

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
**SECOND SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**  
**MAY, 2017**

**TITLE OF PAPER:** INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH MORPHOLOGY AND SYNTAX

**COURSE CODE:** ENG 202/ IDE-ENG 202

**TIME ALLOWED:** TWO (2) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. This paper has four (4) questions.
2. Question 1 is compulsory.
3. Choose one other question from Question 2 to 4.
4. All questions are worth 30 marks each.
5. Presentation of answers should follow linguistic conventions where necessary, and good language use will attract credit.

**This paper should not be opened until permission has been granted by the invigilator.**

**QUESTION 1**

(a) Column A below presents base forms for particular morphemes whose allomorphs are in column B. For each morpheme and its allomorph(s) :

- (i) State the process that led to the variation [1 mark each]
- (ii) State whether the occurrence of the allomorphs is phonologically or lexically or grammatically conditioned. Give a reason for your answer. [2 marks each]

**COLUMN A (BASE)**

**COLUMN B (ALLOMORPHS)**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| 1. Sing  | sang (past tense) has sung (past participle) |
| 2. Foot  | feet   |
| 3. Be    | is (present tense) , was (past tense)        |
| 4. Good  | better (comparative), best (superlative)     |
| 5. sheep | sheep (singular) sheep (plural)              |

(b) Draw phrase structure trees for the following structures:

- (i) [the shortest girl in my class] [3 marks]
- (ii) [ put the books on the shelf carelessly] [3 ½ marks]
- (iii) The car in the garage is new. [3 ½ marks]

(c) List the phrase structure rules that specify the constituency of the above structures. [5 marks]

**[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]**

## Question 2

- (a) Discuss the difference between inflectional and derivational affixes. Use examples to illustrate your answer. [4 marks]
- (b) Give the meaning associated with the suffix /-er/ in each of the following words:
- (i) Helper [1 mark]
  - (ii) Strainer [1 mark]
  - (iii) Londoner [1 mark]
  - (iv) Geographer [1 mark]
- (c) What do the responses you gave in (b) above suggest about the nature of derivational suffixes? [2 marks]
- (d) State the type of each of the following compound words based on their meanings. Give reasons for your answer.
- (i) Bulldog [3 marks]
  - (ii) Black leg [3 marks]
  - (iii) Actor-director [3 marks]
  - (iv) Teapot [3 marks]
  - (v) Red neck [3 marks]
- (e) With the aid of examples, discuss the word-formation process of blending. [5 marks]

**[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]**

## Question 3

- (a) Describe fully the underlined affixes in the words below.
- i) Unlock [3 marks]
  - ii) Uncomfortable [3 marks]
  - iii) Seeds [3 marks]
  - iv) Reads [3 marks]

v) Slower

[3 marks]

(b) In each of the sentences below, identify and label the following functional constituents: subject, object, complement and adverbial.

- (i) The first presenter appeared very shy.
- (ii) The key could not open the door.
- (iii) They willingly donated food items to the orphanage.
- (iv) The captain judged Harriet the most valuable player.

[10 marks]

(c) Explain what is meant by rule productivity. Give an example of a highly productive morphological rule and give a reason why you say it is highly productive. [5 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

#### Question 4

(a) Using the Transformational Generative Grammar approach, derive the following sentences:

- (i) What is John doing? [15 marks]
- (ii) The man was bitten by dogs. [10 marks]
- (iii) Close the door! [5 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]