

What do I have to know for the final test?

(NB: I will gradually work on this file until May 31st. Please eventually check whether a newer version of this file is available on the website. If you need, let me know, and we can always schedule an informal consultation meeting before a few days the test.)

You will be allowed to write the test in Dutch, although I will pose the questions in English.

1. To learn, to read, to repeat:

- Weekly slides, handouts + and your lecture notes.
- As general overview: Rabin's book.
- As background reading: Bannett's book: parts 1, 2 and 3.
- As background reading: the sections that are on the website from and which you had to read for the weekly assignments from: (a) Schippers & Versteegh, (b) Huehnergard, (c) Loose, (d) Moscati and (e) Rosén.
- As background reading: R. Appel et al (eds): *Taal en Taalwetenschap*.
- Weekly assignments, take-home exam, and my feedback on them.

2. Terms, notions, names, dates, etc.:

Mainly the terms which are underscored on the slides. One part of the test will be that you have to *describe* ten of them in one or two sentences. In some cases, it is highly recommended that you look them up in some basic reference work, as part of your learning for the exam, and not rely only on the slides.

Here is a **preliminary** list of them:

- Sa'adiah Gaon (why is he important in linguistics?)
- Menahem ibn Saruk (why is he important in linguistics?)
- Abraham ibn-Ezra (why is he important in linguistics?)
- Elia Levita (why is he important in linguistics?)
- Johannes Reuchlin (why is he important in linguistics?)
- Wissenschaft des Judentums
- Semiotics
- Historical linguistics; structuralism; generative linguistics.
- Prescriptive vs. descriptive approach
- Synchrony vs. diachrony
- Language typology; areal linguistics; Sprachbund.
- Multilingualism; bilingualism; diglossia; functional diglossia
- Code switching
- Sumerian; Akkadian; Ge'ez; Amharic; Tigre; Tigrinya; Syriac; Phoenician, Punic. Ammonite, Edomite, Moabite. Amorite. Eblaite. Coptic. Ugaritic
- Cuneiform; hieroglyphs
- Logogram; syllabogram
- Tel el-Amarna

- Dialect continuum; isogloss
- Family tree model; wave model
- Lingua franca
- Canaanite sound shift
- Samaritans. Karaites.
- Proto-Sinaitic inscription; Gezer calendar; Mesha stele; Siloam inscription;
- Ostrakon / ostraca
- Defective / haser writing; plene / male writing.
- Diphthong; monophthong.
- Masoretes; Ben-Asher family, Ben-Naphtali family.
- Canonization. Apocrypha.
- Cairo Geniza
- Septuagint; Vulgate; Hexapla.
- 721 BCE. 598/7 BCE. 587/586 BCE. 539 and 538 BCE. 70 CE. 1492. 1948.
- Elephantine (Yeb). Alexander the Great. Hellenism. Ptolemaic dynasty. Seleucid dynasty. Hasmoneans.
- Mishna. Palestinian Talmud (Talmud Yerushalmi). Babylonian Talmud.
- Piyyut / piyyutim.
- Gaonic period (name at least one gaon's name).
- Ashkenaz. Sepharad.
- Ibn-Tibbon family
- Maimonides. Rashi.
- Sociolect.
- Ladino. Judesmo. Yevanit. Karaim. Eastern Yiddish. Western Yiddish. Yinglish.
- Haskala. Moses Mendelssohn. Ha-Me'assef.
- Dreyfus-affair. Pogrom. Theodor Herzl. 1897.
- 1882. First aliya. Eliezer Ben-Yehuda. Czernowitz.
- Vaad ha-Lashon. Academy of the Hebrew Language.
- Language planning. Standard language vs. substandard language.
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3. Short questions (usually a list of words, a few sentences, one paragraph):

- *List* the main four periods of the Hebrew language.
- *List* the three main sub-periods of Biblical Hebrew.
- *List* the two main sub-periods of Mishnaic Hebrew.
- *List* the four main periods of the Aramaic language.
- *Name* at least five judeo-languages.
- *List* the branches of the Semitic language family (using any variant of the language family), and *give* at least one language name for each branch.
- *Explain* the difference between the South-Arabian languages and the Southern dialects of the Arabic language.
- *Explain* the difference between the Syriac language and the Syrian dialect of Arabic.
- *Name* the six language families belonging to the Afroasiatic phylum.

