PART II. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS

KEY TOPIC(S):
- A brief introduction to the history of writing.

READING ASSIGNMENT 7
The purpose of this reading assignment is to help you to become aware of the variety of writing systems of the world, and the historical emergence of the alphabet.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Topics
Quickly write down as many ideas as you can think of. Write in short note form and do not worry about the order you write them in. Then, working in groups of five or six, read aloud and discuss your arguments amongst yourselves. Write them down.

- Phonological systems versus Non-phonological systems
- Syllabic or alphabetic writing?
- Evolution of the alphabet.
PASSAGE FOR DISCUSSION

Now consider the following situations (‘Graphology at breakfast’ and ‘The Somali problem’) and discuss. Compare your decision with other members of the class.