

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**  
**AND**  
**THE INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
**FINAL EXAMINATION**  
**MAY, 2005**

**COURSE TITLE : GRAMMAR II: PHRASES AND CLAUSES**  
**COURSE CODE : ENG 201**  
**TIME ALLOWED : TWO (2) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. THERE ARE ELEVEN PAGES TO THIS PAPER ( INCLUDING THE COVER PAGE)**
- 2. THIS PAPER HAS FOUR QUESTIONS**
- 3. QUESTION 1 IS COMPULSORY**
- 4. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN ALL (INCLUDING QUESTION 1)**
- 5. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY 30 MARKS**
- 6. A SEPARATE ANSWER SHEET HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR QUESTIONS 1E, 2A, 2E AND 4B PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THEM.**

**THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR HAS  
GRANTED THE PERMISSION TO DO SO**

**A. SYNTAX**

Give an exactly **one** page description of syntax. Your description, which should include at least two illustrative examples, must also show how syntax relates to the other aspects of Linguistics.  
(5)

**B. TESTING FOR PHRASEHOOD OR CONSTITUENCY AND AMBIGUITY**

- a. What is the syntactic category of the underlined word in the following sentence?

*The tallest person just walked by.*

Give **one** piece of morphological evidence and **one** piece of syntactic evidence for your answer. Be sure to specify which piece of evidence is morphological and which is syntactic.  
(2)

- b. Pick out **one** constituent in the following sentence, and use **two** separate constituency tests to argue that it is a constituent.

*The guests put their coats in the bedroom.*

Be sure to specify what the constituent is, what the name of each constituency test is, and demonstrate that each constituency test works with an example.  
(5)

- c. Explain the **two** distinctly different meanings that arise from the structural ambiguity of the following sentence:

*Mary fixed the car with the rusty tailpipe.* (2)

- d. Is the following sentence globally or temporarily ambiguous?

*Mary fixed the car with the rusty tailpipe.*

Do not just answer yes; specify which one. (1)

### C. PHRASE STRUCTURE TREES

Draw trees that show the structure of the following phrases.

1. will leave in the morning
2. under the table
3. has eaten the whole pizza

(3)

### D. Phrase Structure Rules

Create a phrase that conforms to each PS rule. *Follow each PS rule strictly!*

1. NP --> DET N
2. NP --> AP N
3. VP --> AUX V NP
4. PP --> P NP

(2)

### E. PHRASES AND CLAUSES

1. She hopes to finish the project **that she started this past year**.  
a) gerund phrase, b) independent clause, c) restrictive clause, d) non-restrictive clause
2. Before **answering the question**, Bernard considered all of the options.  
a) non-restrictive clause, b) participial phrase, c) restrictive clause, d) gerund phrase
3. They went to the opera last week, but, **Sally hated every minute of it**.  
a) participial phrase, b) independent clause, c) non-restrictive clause, d) dependent clause
4. **Determined to win the election**, the candidate appeared in hundreds of cities.  
a) restrictive clause, b) dependent clause, c) gerund phrase, d) participial phrase
5. We'll show you the plan **to build the library**, the politician promised.  
a) restrictive clause, b) prepositional phrase, c) infinitive phrase, d) gerund phrase
6. **When she gave her speech**, Nancy trembled in fright.  
a) participial phrase, b) dependent clause, c) prepositional phrase, d) independent clause

7. Last week Kate met Elton John, **who is on his farewell tour**.  
a) participial phrase, b) gerund phrase, c) non-restrictive clause, d) independent clause
8. The dog **that won the blue ribbon** was stolen from the kennel.  
a) non-restrictive clause, b) independent clause, c) prepositional phrase, d) restrictive clause
9. Tom Hanks, **star of "Cast Away"**, has one more than few awards.  
a) appositive phrase, b) dependent clause, c) participial phrase, d) infinitive phrase
10. He discovered the treasure **by following the pirate** through the jungle.  
a) non-restrictive clause, b) restrictive clause, c) prepositional phrase, d) gerund phrase.

