

SURNAME FIRST NAME

MATR..... DATE

PART 2: 90 minutes, including copying time.

Write an essay in a formal style in 450-500 words **in support of one of the concepts** overleaf.

- Give your essay a title (max. 10 words).
- Incorporate 2 of the concepts overleaf into your discussion in your own words
- All claims **must** be substantiated.
- Essays without paragraphing will fail.
- Do not exceed the word count given.
- Avoid using section headings.
- Write your answers in PEN only.
- **Do not use tippex or pencil** at any point during this exam.

Use single spacing, and leave margin space both right and left (as on this page) Before handing in your work, cancel with a diagonal line anything that is **not** your final draft. Mark your final text with the words FINAL DRAFT at the top of the page. Write your name and matriculation number on all pages.

The exam papers of students found using notes or electronic devices will be cancelled.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

CRITERIA	NOTES
TITLE /5	
ACCURACY & RANGE /5	
APPROPRIACY & RANGE /5	
COHESION & COHERENCE /5	
CRITICALITY & SYNTHESIS /5	
TASK /5	
TOTAL /30	

1. Support for the Critical Age Hypothesis

The Critical Age Hypothesis (CAH) posits a biologically defined period for effective language learning, usually ending around puberty. Evidence suggests that early exposure leads to native-like fluency, while cases like "Genie" illustrate the difficulties faced by those who lack this exposure. Additionally, research indicates that brain plasticity declines with age, making language acquisition harder for adults compared to children.

2. Criticism of the Critical Age Hypothesis

Despite its acceptance, the Critical Age Hypothesis (CAH) faces criticism for oversimplifying language acquisition. Critics argue that adult learners can reach near-native proficiency through motivation and effective strategies, with factors like exposure and quality of instruction often being more significant than age. Additionally, the decline in language-learning ability after puberty is less severe than the CAH suggests, influenced by various social and cognitive factors.

3. A Balanced Perspective on the Critical Age Hypothesis

The Critical Age Hypothesis (CAH) provides valuable insights but needs a more nuanced understanding. While research shows children excel at acquiring accents and grammar, older learners can also succeed due to motivation and effective teaching methods. Cognitive skills developed over time can aid adult learners in understanding complex structures, making language acquisition possible throughout life, though methods and results may vary by age.

Submission of your answer to this exam is confirmation that you understand plagiarism and confirm that this submission is your own work and that you have acted with complete academic integrity throughout the exam.