





!!! Undergraduate students may pass the test **without** filling out the “Explain/comment” parts. !!! A

1) Give a definition of writing: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2) According to your definition given in 1), do the following examples count as writing or not:

| nr. | example   | yes | no | ? |
|-----|---|-----|----|---|
| a)  |    |     |    |   |
| b)  |  +  =  |     |    |   |
| c)  | Inuttut pisinnaatitaaffiit pillugit silarsuarmioqatigiinnut nalunaarut  |     |    |   |

Explain/comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3) Where and when did writing start (according to the oldest records we have)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

4) While Fischer thinks that writing was invented only once in the history of humankind (as in question 3), other researchers hold that writing was invented independently at least three times: where? (2 places in addition to the place mentioned in question 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5) (Mark the right answer with a cross.) The sign " 😊 " as used in text messages is ...  
 semasiographic (ideographic)       pictographic       logographic

Explain/comment: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

6) Name a language...  
 a) that uses a logographic writing system: \_\_\_\_\_  
 b) that uses a syllabic writing system: \_\_\_\_\_  
 c) that uses an alphabetic writing system, but NOT the Latin alphabet: \_\_\_\_\_  
 d) that is written with more than one writing systems: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain/comment on 6d) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7) Name three different writing systems that are used in Europe or Africa and give an example (language that uses this system).

|    | system | language (1 example) |
|----|--------|----------------------|
| a) |        |                      |
| b) |        |                      |
| c) |        |                      |

8) What determines the choice of a writing system when people want to start writing in a language that was not used in writing before? Name two factors: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Explain/comment, illustrate with an (invented or real) example: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9) Name three characteristics that distinguish written language (written texts) from spoken:

|    | written language (written texts) | spoken language (written texts) |
|----|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| a) |                                  |                                 |
| b) |                                  |                                 |
| c) |                                  |                                 |

10) Give two examples of literary practices:  
a) a practice that was common in your home country in the 20th century (maybe still is): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) a practice that is common among students today: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11) What does this mean: “a literacy practice may be gendered”? Explain and give an example. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 12) Which of the following sentences characterize the “old literacy studies” and **Walter Ong’s ideas** about literacy and orality? Choose **three**:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| People in oral cultures tend to use concepts in situational, operational frames close to their experience in everyday life. |  |
| Specific practices of using reading or writing promote specific cognitive and communicative skills.                         |  |
| Writing promotes innovation in a society, while oral societies are conservative and traditionalist.                         |  |
| Writing is absolutely necessary for the development of abstract thinking, logic and philosophy.                             |  |
| Literacy must be studied as the events and practices of people’s everyday life.   |  |
| Important is what people do with literacy, not what literacy does with people.  |  |
| Writing separates the father from the son.  |  |
| Non-literate persons cannot be wise.  |  |

- 13) Which of the following sentences characterize the “new literacy studies” and the **ecological approach** presented by Barton? Choose **three**:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| All literacy practices are learnt in school.   |  |
| Important is what people do with literacy, not what literacy does with people.   |  |
| Literacy must be studied as the events and practices of people’s everyday life.  |  |
| Speaking is more important than writing.   |  |
| The study of literacy includes the study of social factors such as people’s different roles, social networks and institutions. |  |
| The very fact that someone knows how to read and write has a significant impact on this person’s life and the way they think.  |  |
| There is no important difference between writing and speaking, written and spoken language.                                    |  |
| We use reading and writing always in the same way in different situations or domains.  |  |

- 14) Decide whether the following were **results of Scribner & Cole’s study** among the Vai or not:

|   | yes | no |
|---|-----|----|
| Example: Elephants are big animals.   |     | X  |
| A person who can write in his/her mother tongue is better in logical thinking than persons who can write only in a second language. |     |    |
| In a society where different scripts are in use, these scripts have different functions and are used in different practices.        |     |    |
| People who went to school were better in experiments testing abstract thinking and logic.   |     |    |
| Specific practices of using reading or writing promote specific cognitive and communicative skills.                                 |     |    |
| The English writing system is passed on from father to son.   |     |    |
| The Vai language is written with a logographic script.  |     |    |
| The Vai writing system is learned from neighbors, friends, or relatives, not in school.   |     |    |
| Women write more in Vai than men.   |     |    |
| Writing is necessary for the development of abstract thinking, logic and philosophy.  |     |    |

15) Explain/comment on **one** of the following quotes:

- "Writing can also lead to modern dependency on writing which often gradually supplants traditional oral culture." (Smalley)
- "People have different literacies which they make use of, associated with different domains of life." (Barton)
- „In multilingual situations different literacies will often be associated with different languages or different scripts." (Barton)
- "At any point in time a person's literacies are based on the possibilities provided by their past experiences." (Barton)
- "With written language you can do things you cannot with spoken. It does not just amplify spoken language. It extends the functions of language, and enables you to do different things." (Barton)
- "Writing separates the knower from the known." (Ong)