

PiXL Independence

English Language – Student Booklet

KS5

Child Language Acquisition

Contents:

- I. Multiple Choice Quizzes – 10 credits per quiz
- II. Language Acquisition Theories Short Questions – 20 credits per question
- III. Child Language Acquisition Short Articles – 20 credits per task
- IV. Child Language Acquisition Essay Questions – 80 credits per essay
- V. Wider Reading: Child Acquisition – 50 credits per task

I. Multiple Choice Quizzes

10 credits per quiz.

Language Stages Quiz

1. At what age does a child start using two word combinations?
 - a. 16 – 19 months
 - b. 18 – 24 months
 - c. 14 – 16 months
 - d. 20 – 22 months

2. What is the definition of babbling?
 - a. Children happily talking to themselves
 - b. Children happily talking to other people
 - c. Children making consonant sounds
 - d. Children making repeated consonant-vowel sound combinations

3. When does the vegetative state typically end?
 - a. It never ends
 - b. 12 months
 - c. 6 months
 - d. 4 months

4. Which of the following would be an unusual next step after babbling?
 - a. Telegraphic stage
 - b. Holophrases
 - c. One word
 - d. Proto word

5. What is the definition of the telegraphic stage?
 - a. Three word combinations
 - b. Five word combinations
 - c. Three or more word combinations which gradually expand
 - d. Grammatically complete sentences

6. What is the definition of cooing?
 - a. Any sort of noise a child makes
 - b. Consonant sounds on their own
 - c. Open mouthed vowel sounds
 - d. Reactive noises

7. When might a child enter the post telegraphic stage?
 - a. There is complete variety – every child is different
 - b. 36 months onwards
 - c. 24 months onwards
 - d. School age

8. At what age does babbling typically begin?
 - a. 6 months
 - b. 4 months
 - c. 8 months
 - d. There is no typical stage

9. What is the definition of the vegetative state?

- a. Reflex crying noises
- b. Anything that isn't trying to be a word
- c. Crying for food, attention etc
- d. Not making any sounds

10. What is a protoword?

- a. A half-formed word
- b. Babbling sounds that seem to match actual words, used generally in context
- c. A child's first word
- d. Anything that sounds almost like a word

Lexis and Semantics Quiz

1. What is a hypernym?
 - a. A word within a hyponym's category
 - b. A word which suggests excitement
 - c. A category into which other words fit
 - d. A category of naming that children reach around two years old

2. What is a hyponym?
 - a. A word within a hyperym's category
 - b. A word which suggests concern
 - c. A category into which other words fit
 - d. A category of naming that children reach around two years old

3. What is overextension?
 - a. Where a word is not 'stretched' enough to cover its whole meaning
 - b. Where children are using words not usually associated with their age bracket
 - c. When children use too many words for a single object
 - d. When a word is 'stretched' to label things that aren't part of that word's meaning

4. What is underextension?
 - a. Where a word is not 'stretched' enough to cover its whole meaning
 - b. Where children are not using enough words for their age bracket
 - c. When children can't pronounce words properly
 - d. When a word is 'stretched' to label things that aren't part of that word's meaning

5. What type of words do children acquire first?
 - a. Environmental
 - b. Social
 - c. Labelling
 - d. Descriptive

6. Which of these types of overextension does Rescorla not suggest?
 - a. Categorical
 - b. Analogical
 - c. Predicate
 - d. Random

7. Which of the following is not suggested by Aitchison as a stage in a child's acquisition of vocabulary?
 - a. Packaging
 - b. Reformation
 - c. Labelling
 - d. Network building

8. At what stage is overextension most likely?
 - a. Holophrastic
 - b. Network building
 - c. Packaging
 - d. Labelling

9. What is receptive vocabulary?
 - a. Vocabulary understood by the child
 - b. Vocabulary used by the child
 - c. Vocabulary used by a caregiver towards a child
 - d. Vocabulary used between twins

10. What is productive vocabulary?
 - a. Vocabulary understood by the child
 - b. Vocabulary used by the child
 - c. Vocabulary used in imaginative circumstances
 - d. Vocabulary used when describing objects in the telegraphic stage

Grammar Quiz

1. What is a morpheme?
 - a. Any unit of grammatical meaning
 - b. The smallest unit of grammatical meaning
 - c. A plural
 - d. Something denoting tense

