

Linguistic Landscape of South Asia

Linguistics · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which language family does the majority of languages in Northern India belong to?

- A) Dravidian
- B) Indo-Aryan
- C) Austroasiatic
- D) Tibeto-Burman

2. The concept of the 'Dravidian' language family was first systematically proposed by which scholar?

- A) Robert Caldwell
- B) George Grierson
- C) William Jones
- D) Suniti Kumar Chatterji

3. Which of these is the most widely spoken language belonging to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic family?

- A) Khasi
- B) Santali
- C) Nicobarese
- D) Ho

4. What is the primary characteristic of the 'South Asian Linguistic Area' (Sprachbund)?

- A) Shared genetic origin
- B) Common script evolution
- C) Shared syntactic and phonological features despite diverse origins
- D) Uniform grammatical gender systems

5. Which script is considered the ancestor of almost all modern South Asian writing systems, including Devanagari?

- A) Kharosthi
- B) Brahmi
- C) Indus Script
- D) Grantha

6. The 'Great Andamanese' languages have historically been classified under which broader, controversial grouping?

- A) Andamanese isolate
- B) Indo-Pacific
- C) Austronesian
- D) Sino-Tibetan

7. Which language is legally recognized as a 'Classical Language' of India, notable for its 2,000-year-old literary tradition?

- A) Marathi
- B) Bengali
- C) Tamil
- D) Gujarati

8. The Shina and Kashmiri languages belong to which sub-branch of the Indo-Iranian family?

- A) Dardic
- B) Nuristani
- C) Iranian
- D) Indic

9. Which linguistic feature is commonly found in Dravidian languages but is rare in Indo-Aryan languages?

- A) Agglutination
- B) Vowel harmony
- C) Tonal phonemes
- D) Initial consonant clusters

10. What is the term for the literary dialect of Tamil that differs significantly from the spoken colloquial form?

- A) Manipravalam
- B) Sanskritic Tamil
- C) Sen-Tamil
- D) Dakhini

11. The Burushaski language is unique in South Asia because it is classified as a:

- A) Dravidian dialect
- B) Language isolate
- C) Tibeto-Burman language
- D) Indo-Aryan substratum

12. Which of the following South Asian languages is written in the Thaana script?

- A) Divehi
- B) Sinhala
- C) Dzongkha
- D) Lepcha

13. The concept of 'Retroflex consonants' as a widespread feature in South Asian languages is an example of what phenomenon?

- A) Areal diffusion
- B) Genetic inheritance
- C) Loanword adaptation
- D) Morphological simplification

14. Which language acts as the primary lingua franca in the context of the 'Dakhini' dialect spoken in the Deccan region?

- A) Urdu
- B) Marathi
- C) Telugu
- D) Kannada

15. The Sinhala language, spoken primarily in Sri Lanka, belongs to which linguistic branch?

- A) Dravidian
- B) Indo-Aryan
- C) Austronesian
- D) Tai-Kadai