AP, GP), alphabet questions: write down the alphabet
 - Data interpretation: venn diagrams, types of graphs
- Identify question types, prepare a strategy for approaching: familiarity helps

Overall things

- Use resources wisely
- Pick a unit and finish it
- Summary sheet (don't go back to source)

Sequence of prep:

1. official topics list
2. YouTube video
3. summary sheet
4. past paper
5. more detailed resource, add to summary sheet
6. past paper

questions?

Paper 2

Syllabus overview

Official syllabus: get a printout! [\[link\]](#)

- Language and Linguistics
- Phonetics and Phonology
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Semantics and Pragmatics
- Historical Linguistics

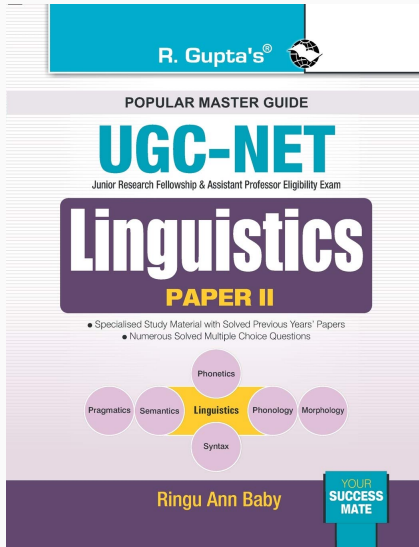
- Sociolinguistics
- Typology and SA Languages
- Interdisciplinary and Applied Linguistics—I
- Interdisciplinary and Applied Linguistics—II

NOT equal number of questions from each unit

What is being tested?

What is being tested?
FAMILIARITY.

Optional resource:



Very good resource:

- Official syllabus (reminder: please **download** and print)

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- google-able vs non-google-able terms

Resources

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Bad idea

Detailed notes on every topic

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Bad idea

Detailed notes on every topic

Good idea

Structured reading and note-making:

1. Which topics?
2. How deep?

...which leads us to...

Past papers are your best friend.

Absolutely indispensable resource:

- Past papers
- Some unsolved ones [here](#), solved ones [here](#)

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- Use past papers to:
 1. prepare notes
 2. track progress

More on this later

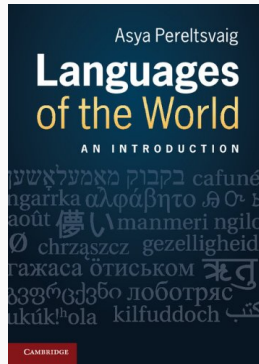
Units: some miscellaneous topics

- Chronology of Chomsky's works
- For all theories: main people, main texts
- Overall: broad timeline of development of the field ([handy Encyclopedia Britannica article](#))

- Three types of questions:
 1. meaning of terms (most)
 2. people/texts
 3. conceptual (very few)
- Google every google-able term
- Haven't done it yet? Don't worry about it

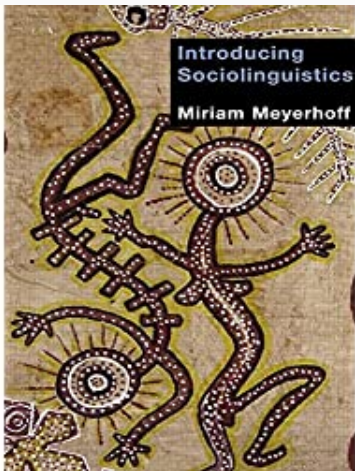
Units: historical linguistics, typology

- A good place to start [\[link\]](#)
Chapters: 1–Introduction,
2–Indo-European Languages,
3–Non-Indo-European languages of
India (section: Dravidian), 6–Pidgins
and creoles
- Sub-families of Indo-Aryan and
Dravidian
- General distribution of languages in
India
- Important: **exceptions**



Unit: sociolinguistics

- Look up terms from the syllabus here:
- [\[very illegal link\]](#)



Unit: interdisciplinary and applied linguistics-I

- Psycholinguistics, Language Learning, Language Teaching
- Covering everything? Don't.
- Google all specific terms

Unit: interdisciplinary and applied linguistics-II

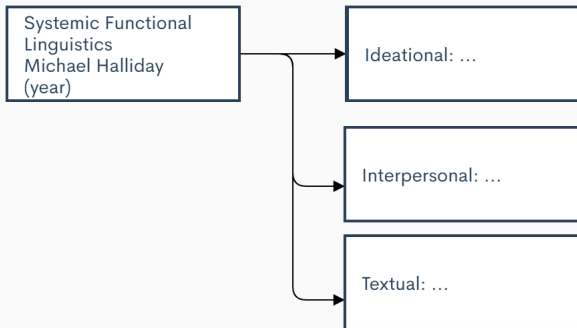
- Translation, Lexicography, Computational Linguistics, Stylistics, Language and Media
- large scope, very few questions