2. What is a bound morpheme?
 - a. A morpheme that isn't needed
 - b. A morpheme that can stand alone
 - c. A morpheme which must be attached to a free morpheme
 - d. A morpheme denoting plurality

3. What is a free morpheme?
 - a. A morpheme that isn't used grammatically
 - b. A morpheme that can stand alone
 - c. A morpheme which must be attached to a free morpheme
 - d. A morpheme denoting tense

4. What does MLU stand for?
 - a. Mean Length of Utterance
 - b. Mean Length of Understanding
 - c. My Linguistic Understanding
 - d. Median Length of Utterance

5. How many two word combinations does Roger Brown suggest are used by children at this stage?
 - a. 3
 - b. 4
 - c. 5
 - d. 6

6. Which of the following is not a feature of Bellugi and McNeill's stages of question development?
 - a. Intonation
 - b. Paralinguistic features such as pointing and raised eyebrows
 - c. Use of question words
 - d. Manipulation of syntax

7. How many stages does Crystal suggest there are in negative formation?
 - a. 5
 - b. 6
 - c. 7
 - d. 4

8. At what age do children typically begin to use possessives?
 - a. 40 – 44 months
 - b. 30 – 34 months
 - c. 36 – 42 months
 - d. 48 – 52 months

9. What would typically be the earliest that a child could be expected to use compound sentences in speech?
 - a. 40 months
 - b. 42 months
 - c. 48 months
 - d. 50 months

10. When would bound morphemes typically begin to appear?
 - a. 24 months
 - b. 26 months
 - c. 28 months
 - d. 30 months

Phonology Quiz

1. What is deletion?
 - a. Children simplify pronunciation by removing certain sounds
 - b. It involves substituting harder sounds with easier ones
 - c. Groups of consonants
 - d. Stages where significant characteristics can be identified

2. What is substitution?
 - a. Clusters of sounds that represent specific words
 - b. Swapping harsher sounds with easier ones
 - c. A single word representing a more complex word
 - d. Groups of consonants

3. What is an example of a reduplicated monosyllable?
 - a. Ba ba
 - b. Horsey!
 - c. "Gy" instead of sky
 - d. Laughter

4. What is 'doggy' an example of?
 - a. Assimilation
 - b. Reduplication
 - c. Substitution
 - d. Addition

5. Which is an example of substitution?
 - a. Wabbit
 - b. Dada
 - c. Horsey
 - d. Baba

6. What is reduplication?
 - a. Changing one sound to another
 - b. Repeating the whole syllable
 - c. When air flow is completely stopped
 - d. Process that illustrates how some sounds change because of other sounds around them

7. What is phonemic contraction?
 - a. Switching off the ability to speak all languages
 - b. Preferring the human voice to other environmental sounds
 - c. Distinguishing between mother's language and another speaker's language
 - d. Children find it hard to produce groups of two or more consonants so will reduce them into smaller units

8. What is assimilation?
- a. Whole syllables can go missing, babies may remove unstressed syllables
 - b. The air flow is completely stopped
 - c. A process that illustrates how some sounds change because of other sounds around them
 - d. Changing one sound to another
9. What is 'CHOOCHOO' an example of?
- a. Deletion
 - b. Addition
 - c. Cooing
 - d. Reduplication
10. What is addition?
- a. Repeating particular sounds and structures (adding an extra vowel sound to create a CVCV structure)
 - b. Repeating the whole syllable
 - c. Open mouthed vowel sounds
 - d. Speaking in grammatically incorrect sentences

Articulation Quiz

1. In which areas of the mouth are postalveolar consonants formed?
 - a. Tongue and the back of the alveolar ridge
 - b. Lower lip and upper teeth
 - c. Throat
 - d. Tip of tongue and front of mouth

2. Which consonants are formed with both lips?
 - a. K, G
 - b. Th
 - c. Oo
 - d. P, B, M

3. What place of articulation do K, G, W come from e.g. King, gang, and wake.
 - a. Labiodental
 - b. Glottal
 - c. Velar
 - d. Bilabial

4. Where are dental consonants formed?
 - a. Back of tongue and back of roof of mouth
 - b. Tongue and upper teeth
 - c. Lower lip and upper teeth
 - d. Tip of tongue and front of roof of the mouth