- *Tell* in which language family belong the following languages: Sumerian, Persian, Old Egyptian, Hittite, Greek, Latin, Yiddish, Ladino, Turkish
- *Tell* which of the following scripts are descendents of the Phoenician script (a different question: descendents of the Aramaic script): current Hebrew (“Jewish”) script, Arabic script, Greek alphabet, Latin alphabet, Coptic alphabet, Cyrillic alphabet, Ethiopian alphabet, Syriac script, Samaritan script.
- *Explain* the connection between Rashi and the Rashi script.
- *Describe* in a few sentences when and how the Hebrew orthography became more plene/male, or less plene/male.
- *Explain* the difference between Biblical Hebrew and Tiberian Hebrew.
- *Describe* in a few sentences what kind of texts were found in Qumran / in the Judean Desert, and what kind of language stage(s) do they represent.
- *Describe* in a few sentences the multilingual Jewish society in the time of Hellenism. What languages and language varieties were used in speech and writing by Jews and by the surrounding society?
- *List* a few examples of pre-classical Biblical Hebrew.
- *List* a few examples of Late Biblical Hebrew.
- *List* a few examples of Biblical Aramaic.
- *List* a few examples of Early (Tannaitic) Mishnaic Hebrew.
- *List* a few examples of Late (Amoraic) Mishnaic Hebrew.
- *List* a few genres of Medieval Hebrew.
- *List* a few characteristics of Late BH.
- *List* a few characteristics of Mishnaic Hebrew.
- *List* a few characteristics of Medieval Hebrew.
- *List* a few characteristics of the Hebrew of the Haskala.

4. Longer questions (half a page, at most one page):

- *Explain* in half a page the place of Hebrew within the Semitic language family / the Afroasiatic language phylum.
- *Explain* in half a page how you would group the Northwest Semitic languages into subgroups. Name as many Northwest Semitic languages as you can, and describe them in a sentence each. Put them in a historical and geographic context. Explain on which ground you put them into subgroups. Are there specific linguistic features that you can use as isogloss?
- *Describe* in half a page the place of the Hebrew alphabet in the “family tree” of the alphabet systems.
- You find enclosed a Hebrew text with Dutch translation, which we have discussed in length in class. *Tell* which period and which sub-period of the Hebrew language it belongs to. *Point out* a few characteristics of this period, and *compare* it to Modern Hebrew.
- *Describe* in half a page the 3000-year-long history of Aramaic influence on Hebrew (and possibly also vice-versa).

- *Explain* how Mishnaic (Rabbinic) Hebrew came into being according to the most accepted current theory. How is it related to Biblical Hebrew and Aramaic?
- *Argue* for or against (your choice) the following statement: Hebrew was a dead language in the Middle Ages.
- *Argue* for or against (your choice) the following statement: Israeli Hebrew is not a Semitic language.
- *Explain* what the judeo-languages are, and how they came into being.
- *Describe* the role of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda within the revival of Hebrew. Mention also additional factors that contributed to the revival, such as the willingness of the *yishuv* to speak Hebrew already before the arrival of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, or the role of the *Vaad ha-Lashon*, the role of the teachers, etc.
- *Characterize* the contemporary Israeli Hebrew language: Are there variants, such as dialects, sociolects, ethnolects, religiolects, slang, substandard? What kind of foreign influences are there? Use of punctuations?
- *List* the different ways used by Modern Hebrew to enrich the vocabulary. Give examples.
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