

QUESTION 1: COMPULSORY

a) State the syntactic function of each of the underlined phrases and clauses. Use at least one constituency test to show the type of constituent structure that the underlined words belong to.

1. **Hoping for a miracle**, the doctors continued the surgery.
2. Our boss supports **donating time to charity**.
3. When the firecrackers exploded, Walter thought **that a gun had gone off**.
4. **After the banquet**, the cooks will take a well-deserved break.
5. Joey is hoping for a change **to play pool** with his uncle.
6. The dog that Sam chose **from the litter** seems to be healthy.
7. Sam Smith, who recently spoke to the youth group, excels at **motivating young people**.
8. **Pushed beyond endurance**, the runner dropped the baton.
9. The shoes he saw in the catalogue are available **down the street**.
10. The reporter **crouched behind that tree** got the best picture of the arrest.
11. Keith tried **supporting both teams**, but his heart was with Oregon.
12. Katrina, who resented being left at home, drew on the walls **with her crayons**.
13. **That he should refuse to pay his share** was annoying.
14. After sitting in the dark for 45 minutes, I finally realized **that the electricity was not going to come back on**.
15. Despite the rain, Lemi argued **that we should go ahead with the picnic**.

(½ mark each)

b) In English the subject comes before the verb in most sentences. However, there are some exceptions to this rule. Discuss and illustrate with examples.

[3 marks]

c) Read the following news article and make comments on syntactic structures that are either fragmented, ambiguous or syntactically ill-formed. Explain clearly why you say the sentences are ill-formed and suggest ways of correcting them. (10)

Thug dies on the job

By Robert Gama

A suspected thug was short dead after ransacking a house behind Caltex petrol station at Mhlakani just before the break of dawn yesterday.

The deceased and his partner attacked Ethel Zwane's rented room at a Thwala homestead, where they broke the door using a bush knife to gain entry. Zwane said she was sleeping inside with her two children when she heard the noise on her door, which she first confused for a car crash before she realised they were being attacked. Upon gaining entry, the thugs used a torch to look around the room.

"I screamed for help before I was hit with the palm of the bush knife twice on the forehead," she recalled, adding that she immediately bled profusely and felt dizzy. The other man was holding a gun.

Zwane said the thugs attacked at about 3:45 a.m and demanded money and were offered every cent in the house, which she said amounted to over E800. However, she said they insisted on getting at least E1 000.

"I pleaded with them to

spare our soul and help themselves on anything in the house," she said, mentioning that amongst things taken was a radio, television set, a DVD player and two cellular phones. She said one left with the stolen property to hide it somewhere and the other kept guard on them.

She said someone occupying a room next to hers called the landlord, Maudie Thwala, and notified him about the robbery. They hit short twice at the thugs as they left with the stolen argument, fatally wounding one, who collapsed and died a few metres from the homestead. The other is still at large. The same men attacked a man in the same neighbourhood, stole his property and left him seriously wounded. Zwane said she suspected that the two were strangers in the area.

Police PRO Superintendent Vusie Masuku confirmed the incident, mentioning that the police were still investigating the matter and trying to find the identity of the deceased.

In another development, Masuku disclosed the arrest of four women at Geger with dagga whose street value is estimated to be around E170 000.

e) Draw phrase structure trees for the following sentences. Some of the sentences have more than one possible structure.

- i) the ice melted
- ii) the professor's appointment was shocking
- iii) the campers were uncertain that they would sleep after a violent storm
- iii) No smoking section available
- iv) the news that depressed us completely was that Harry had lost our tickets

(10)

QUESTION 2a

Identify each underlined word or group of words by writing one of these labels: *Direct object, Indirect object, Object complement, Predicative nominative, Predicative adjective.*

Bird feeders can provide us (1) year long enjoyment (2), Finches, bluebirds and cardinals are colourful (3). The songs of many birds are delightful (4) to hear. We can place the feeders (5) right outside a window for close-up viewing. The experience of bird-watching is an education (6). We consider it (7) quit entertainment (8). Ornithologists give us (9) one important piece (10) of advice though. Birds need this food supply (11) all year, so we must be faithful (12) in our feeding and replenish the feeder (13) regularly. We must consider ourselves (14) the birds' caretakers (15).

QUESTION 2b

Using illustrative examples, *chose any five* of the following phrases, state the type and the distinctive function that each has in a sentence.

- (a) Infinitive phrase
 - (b) Gerund phrase
 - (c) Prepositional phrase
 - (d) Appositive phrases
 - (e) Participial phrases
 - (f) Noun phrases
 - (g) Adverbial phrases
 - (h) Adjectival phrases
- (15)

QUESTION 3

Identify the adjective clauses in these sentences. State the word that each clause modifies.

A.

- (a) Politicians who toe the party line generally get on.
- (b) Cars that have diesel engines are becoming popular
- (c) The root that you recommended was not easy to follow.
- (d) His excuses, which were not convincing, angered his sister.
- (e) Telephone directories from which pages are missing must be replaced.

(5)

B.

Identify the adverb-clause in this passage. State in each case which word in another clause is modified by the adverb clause.

Though the peasant promised to show them the way through the swamp, the leader of the rebels did not trust him. He made him march where he could watch him closely and, after they had been on the move for an hour, he ordered the old man's right arm to be tied to his stirrup leather. The peasant protested. If they treated him like that, he would not act as their guide. The leader's distrust was so obvious and his anger so great that, though some of them pitied the old man, none of the rebels felt inclined to interfere on his behalf. Their guide must march as their leader decreed. In any case, he was probably as untrustworthy as all the others of his tribe had approved. (10)

QUESTION 4

Give a clear and comprehensive description of syntax, stating the different ranks that make up syntactic structures in the English language. Why, in your view, is studying syntax important? (15)