1. In reconstructing the history of languages, the best results have been achieved by reasoning about
   (a) regular patterns of sound change.
   (b) regular patterns of semantic change.
   (c) word order in syntax.
   (d) the source of borrowed words in specific domains.

2. Generally-accepted applications of the historical-comparative method have reconstructed
   (a) one single parent language from which all known languages have developed.
   (b) three families into which all known languages can be grouped.
   (c) 30 families into which all known languages can be grouped.
   (d) more than 100 families into which all known languages can be grouped.

3. Most linguists agree that methods of historical reconstruction work reliably
   (a) only for about 1,000-1,500 years before the attested linguistic evidence.
   (b) only for about 5,000-7,000 years before the attested linguistic evidence.
   (c) only for about 50,000-70,000 years before the attested linguistic evidence.
   (d) all the way back to the origin of human languages.

4. "Nostratic" is a name that has been given to the hypothesized ancestor of
   (a) all human languages.
   (b) all Indo-European, Uralic, Altaic, and Afro-Asiatic languages.
   (c) all Indo-European and Uralic languages.
   (d) all Indo-European languages.

5. Approaches to the interpretation of legal statutes can broadly be divided into
   (a) semantic vs. pragmatic.
   (b) rigid vs. flexible.
   (c) textualist vs. purposive.
   (d) historical vs. contemporary.

6. In the typical development of human infants, babbling appears
   (a) within two weeks of birth
   (b) at 2-4 months of age
   (c) at 6-8 months of age
   (d) at 18-24 months of age
7. According to the sources cited in the lecture notes, 

(a) at first, boy babies tend to learn more words faster than girl babies do, but the difference disappears or reverses over time. 
(b) at first, girl babies tend to learn more words faster than boy babies do, but the difference disappears or reverses over time. 
(c) at first, boy babies tend to learn more words faster than girl babies do, and the difference persists into adulthood. 
(d) at first, girl babies tend to learn more words faster than boy babies do, and the difference persists into adulthood. 

8. The “holophrastic stage” of child language acquisition is characterized by 

(a) repetitive, meaningless CV patterns. 
(b) single open-class words or word stems. 
(c) communication entirely by gestures and facial expressions. 
(d) over-regularization of morphological inflection. 

9. The writing system of Chinese is best described as 

(a) pictographic, because characters depict objects. 
(b) ideographic, because characters represent ideas. 
(c) logographic, because characters stand for morphemes. 
(d) alphabetic, because characters correspond to phonemes. 

10. The largest proportion of speech production errors involve the shift of 

(a) features or phonemes. 
(b) phonemes or words. 
(c) morphemes or words. 
(d) words or phrases. 

11. Broca’s Aphasia results from 

(a) damage to primary visual cortex 
(b) damage to primary auditory cortex 
(c) damage to the front of the language-dominant side of the brain 
(d) damage to the rear of the language-dominant side of the brain 

12. American Sign Language 

(a) developed from the sign language that Indians used before Europeans arrived. 
(b) evolved out of British Sign Language brought over in colonial times. 
(c) is historically related to French Sign Language. 
(d) is a completely independent invention without historical precedent. 

13. An article titled "Why great:greatly but not big:bigly" probably belongs to the area of 

(a) phonetics. 
(b) phonology. 
(c) morphology. 
(d) syntax.
14. In the past million years of hominid evolution, an apparent specialization for spoken language has been provided by

(a) lengthening the lower jaw to permit a wider range of positions.
(b) increasing the curvature of the hard palate.
(c) shortening the muzzle and lowering the larynx.
(d) making the teeth smaller so as not to obstruct the sound.

15. Estimates of vocabulary acquisition throughout childhood suggest that we learn

(a) about one word every ten days.
(b) about one word a day.
(c) about ten words a day.
(d) about a hundred words a day.

16. He is credited with introducing the first adequate treatment of quantification in logic:

(a) Ludwig Wittgenstein
(b) Noam Chomsky
(c) Gottlob Frege
(d) H. P. Grice

17. The number of distinct phonemes used in a given language is about

(a) 50,000
(b) 5,000
(c) 500
(d) 50
(e) 5

18. The number of basic places of articulation specified for consonants by the IPA is

(a) 3
(b) 11
(c) 31
(d) 111
(e) 65,536

19. Whether or not a speech sound is nasalized depends on the position of the

(a) tongue.
(b) hyoid bone.
(c) velum.
(d) epiglottis.
(e) pharynx.

20. Metered verse primarily involves restrictions on which aspects of language use?

(a) phonology
(b) morphology
(c) syntax
(d) semantics
21. What is the meter of the following four lines?

Moss-green, fern-green and leaf and meadow-green
Are broken by the bare, bone-colored roads,
Less moved by stirring air than by unseen
Soft-footed ants and meditative toads.

(a) Ballad meter
(b) Dactylic hexameter
(c) Iambic pentameter
(d) Trochaic trimeter

22. The aphorism "A language is a dialect with an army and a navy" is generally taken to mean

(a) military life promotes language standardization.
(b) the distinction between language and dialect is mainly a political one.
(c) languages are generally established by imperial conquest.
(d) to develop a proper language, a society must be wealthy enough to fund a military.

23. The following diagram represents:

(a) Sound changes in the development of the Romance languages from Latin.
(b) The order in which vowels are acquired by children.
(c) Lexicostatistical preferences.
(d) The Great Vowel Shift in English.

24. Betty Hart and Todd Risley are best known for

(a) purposive theories of statutory interpretation.
(b) the declarative-procedural model of morphophonology.
(c) a study of social class effects on child language learning.
(d) the "nun study", showing a relationship between teen writing style and the later development of senile dementia.

25. The earliest known writing systems date from the time of

(a) the Cro-Magnon fossils, around 35,000 BC
(b) plant and animal domestication and the invention of pottery, about 8000 BC
(c) the start of the Bronze Age, about 3000 BC
(d) the invention of the alphabet by North Semitic peoples about 1700 BC
(e) Panini's grammar, about 600 BC
26. [Optional] Write and answer your own multiple-choice question, which will substitute for one of the other 25 questions. Indicate clearly below which question your contribution substitutes for. Note that the quality of the question (and the alternative answers) will be considered in grading.