



(Knowledge for Development)

KIBABII UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

**2024/2025 ACADEMIC YEAR
FOURTH YEAR FIRST SEMESTER**

MAIN EXAMINATION

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

COURSE CODE: ENG 412

COURSE TITLE: ADVANCED DESCRIPTION OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR

DATE: 14TH JANUARY, 2025

TIME: 11.00AM - 1.00PM

INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

Answer Question **ONE** and any other **TWO** Questions.

TIME: 2 Hours

This Paper Consists of 2 Printed Pages. Please Turn Over. ►

KIBU observes **ZERO** tolerance to examination cheating.

QUESTION ONE - COMPULSORY (30 MARKS)

- (a) A linguistic theory must satisfy the criteria of Minimalism and Learnability for its grammars.

Explain the two requirements using syntactic examples. (6 marks)

- (b) Explain any three weaknesses of Traditional Grammar in the study of language. (6 marks)

- (c) Provide suitable re-write rules for the two sentences below: (6 marks)

(i) Nairobi is a beautiful city with great people

(ii) Half the third years failed their supplementary exams

- (d) Explain the following concepts as used in Case theory: (6 marks)

(i) Case filter (ii) Abstract case

- (e) Distinguish between a Predicate and an Argument by use of sentence examples (6 marks)

QUESTION TWO (20 MARKS)

- (a) Draw an X-bar phrase marker for each of the following English phrases: (9 marks)

(i) Rather odd to believe (ii) Quite outside the circle (iii) Habitually eat in that hotel

- (b) Explain any three strengths of the ICA approach to sentence analysis. (6 marks)

- (c) Draw a Structural Description (SD) phrase marker for the following sentence: (5 marks)

The boys might have missed all the lessons today

QUESTION THREE (20 MARKS)

- (a) The AUX is not part of the VP, state three reasons. (6 marks)

- (b) Draw an XP phrase marker for this construction showing the order of movements. (5 marks)

Whose book did he destroy at the library?

- (c) (i) Provide a negative transformation for the following declarative sentence: (2 marks)

The government should have increased the taxes from the rich

- (ii) Draw an X-bar phrase marker for the negative transformation in (3c, i). (8 marks)

QUESTION FOUR (20 MARKS)

- (a) Study the following ambiguous sentence then answer the questions that follow:

Visting relatives can be a nuisance sometimes

- (i) Using bracketing procedure, explain the two meanings in the sentence. (4 marks)

- (ii) Disambiguate the sentence by drawing two phrase markers for each meaning. (10 marks)

(b) Explain two reasons why the following sentence is ungrammatical based on Principles A of the Binding Theory * *Mary_i thinks that John_j likes herself_i* (6 marks)

QUESTION FIVE (20 MARKS)

(a) Construct sentences that satisfy the following re-write rules: (10 marks)

(i) $S \rightarrow \text{Det} + \text{Det} + \text{Det} + N + \text{Past} + M + V + P + \text{Det} + N + \text{Adv}$

(ii) $S \rightarrow \text{NEG} + N + \text{Past} + V + \text{Det} + \text{Adj} + N + P + \text{Det} + N$

(iii) $S \rightarrow \text{Pro} + \text{Present} + \text{BE} + \text{ing} + V + \text{Det} + N + P + \text{Det} + N$

(iv) $S \rightarrow \text{Past} + \text{Have} + \text{PN} + V + \text{Det} + \text{Det} + N + \text{Adv} + \text{Adv}$

(v) $S \rightarrow N + \text{Past} + \text{Modal} + \text{Have} + \text{en} + V + \text{Det} + \text{Adj} + N$

(b) Explain the type of case assigned to each NP in the following sentences then state why they are grammatical or not: (6 marks)

(i) *Us like John's dog very much

(ii) I saw him leave early last year

(c) State the theta (θ) roles assigned to the underlined arguments (NPs). (4 marks)

(i) The boy felt sick while travelling by bus yesterday

(ii) The farmer cut the sugarcane with the new panga