

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. **The Critical Age Hypothesis (CAH) claims there is a biologically optimal window—ending around puberty—for native-like language learning. Early exposure yields fluency; cases such as “Genie” show that later exposure meets severe limits, as brain plasticity declines with age.**
2. **Though widely accepted, the CAH is critiqued for oversimplification: motivated adults using effective strategies and quality input can approach native proficiency, and the post-puberty decline in learning ability is less steep and more context-dependent than the CAH implies.**
3. **The CAH offers useful insights but requires nuance. Children typically master accent and grammar more easily, yet adult learners—armed with motivation, refined cognitive skills, and targeted teaching—can still achieve strong outcomes, albeit with age-related variations in method and pace.**

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.