



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL  
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

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# UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

## 2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER REGULAR MAIN  
EXAMINATION

**FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF  
EDUCATION (ARTS)**

**COURSE CODE: ENG 422**

**COURSE TITLE: THEORIES OF SYNTAX AND DESCRIPTION  
OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR**

**DATE: 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021**

**TIME: 01:00PM- 04:00PM**

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### INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

- SEE INSIDE

**THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE PRINTED PAGES PLEASE TURN OVER**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer question **ONE** and any other **TWO** questions

**Question One**

- a) Discuss the three levels of adequacy any syntactic theory possess. (9 Marks)
- b) Distinguish between *descriptive* and *prescriptive* grammar. (8 Marks)
- c) Chomsky proposes that the object of any linguistic study is *competence* and not *performance*.  
Discuss this assertion. (8 Marks)
- d) Illustrate the *subscripts* for the following two sentences using the *Binding theory*
  - i. The lecturer expected her to pass.
  - ii. The lecturer expected he would pass (5 Marks)

**Question Two**

Discuss the following terms and concepts as used in syntactic theory.

- a) Argument position (5 Marks)
- b) Anaphor (5 Marks)
- c) Specifier (5 Marks)
- d) Pronominals (5 Marks)

**Question Three**

- a) Draw a tree diagram for the sentence below:  
The boys in the field are happy (8 Marks)
- b) Explain the terms *head* and *argument* as used in syntactic theory. Provide an illustration of each. (8 Marks)
- c) Disambiguate the following sentence:  
Did you notice the waitress's nose ring? (4 Marks)

**Question Four**

- a) Explain the term *recursion* as used in syntactic theory with an appropriate illustration. (6 Marks)
- b) Analyze the X-bar representation of the following sentence structures:
  - i. The students of linguistics in the room. (3 Marks)
  - ii. Right across the bridge (3 Marks)
  - iii. Rather envious of her (3 Marks)
- c) Compare the terms *grammaticality* and *acceptability* as used in the study of syntax. (5 marks)

**Question Five**

Describe the PS rules and the lexicon for the following:

- i. Jemima was beaten by angry women. (10 Marks)
- ii. Running is the best thing. (10 Marks)

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