5. What word is an example of palatal consonants?
 - a. Yes, you
 - b. Far, father, very, vision
 - c. Tune, snooze
 - d. Hello, high, uh-oh

6. Where in the mouth is the alveolar ridge?
 - a. Back of roof of mouth
 - b. Behind teeth, front of roof of the mouth
 - c. Upper teeth
 - d. Tongue body

7. What is a voiced consonant?
 - a. They are silent and you can hear voiced.
 - b. They are made with lips
 - c. You hear the vibrations
 - d. You use your larynx

8. What is the larynx more commonly known as?
 - a. The roof of the mouth
 - b. The tongue
 - c. The voice box
 - d. The ridge behind either the top or bottom teeth

9. How are palatal consonants formed?
 - a. Placing the body of the tongue to the roof of the mouth
 - b. Placing the back of the tongue to the roof of the mouth
 - c. Tip of the tongue to the front of the mouth
 - d. Back of the tongue to the back of the roof of the mouth

10. Where are labio-dental consonants produced?
 - a. Both lips
 - b. Lower lip and upper teeth
 - c. Back of the tongue and roof of the mouth
 - d. Tongue and upper teeth

II. Language Acquisition Theories Short Questions

Use your knowledge from across your study of language acquisition to answer these questions specifically focused on theories.

20 credits for completing this quiz.

1. What does Halliday suggest are the seven functions of language for children?
2. Who proposed the Language Acquisition Device and what is the basic premise?
3. What does the Wug Test suggest about children's ability to acquire language?
4. Who proposed the Language Acquisition Support System and what is the basic premise?
5. What is child directed speech?
6. What key points does Vygotsky make about child language acquisition?
7. What did B.F. Skinner experiment on and what conclusions did he form as a result?
8. What is the 'critical period' and who coined this initially?
9. How do Michael Tomasello's ideas about language acquisition differ from nativists?
10. What does Steven Pinker's Principles and Parameters Theory suggest?

III. Short Articles

Read through each of these articles and complete notes around the question accompanying them on this article.

20 credits for each detailed set of notes produced.

1. <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/babies-learn-words-birth>

What do we learn about language development pre-birth?

2. <https://keepinitrealevanston.wordpress.com/2013/06/23/meet-oxana-malaya-the-dog-girl/>

What are the similarities and differences between Oxana and Genie's stories and what does it suggest about language acquisition?

3. <https://www.simplypsychology.org/bruner.html>

What more do you learn about Bruner here and how does this impact your views on language development?

4. <https://www.simplypsychology.org/piaget.html>

What more do you learn about Piaget here and how does this impact your views on language development?

5. http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/rmhttp/radio4/transcripts/1996_reith3.pdf

What does Aitchison suggest about language acquisition in her lecture and how does it relate to the wider debate around language acquisition?

6. <http://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED252065.pdf>

What does this discussion of language acquisition in other cultures suggest about the importance of care givers?

7. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/jan/08/are-tablet-computers-bad-young-children>

What does this suggest about influences on children's acquisition of language?

8. <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.363.5831&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

How does this article support the idea of a 'critical period'?

9. http://childlanguage.homestead.com/approaches.html#anchor_1019

How does this enhance your existing notes and ideas on stages of language acquisition?

IV. Essay Questions

Using the knowledge that you have accumulated, write a detailed response to the essay question chosen. Ensure that you include some practical examples as well as wider reading and theoretical understanding.

80 credits for each completed essay.

1. To what extent is Genie still a useful case study for considering the way children acquire language?
2. Discuss the principle differences between the telegraphic and post telegraphic stages of language acquisition and suggest why this may be the case.
3. 'The principle of a Language Acquisition Device has been proven redundant'. To what extent do you agree with this view?
4. 'Behaviourism will always be more plausible than Nativism'. To what extent do you agree with this statement?
5. To what extent is a child's language indicative of their cognitive ability?
6. Describe the key milestones in a child's acquisition of language, using theory to offer an explanation for it.
7. 'The first four months of a baby's life are irrelevant in its preparation for speech'. To what extent do you agree with this statement?
8. 'Mean Length of Utterance is the best way of measuring the sophistication of children's language'. To what extent do you agree with this view?
9. 'Parents and care givers are largely unimportant in children's language development'. To what extent do you agree with this view?
10. 'A child's acquisition of language should not be considered in isolation from other developmental factors'. To what extent do you agree with this view?

