LIST OF GENERAL TOPICS FOR THE DIPLOMA EXAM
ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011

1) APPLIED LINGUISTICS

1. First language acquisition (comparing and contrasting it with second language acquisition, critical period hypothesis, dominant theories – behaviorism, nativism, interactionism, etc., characteristics of teacher talk, etc.).

2. Theories of second language acquisition (behaviorism, Universal Grammar approaches, interlanguage theory, Krashen's Monitor Model, Schumann's Acculturation/Pidginization Theory, interaction and output hypotheses, skill learning theories, Learnability/Teachability Hypothesis, etc.).

3. Changing views on errors in language learning (Contrastive Analysis vs. Error Analysis, types and sources of errors, etc.).

4. Individual differences between learners (social factors - attitudes, beliefs, ethnic identity, gender, etc.; cognitive factors – age, intelligence, aptitude, field dependence and independence, tolerance of ambiguity, left- and right- brain functioning, reflectivity and impulsivity, etc.; affective factors – motivation, risk-taking, inhibition, self-esteem, anxiety, empathy, etc.).

5. Contexts of language instruction (foreign vs. second language contexts, examples of educational contexts, etc.).

6. Teacher characteristics (beliefs, roles performed in the classroom, effective vs. reflective teaching, teacher development, etc.).

7. Aspects of classroom interaction (differences between naturalistic and pedagogic discourse, types of classroom interaction and their characteristics, turn-taking, IRF exchange, teacher talk, different modes of classroom organization – whole-class teaching, individual work, pair and group work, question types, use of the mother tongue, communication strategies, error correction, aspects of classroom dynamics, classroom discipline, etc.)

8. Issues in teaching different skills and language subsystems.

9. Syllabus design and lesson planning (types of syllabuses and their value, aspects of lesson planning, etc.).

10. Language testing (washback, types of tests, basic dichotomies in language testing: formal-informal, direct-indirect, etc., changing paradigms in language testing, characteristics of a good test, issues in test construction and administration, etc.).

11. Coursebooks, materials, educational equipment and technology (coursebook assessment vs. evaluation, advantages and disadvantages of coursebooks, options in coursebook use, authentic vs. inauthentic materials, classroom aids – pictures, charts, realia, etc., educational technology – OHP, video, computers, etc.).

12. Learning strategies and the concept of learner autonomy.

13. Research traditions in second language acquisition (characteristics of good research, research paradigms, instruments of data collection, issues in data analysis, etc.).

2) LINGUISTICS

INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

1. First Language Acquisition
2. Behaviorism vs. Cognitivism
3. Sapir and Whorf Hypothesis
4. Word formation processes
5. Mistakes and Errors (types, sources)
6. Contrastive Analysis Hypothesis
7. Communicative Competence
8. Humanistic Psychology
9. Personality factors (self-esteem, anxiety, inhibition etc.)

DESCRIPTIVE GRAMMAR (PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY)

1. Branches of phonetics
2. Speech organs
3. English consonants (place and manner of articulation)
4. English Syllable
5. English diphthong/triphthong
6. Stress/ rhythm/ intonation
7. British versus American phonetics
8. English connected speech
9. Pidgins and Creoles

DESCRIPTIVE GRAMMAR (SYNTAX AND MORPHOLOGY)

1. Parts of speech
2. Types of phrases and ways of their modification
3. Discuss the three classes of English verbs
4. Discuss types of verbal complementation
5. Differences between inflectional morphology and derivational morphology
6. Coordination and Subordination
7. Prescriptivism versus descriptivism
8. Principles and parameters of UG
9. E-language versus I-language, competence versus performance

HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

1. The First Consonant Shift in Old English (Grimm's Law and Verner's Law)?
2. Types of declensions in Old English.
3. The irregular plural forms in present-day English nouns (trace them back to Old English Nouns).
4. Types of verbs in Old English.
5. The origins of present-day English modal verbs (the type of verbs they belonged to and their meanings).
6. Strong and weak adjectives in Old English.
7. The process of lengthening and shortening of ME vowels

3) BRITISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURE, LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS

HISTORY OF AMERICAN LITERATURE

1. The Puritan heritage.
2. The Great Awakening and the literature of the Enlightenment.
3. American gothic fiction.
5. Transcendentalism in theory and practice.
6. Realism and its representatives; American regional writers.
7. American naturalism.
10. American postmodernism - experimental prose.
11. American poetry and drama in the second half of the 20th century.

HISTORY OF BRITISH LITERATURE

1. Old English literature - courtly and religious poetry.
2. Middle English literature - the romance (characteristic motifs, courtly love, chivalry), the beginnings of the English theatre (the origins, types of plays, characteristic motifs), medieval poetry.
3. Renaissance poetry, prose and drama.
4. 17the century metaphysical poetry (themes and poetic devices).
5. The literature of the Enlightenment, the beginnings of the novel (influences on the development of the novel, formal realism, types of narration).
6. 18th century poetry (characteristic features).
7. The development of gothic fiction (the origins, characteristic elements).
8. English romantic poetry
9. Victorian prose and verse (19th century realism, social criticism, Victorian values; narrative poetry).
10. The Late Victorian literature, Pre-Raphaelites and aestheticism.
11. The First World War poetry (georgianism, features, different attitudes to war experience)
12. Modernist experimental fiction (narrative experiments and trends) and poetry (movements, features, the indictment of modern civilization)
13. The theatre of the absurd (features, philosophical implications).
14. Postmodernism in British literature (narrative experiments, historical metafiction, intertextuality)

THEORY LITERATURE AND ADAPTATION
1. What is literature? Aims of literary theory and criticism.
2. Literary mimesis: Plato vs. Aristotle's concept of mimesis; contemporary views (Derrida); examples of critical mimesis
3. Poetry as tradition - the role of the poet according to T.S. Eliot
4. Authorship - the history of the concept; intention; critical and affective fallacy
5. Structuralism and semiotics.
6. Psychoanalysis
7. A general idea of deconstruction.
8. Concept of adaptation and its types; changes required in the adaptation text depending on its type; intertextuality
9. Fidelity criticism in adaptation studies; prejudice against film; medium-specific transferrable elements
10. Reasons for adapting source texts to other media

**BRITISH AND AMERICAN HISTORY, LIFE AND INSTITUTIONS**

1. Norman Conquest. Events leading up to; Battle of Hastings and its consequences.
3. Henry VIII and Reformation in England
4. Oliver Cromwell and the Protectorate.
6. Britain and colonization
7. Main events leading to the American Revolution (including taxation) and the Declaration of Independence.
8. Civil War and abolition of slavery.
9. Examples of American expansionism (Louisiana Purchase, Oregon Trail, Mexican Cession, Gold Rush, Indian removal policy, Spanish-American War)
10. The Great Depression and the New Deal
12. Ethnicity: characteristics of an ethnic/minority group; concepts of: race, prejudice, de jure and de facto discrimination, cultural hegemony; Melting Pot/Salad Bowl metaphors