(10)

**QUESTION 2 A**

Choose the answer that identifies the structure of each sentence.

1. According to a recent poll, most people in our city are in favour of building a new high school gymnasium.
  - a. simple sentence
  - b. compound sentence
  - c. complex sentence
  - d. compound-complex sentence
  
2. Most cats live solitary lives, but lions live together in groups called prides.
  - a. simple sentence
  - b. compound sentence
  - c. complex sentence
  - d. compound-complex sentence
  
3. We visited Mrs. Markham when she was sick, and we tried to cheer her up.
  - a. simple sentence
  - b. compound sentence
  - c. complex sentence
  - d. compound-complex sentence
  
4. I left early because I had a headache.
  - a. simple sentence
  - b. compound sentence
  - c. complex sentence
  - d. compound-complex sentence
  
5. Last year we took a trip in our new van.
  - a. simple sentence
  - b. compound sentence
  - c. complex sentence
  - d. compound-complex sentence

6. Mikhail Baryshnikov, who was born in Latvia, danced in U.S. ballet companies, but he also choreographed and acted in movies.
- a. simple sentence
  - b. compound sentence
  - c. complex sentence
  - d. compound-complex sentence
7. Are you going to the movies or are you staying at home?
- a. simple sentence
  - b. compound sentence
  - c. complex sentence
  - d. compound-complex sentence
8. I like to sing along while I am listening to the radio.
- a. simple sentence
  - b. compound sentence
  - c. complex sentence
  - d. compound-complex sentence
9. Many pioneer women kept diaries and journals of their travels west.
- a. simple sentence
  - b. compound sentence
  - c. complex sentence
  - d. compound-complex sentence
10. I ran out of papers before reaching the last house on my route.
- a. simple sentence
  - b. compound sentence
  - c. complex sentence

**QUESTION 2 B**

In each group choose the sentence that uses phrases more clearly and correctly.

1. Choose the sentence that uses phrases more clearly and correctly.

- a. Racing wildly, the finish line was crossed.  
Racing wildly, the horses crossed the finish line.
- b. Hiking up the mountain, the blazing sun felt hot  
Hiking up the mountain, I felt hot under the blazing sun.
- c. Listening to my new CD, I ate a snack of apples and cheese  
I ate a snack of apples and cheese listening to my new CD.

2. A head of a phrase is;

- a. The first word of the phrase
- b. The last word of the phrase
- c. The most important word in the phrase
- d. The least important word in the phrase

(4)

**QUESTION 2 C**

1. Underline all the noun clauses in the following sentences. Also identify what role the noun clauses plays in the sentence (subject, direct object, indirect object, object of preposition, or subject complement).
  - a) I wonder which brand of yoghurt has the least fat.
  - b) What she does with the car is no business of yours. (4)

**QUESTION 2 D**

**SENTENCE PARRALELISM**

Rewrite the following sentences to correct the faulty parallelism

1. Penelope's goals were a successful career, making a lot of money, and to marry the man she loved.
2. His work was a mess, all mixed up, and it wasn't well planned.
3. When he left his home town, he was lonely, a recluse, and nobody liked him. (6)

**QUESTION 2 E**

**A. SENTENCE FRAGMENTS**

Place an (F) beside the following word groups if they contain a sentence fragment. Place a (C) beside the word groups if both are correct sentences.

1. This place is like working in a madhouse. Where the inmates run the asylum
2. The managers are completely incompetent. Unable to make a simple decision without consulting a rule book.
3. Take my boss, for example. He doesn't know anything at all about the business.
4. If you want to requisition some office supplies, like a box of paper clips. You need to send your request up two levels in the chain of command.