Google-around method:

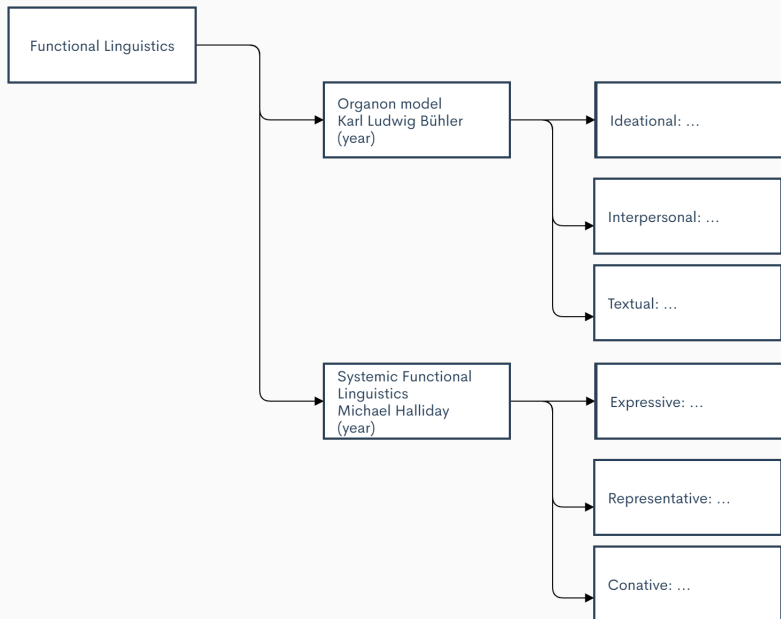
According to Halliday, the ideational function is language concerned with:

- A. exchanging ideas
- B. being an ideal speaker-hearer
- C. maintaining a theory of experience
- D. All of the above

Use past papers: note-making



Use past papers: note-making



note-making

paper-solving

note-making

learning

paper-solving

RECOGNIZING \neq KNOWING

1. read notes once
2. write down main headings
3. say/write the rest
4. check
5. summary sheet of a summary sheet of a summary sheet...
6. next time: start by reading summary sheet

Structure information

Hierarchize and connect things-to-remember:

not great

Distinctive features:

- high
- low
- continuant
- nasal
- coronal
- spread glottis
- voice
- back

much better

Distinctive features:

1. Place
 - high
 - low
 - back
 - coronal
2. Manner
 - nasal
 - continuant
3. Laryngeal
 - voice
 - spread glottis

Use past papers: solving papers

- timed
- mark answer types: known (SURE), informed guess (I-GUESS), not-really-informed (a.k.a. random) guess (R-GUESS)
- leave the R-GUESSES for the actual exam!
- solving is the first step: **post-solving analysis**

Use past papers: post-solving

- mark
- right answers: are other options also known?
- not-known answers: google-around
- wrong answers: identify source, address immediately
- add to notes

Use past papers: tracking progress

- Target: bring up SURE to 50%, total to 70%
- Make sure around 50% of the I-GUESSES are right
- If not: needs more informing

Exam day tips

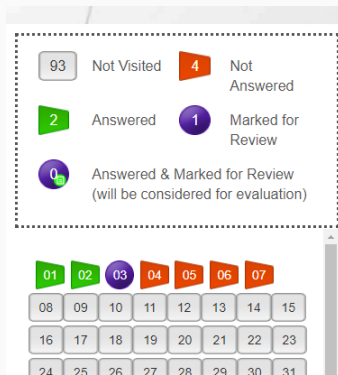
clear gameplan → less decision fatigue →
more brainpower

Managing time

- 150 question, 180 minutes
- Can move between paper 1 and 2
- Timer on screen
- General rule-of-thumb: minutes passed = questions done

Tracking system

- Tracking system available:



- Not bound to using it that way!
- Rough sheet

Gameplan: an example

- First 45 minutes: **known things**: all SURE answers (paper 1, 2), mark green; leave out reasoning, reading comprehension, data interpretation
 - for I-GUSSES: choose an answer, save & mark for review, note alternative option in rough sheet
- Result: Not leaving out any known questions (yay!)
- Next 45 minutes: **solvable things**: reasoning, reading comprehension, data interpretation (anything taking longer than 3-4 minutes is best dealt with later)

Gameplan: an example

- Next 45 minutes: **brain-racking things**: go over marked-for-review, try to recall stuff, make deductions
- optional interlude: estimate how it might go:
 $SURE + (I - GUESSES) / 2$
- Next 20 minutes: Let the **guesses** flow
- Last 15 minutes: Check– everything answered? + last-minute brain-racking

Gameplan: an example

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- Next 20 minutes: Let the **guesses** flow
- Last 15 minutes: Check– everything answered? + last-minute brain-racking
- Have some good food: you're done!

Finito!