GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The candidates are expected to have mastered basic knowledge from the following linguistic
disciplines of the contemporary English language: phonetics and phonology, morphology,
syntax, lexicology, text analysis and sociolinguistics, which will be tested during the
examination in the discussion over a given text. The students will present one topic from the
above-mentioned linguistic disciplines in greater detail.

During the examination, the candidates will be required to show that they have
gathered enough knowledge about linguistics in general and its different branches and have
learned typological differences of the English and Czech languages, which is very important
for the prediction and analysis of errors. The knowledge of such differences should help the
students explain when translation exercises are important in English language teaching to
overcome negative transfer.

EXAMINATION TOPICS

1) The sound system of English in comparison with the Czech one, especially
the system of English phonemes, stress (word and sentence stress), and rhythm
(strong and weak forms of grammar/function words).
2) Aspects of connected speech (rhythm, assimilation, elision, and linking).
3) Intonation (definition, functions of intonation, tone unit, and tones).
4) Types of morphemes, allomorphs, words, word classes (open x closed),
some typical suffixes identifying word classes without context. Affixes and their
impact on the stress shift in a word. Pronunciation and spelling of grammatical
endings (-ed, -s/-es, -ing, ’s).
5) The usage of articles with common and proper nouns (rules and exceptions).
6) The grammatical category of number and countability in English nouns. Pronunciation and
spelling of plural endings and of irregular forms in plural (suppletives).
7) The category of gender and case in English (compared with the situation in the Czech
language). Pronunciation and spelling of possessive case.
8) Pronouns, their types and functions. Pronunciation of pronouns in their different functions.
9) The grammatical category of voice in English and in Czech.
10) Primary auxiliaries and their functions in the structure of the verb phrase, especially
in connection with the grammatical category of aspect. Pronunciation of primary
auxiliaries.
11) Mood and modality.
12) Non-finite verb phrases, their structure, function and grammatical categories.
13) Sentence elements and their relations, differences between sentence and clause
(structural and typological). Sentence stress.
14) Syntactic classification of English verbs and their complementation.
15) Complex noun phrase and its components.
17) Sentence types, inversion, ellipsis. Sentence types and intonation patterns with respect to functions of intonation.
18) Compound and complex sentence, relations between clauses, the role of conjunctions.
19) Subordinate clauses (types and structure).
20) The English equivalents of the Czech one-element verbal and verbo-nominal sentences.
21) Sentence condensation in the English sentence (compared with its translation into Czech), its rules and usage.
23) Constructions for highlighting sentence elements and the functions of sentence stress.
24) Cohesion and coherence of the text (basic cohesive devices, intertextuality, etc.).
25) Prague School of Linguistics, its followers and its major influence on language teaching.
26) Characteristic features of the English and Czech languages and their importance for language teaching.
27) The role of translation in grammar teaching.
28) Basic rules for translating English texts.
29) Word meaning – grammatical and lexical (denotation, connotation), lexical relations (collocation, synonymy, etc.). Word meaning and sound pattern of a word (homophones, homographs, minimal pairs).
30) Layers in the lexicon (territorial, social, stylistic, etc.). Stylistic reference, loaded vocabulary, register.
31) Types of word formation. Word formation in relation to word stress pattern. Pronunciation and spelling of vowels in stressed and unstressed syllables.
32) Etymological survey (historical overview, borrowings, assimilation, etc.), political correctness, language and gender.
33) Language varieties – the concept of standard English, the social role of RP.
34) Regional dialects – rural and urban. Attitudes to dialects on part of different social classes.
35) The structure of conversation – social conventions in different countries.
36) Gender differences in language use.
37) The language situation in Scotland, Wales and Ireland.
38) British and American English. World Englishes.
39) English as a Lingua Franca.
40) Bilingualism and multilingualism.

Recommended reading:

*Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, teaching, assessment.*