5. You can't do anything without an okay from management. Not even order an inexpensive part for a piece of broken equipment.
6. They have rules and procedures for absolutely everything. Even a "correct" procedure for closing a door.
7. There are so many rules that no one knows all of them. It's a real mess.
8. After spending tens of thousands of dollars teaching operators how to run a new computer program. They scrapped the program and installed a new one.

(8)

### QUESTION 3

#### QUESTION 3 A

##### Structural ambiguity

1. Susie shot a guy with a gun.

Explain the two meanings associated with (1) above. Draw two structures, each associated with a distinct meaning that you have identified. (5) marks

2. Construct another example sentence with similar ambiguity of your own; explain the ambiguity and draw two structures. Explain in each case the type of ambiguity. (5)

#### QUESTION 3 C

##### RUN ON SENTENCES

The following sentences are all run-ons. Correct them using any of the four methods used to correct run on sentences. There may be more than one correct answer.

1. The girls played netball the boys played tennis.
2. Einstein is famous for  $E=mc^2$  Edison is famous for the invention of the light bulb.
3. Titanic is my favourite movie I love eating popcorn.
4. Americans shake hands when they meet the Japanese bow.
5. Mother's Day is always on a Sunday Good Friday is always on a Friday.

6. William loved visiting Mombasa Sally preferred just to stay in Swaziland.
7. My car broke down I need to buy a new one.
8. At one time few people had enough money to buy books few people could read books.
9. I want to learn Chinese Jabu wants to learn French.
10. People love peace they hate war.

(20)

#### QUESTION 4

- A. What is a clause and in what way is it different from a phrase. Use clearly though out examples to illustrate your answer

(10)

#### B. CLAUSE DESCRIPTION

(10)

Select the option that best describes the arrangement of clauses within each sentence. Sometimes the description will refer to only the underlined part of a sentence. Read all the options carefully before making your choice.

1. Before Roger bought his new car, he remembered that his grandmother might give him her old sedan.
  - A. The independent clause is "Before Raoul bought his new car."
  - B. The independent clause in this sentence contains only two words.
  - C. There are two independent clauses here.
2. Alicia's wrist began to hurt, and her mother made a doctor's appointment for her.
  - A. The underlined part is the sole independent clause here.
  - B. The real independent clause begins with "and."
  - C. This sentence contains two independent clauses.
3. Zippping around the park in her little sportster, Juditha began to feel, at last, like a millionaire.
  - A. The underlined part is the independent clause.
  - B. Trick question: there is no independent clause.
  - C. The independent clause begins with "Juditha."

4. Although Jerzy had taken several courses in computer science, he couldn't solve the problems with his hard drive.
- The underlined part is the independent clause.
  - The independent clause begins with the word "he."
  - The sentence contains two independent clauses.
5. The Soth Africana have begun their long journey back to championship rugby, working seriously on fundamentals and beginning to attract new fans to the game.
- The sentence is one long independent clause.
  - The sentence contains two independent clauses.
  - Only the underlined part is the independent clause.
6. Ernest wanted to spend the night studying, but his wife had other ideas.
- The sentence contains two independent clauses.
  - Only the underlined part of the sentence is an independent clause.
  - The sentence is one long independent clause (with a compound verb).
7. The crowd began to clap and cheer as the team entered through a cloud of smoke.
- The sentence contains two independent clauses.
  - The independent clause begins with the word "as."
  - The underlined part is the independent clause.
8. Sam worked his way up to middle management but kept on wishing for a better job.
- The underlined part of the sentence is the independent clause.
  - The sentence is one independent clause.
  - The sentence contains two independent clauses.
9. Sibusiso began to leap around the room when his wife fed him the green peppers.
- The independent clause is the part of the sentence not underlined.
  - The independent clause is the part of the sentence that is underlined.
  - The sentence contains two independent clauses
10. Henry signed the contract but never agreed to purchase the CDs.
- This sentence contains two independent clauses.
  - The underlined part is the complete independent clause.
  - The entire sentence is one independent clause.

(20)