

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION**

**2008**

**TITLE OF PAPER**

**GRAMMAR 11: PHRASES AND CLAUSES**

**COURSE NUMBER**

**ENG201: HUMANITIES/IDE/JMC/EDUCATION**

**TIME ALLOWED**

**2 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. ANSWER QUESTION 1 AND ONE OTHER QUESTIONS**
- 2. WRITE CLEARLY AND NEATLY**

This paper is not to be opened until permission has been given by the invigilator.

## QUESTION 1

a) What is the difference between a clause and a phrase. Use examples to illustrate your answer.

(10)

b) Identify the type of the underlined/bolded phrases in the following sentences stating its function as well. Sam Smith, who recently spoke to the youth group, excels at **motivating young people**.

- i) **Pushed beyond endurance**, the runner dropped the baton.
- ii) The shoes he saw in the catalogue are available **down the street**.
- iii) The reporter **crouched behind that tree** got the best picture of the arrest.
- iv) Keith tried **supporting both teams**, but his heart was with Oregon.
- v) Katrina, who resented being left at home, drew on the walls **with her crayons**.
- vi) Arnold hoped **to find an answer** to the funding shortfall.
- vii) **Pressed for time**, the agent ran the red light.
- viii) His uncle thinks that working **for the government** is the key to stability.
- ix) Richard's chance **to make his point** slipped away.
- x) Is it possible that Joshua will compete **against that man**? (10)

c) Read the following set of sentences. State which one is incomplete/fragmented and explain the nature of the fragmentation

- i) While eating the plate of sesame chicken, Maria was thankful for her skill with chopsticks. Eating utensils that required only one hand to use. For Maria's left hand was pinned to the booth by Hunter, her five year old son who lay sleeping after a long day of shopping at the mall.
- ii) Jonathan often tries to shock his English teacher, Mrs Zeele, with weird paper topics. Such as eating tries to snakes and wearing women's underwear. Mrs Zeele remains non-plussed, scandalized only by the number of fragments in Jonathan's essays. (4)

d) An understanding of the structure of sentences in English means being able to state how each structure is constituted. Using tree structure diagrams show the syntactic structures of the following phrase and sentences and state the phrase structure rules.

- i) The accountant argued that stockholders would overlook any discrepancies blindly heatedly.
- ii) What pleased them was the promise of a raise
- iii) The children put the toy in the box. (6)

## QUESTION 2

a) Discuss the concept of ambiguity. When is it allowed and when not is it allowed. (10)

b) Paraphrase each of the following sentences in two ways to show you understand the ambiguity involved. (10)

*Example : Smoking can be nauseating.*

- a) putting grass in a pipe and smoking it can make you sick*
- b) fumes from smoldering grass can make you sick*

- a. Mandela finally decided on the boat.
- b. I cannot recommend him too highly
- c. The Minister is a dirty streetfighter.
- d. That chicken is too hot to eat
- e. The design has big squares and circles.

c) Draw phrase structure trees for each of the above sentences to show the different meanings. (10)

### QUESTION 3

What is syntax and why is it important in language use? Discuss the relationship between syntactic structure you have learned about. (30)

### QUESTION 4

**Read the following newspaper article. What syntactic problems do you note? (30)**

A truck driver died tragically yesterday when he lost control of the truck, which then overturned several times before exploding right in the middle of the notorious Malagwane Hill, literally roasting him beyond recognition. This accident, which left scores of motorists shell-shocked, happened just before noon yesterday near Setsembiso Sebunye (Bahai) High School.

It was a chaotic scene as some impatient motorists blew their horns and demanded way.

Persons trapped in the jam included high-profile personalities such as Deputy Prime Minister Constance Simelane, Tourism Minister Thandi Shongwe, Housing and Urban Development Minister Mabili Dlamini, former Minister Titus Mlangeni, well-known accounts consultant Kobla Quashie, and Vusi Shiba of Shiba and the Travellers.

battling

The driver lost control of truck just after passing the Emafini traffic circle (Goldblatt) and it overturned and rolled several times on the road crashing into the guardrails separating the two Mbabane/Manzini lanes.

After rolling for a distance of over 100 metres, the truck, registered VNS 145 GP, came to a halt and immediately exploded into angry flames.

An eye witness, Themba Mavuso, informed the Weekend Observer that after the explosion a huge flame engulfed the entire vehicle, including the trailer.

"There is no way the driver could have survived, the flames were too big and violent," he said.

recognition

The truck, which was ferrying dairy products from Clover South Africa, was burnt beyond repairs. Police had difficulty trying to determine whether or not it was locally registered and to which company it belongs.

The dairy products, including yoghurt, milk, and juice were splashed all over the road, making it impossible for vehicles from or to Mbabane to pass.

Fire and Emergency Service personnel had a torrid time trying to retrieve the body of the driver from the wreckage.

It was around 1:30p.m. when a grinder was brought in to help. The front of the truck was cut to make way for the driver.

It was a sorry sight as the extensively charred body was retrieved from the wreckage and loaded in a police van at exactly 1:45pm. The driver's name is known but shall not be disclosed at this stage as his relatives have still not been notified.

"This is one of the worst accidents witnessed this year. At this stage it is difficult to say with certainty what happened but we suspect that the driver must have lost control of the truck and it overturned before exploding. It is a very tragic accident more so because the truck was badly burnt such that it was even difficult to see recognise which company it belongs to," Superintendent Mandla Mdluli said.

ferrying

Clover Swaziland General Manager Ronnie Egarearam said the truck was ferrying dairy products from Clover South Africa to Clover Swaziland in Matsapha.

"The truck belongs to a company called Nabats, based in Johannesburg. It was transporting our stock to Matsapha from South Africa. What has happened is very unfortunate," he said, whilst busy making frantic calls to his counterparts in South Africa.