

## ASSIGNMENT M.A. French (MAFL)

### COURSE MFL 001

Session July 2023 & Jan 2024.

#### Assignment for Course MFL 001 – Introduction to Linguistics

A. Select ANY TWO from the Five Questions

\*\* (600- 700 words each)

TOTAL 50 MKS

1. Numerous philosophers have presented their theories on the origin of language. Briefly explain 04 out of the ones you have studied.  
**25mks.**
2. What, according to you, is the most important function of language? Give reasons for your answer. Enumerate three major characteristics of human communication that give it uniqueness from other animal systems of communication?  
**25mks**
3. Define notions of “**competence**” and “**performance**”. Describe ways in which linguistic competence is assessed. How in your opinion is '**communicative competence**' important in language learning?  
**(25 mks)**
4. Language is a complex system involving several components. What are the main ones you have studied? Briefly describe them. How in your opinion do these components contribute to understanding language as a system?  
**(25 mks)**
5. Language as part of society forms basis for understanding it as a function of societal norms, cultural practice, identity issues as also policy interventions. Write an essay highlighting the above ideas and how sociolinguistics becomes fundamental to understanding human communication.  
**(25 mks)**