V. Wider Reading

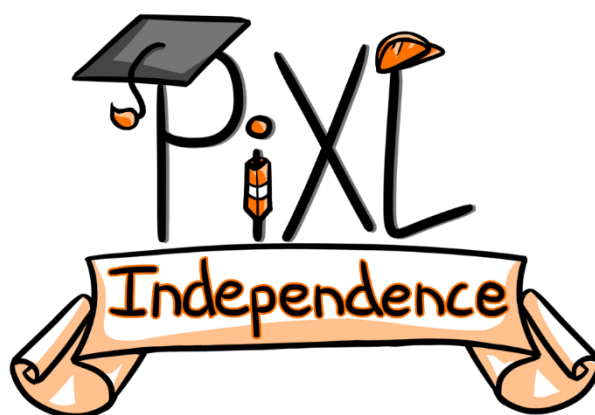
For each of these titles, make notes on the key points made on language acquisition and try to place the overall work(s) within the theoretical framework. You should aim to produce a ten point summary for each piece and a summary paragraph stating clearly where the piece fits with other theory.

50 credits for each response completed.

1. 'The acquisition of language by children' by Saffran, Senghas and Trueswell (2001)
<http://www.pnas.org/content/98/23/12874.full>
2. *A Functional Approach to Child Language: A Study of Determiners and Reference* (1979) by Anette Karmiloff-Smith (Chapter One)
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=OKubqLP3hjYC&oi=fnd&pg=PP9&dq=articles+on+child+language+acquisition&ots=y0WYf3bxD7&sig=PDckCWrtWPG19YlxLgcDHzo6XJs#v=onepage&q=articles%20on%20child%20language%20acquisition&f=false>
3. *A Functional Approach to Child Language: A Study of Determiners and Reference* (1979) by Anette Karmiloff-Smith (Chapter Two)
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=OKubqLP3hjYC&oi=fnd&pg=PP9&dq=articles+on+child+language+acquisition&ots=y0WYf3bxD7&sig=PDckCWrtWPG19YlxLgcDHzo6XJs#v=onepage&q=articles%20on%20child%20language%20acquisition&f=false>
4. *Mechanisms of Child Language Acquisition* edited by Brian MacWhinney (Chapter 1 pp. 1-29)
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=7GnZlCrdFwkC&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=articles+on+child+language+acquisition&ots=9hBr7Qh8In&sig=K0XulK8lkReNYOxy3y17LYJ9SuE#v=onepage&q=articles%20on%20child%20language%20acquisition&f=false>
5. *Mechanisms of Child Language Acquisition* edited by Brian MacWhinney (Chapter 2 pp. 35-62)
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=7GnZlCrdFwkC&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=articles+on+child+language+acquisition&ots=9hBr7Qh8In&sig=K0XulK8lkReNYOxy3y17LYJ9SuE#v=onepage&q=articles%20on%20child%20language%20acquisition&f=false>
6. *Mechanisms of Child Language Acquisition* edited by Brian MacWhinney (Chapter 3 pp. 65-85)
<https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=7GnZlCrdFwkC&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=articles+on+child+language+acquisition&ots=9hBr7Qh8In&sig=K0XulK8lkReNYOxy3y17LYJ9SuE#v=onepage&q=articles%20on%20child%20language%20acquisition&f=false>

[articles+on+child+language+acquisition&ots=9hBr7Qh8In&sig=K0XulK8IkReNYOxy3y17LYJ9SuE#v=onepage&q=articles%20on%20child%20language%20acquisition&f=false](https://topmagazinebook.com/?book=0140110151&ots=9hBr7Qh8In&sig=K0XulK8IkReNYOxy3y17LYJ9SuE#v=onepage&q=articles%20on%20child%20language%20acquisition&f=false)

7. *Listen to Your Child* by David Crystal (1989) Chapter 1 (pp. 35 – 65)
<https://topmagazinebook.com/?book=0140110151>
8. *Listen to Your Child* by David Crystal (1989) Chapter 2 (pp. 65 - 111)
<https://topmagazinebook.com/?book=0140110151>
9. *Listen to Your Child* by David Crystal (1989) Chapter 3 (pp. 111 -143)
<https://topmagazinebook.com/?book=0140110151>



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