

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

**COURSE TITLE: PRINCIPLES OF PSYCHOLINGUISTICS**

**COURSE CODE: ENG 402**

**TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

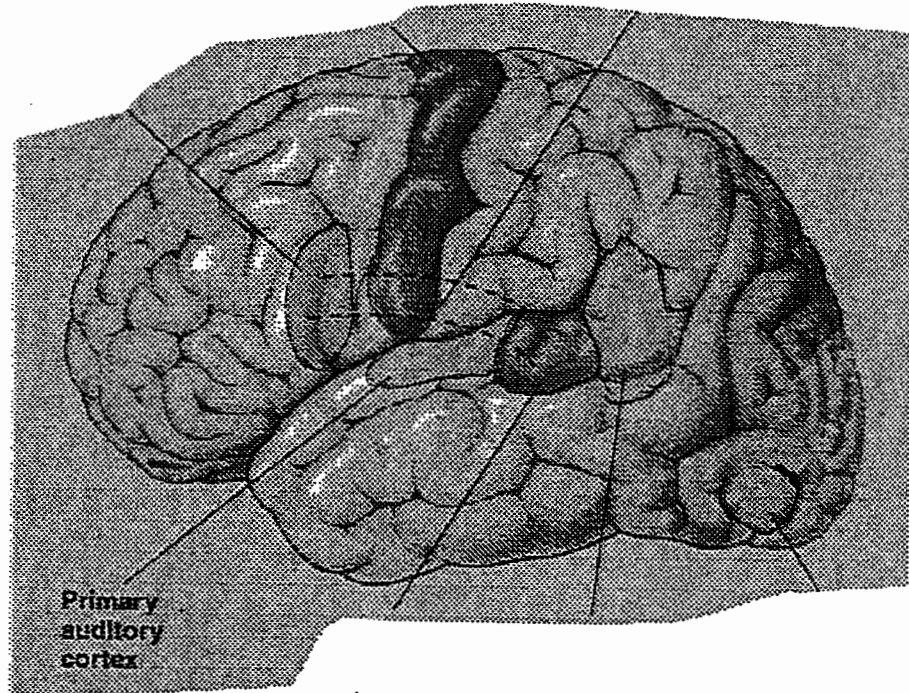
- 1. THIS PAPER HAS FOUR QUESTIONS**
- 2. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS ONLY.**
- 3. QUESTION ONE IS COMPULSORY**
- 4. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY 30 MARKS**

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

**QUESTION 1 (Compulsory)**

- a) Study carefully the following diagram and label it properly. Discuss in detail the language function of each of the parts that you have labelled.

10 marks



- b) Critically discuss any two of the theories of language learning/acquisition we have discussed in class.

8 marks

- c) Make brief notes on any **two** of the following:

- i) Aphasia
- ii) Speech Perception
- iii) Ambiguity
- iv) The mental lexicon

8 marks

- d) Compare and contrast any two model of spoken word recognition

4 marks

- e) Discuss any two methods of research in psycholinguistic that you know. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these methods.

4 marks

**QUESTION 2**

The brain processes information in a very complex way. The language input we get and subsequently use is subjected to several processes, one such being the human memory. By referring to the information below explain how memory is processed in our brain and explain the different types of memory useful for linguistic information.

Incoming information	SENSORY MEMORY	WORKING MEMORY	LONG TERM MEMORY
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**QUESTION 3**

One of the major preoccupation in psycholinguistics has been to understand how we process ambiguous sentences. Explain clearly two models of sentence parsing which attempt to explain the process of sentence parsing.

Here are some sentences to remind you the processes.

- a) The criminal confessed his sins harmed many people.
- b) The criminal confessed that his sins harmed many people.
  
- a) The defendant examined by the lawyer turned out to be unreliable
- b) The evidence examined by the lawyer turned out to be unreliable.

**NB.** You might find that using tree diagrams illustrations may assist you in explaining some of the processes.

**QUESTION 4**

If your students had a problem with reading, what advice would you give them to assist them deal with reading problems.