

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND



Faculty of Humanities
Department of English Language and Literature

MAIN EXAMINATION – MAY, 2018

COURSE TITLE : INTRODUCTION TO SYNTAX AND SENTENCE
MEANING

COURSE CODE : ENG 214/201
IDE-ENG 201

DURATION : TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS : THIS QUESTION PAPER CONSISTS OF FOUR
QUESTIONS.

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN TOTAL;
QUESTION ONE AND ANY OTHER

ALL QUESTIONS ARE WORTH 30 MARKS EACH

FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE LINGUISTIC
CONVENTIONS MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF
MARKS

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QUESTION 1 – COMPULSORY

A. Briefly explain the following and provide examples to substantiate your claims.

- (i) Constituents of a sentence
- (ii) Immediate constituents
- (iii) A rank scale
- (iv) Rank shift
- (v) Why a sentence can only be a construction and not a constituent
- vi) Ambiguity
- vii) A non-restrictive clause
- Viii) A bare infinitive phrase

[16 marks]

B. Using an X-bar syntax, analyse the underlined phrases in the sentences below.

- a) Outside the school gate stood a crowd of angry parents.
- b) The government's coffers have dried up.
- c) The noisy students in the exam room have since been disqualified.
- d) This lecturer is pretty mean.
- e) The very tall education consultant with the roving eye was involved in a nasty accident.
- f) I will take you up on the generous invitation.

[9 marks]

C. Construct sentences where:

- i) A nominal clause functions as a direct object.
 - ii) An adverb phrase functions as a manner adjunct.
 - iii) A prepositional phrase functions as a time adjunct
 - iv) An infinitive phrase functions as a subject.
 - v) A modal auxiliary verb within a verb phrase expresses epistemic modality.
- [5marks]

QUESTION 2

With the aid of examples, discuss the categorization of the lexical headwords according to the complements they require in a verb phrase. [30 marks]

QUESTION 3

- a) With the aid of examples, discuss two principles that guide the use of the English primary auxiliary verbs in a verb phrase. [10 marks]
- b) With the aid of examples, discuss the following common errors in the construction of English sentences:
 - i) Comma splices [5 marks]
 - ii) Dangling modifiers [5 marks]
 - iii) Sentence fragment [5 marks]
 - iv) Wordiness [5 marks]

QUESTION 4

- a) Briefly discuss the phenomenon of tests for phrase-hood. [10 marks]
- b) Using the sentence, "The bull-dog mauled an innocent child at Ngwane Park last weekend" as an example, discuss the following tests for phrase-hood
 - i) The cleft construction [10 marks]
 - ii) The fragment test [10 marks]