

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

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**FIRST SEMESTER, 2005**  
**Campus: City**

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## LINGUISTICS

### **Introduction to English Linguistics**

**(Time allowed: THREE hours)**

**NOTE:** There are four sections in this exam. You should answer ALL questions in each section. The value of each question is given in the right margin.

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**SECTION A**  
Word Meaning – Semantics

1. The English word-form “light” can mean “not heavy” OR “not dark”, but these two meanings are not related. Which ONE of the following statements describes this fact?
- a) There are two different adjectives spelt “light” and they are homonyms.
  - b) There are two different adjectives spelt “light” and they are synonyms.
  - c) There are two different adjectives spelt “light” and they are antonyms.
  - d) There is only one adjective spelt “light” but it is polysemous.
- (1 mark)

2. Consider the following list of words, and then answer the questions that follow:

soil, puff, host, mail, present, autumn, dark, fell, ghost,  
bright, guest, trash, pear, male, spring, absent

Identify:

- (a) a pair of complementaries
- (b) a pair of relational opposites
- (c) a pair of homophones
- (d) a pair of gradable opposites
- (e) two members of a set of multiple complementaries

(5 marks)

3. The statements at i) – iv) below are ALL true, but only SOME of the statements at a) to d) are true. Think about the statements at i) – iv), then decide which of the statements at a-d) are true and which are false. Write the letters a-d in your answer book and beside each letter write whether you think the statement with that letter is TRUE or FALSE.

- i) a collie is a type of dog
- ii) a poodle is a type of dog
- iii) a collie is not a type of poodle
- iv) a poodle is not a type of collie

- a) “dog” is a hyponym of “poodle”
- b) “poodle” and “collie” are co-hyponyms of “dog”
- c) “dog” is a superordinate of “poodle”
- d) “collie” and “poodle” are synonyms

(4 marks)

4. Write down ONE PAIR of English synonyms, and show with examples how you can use TWO *different* tests to prove that they are synonyms.

(5 marks)

**SECTION B**  
Word Structure – Morphology

5. Give ONE example of an English complex word and ONE example of an English compound word. Explain the difference between complex and compound words using your examples to illustrate the differences. Make sure you describe the main characteristics of English compounds.

(5 marks)

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6. Use a tree diagram to show the structure of the following word. Make sure you label each node in the diagram with a lexical category (N, Adj etc.), or with or D for a derivational affix, or I for an inflectional affix, as appropriate.

left-handedness

(5 marks)

7. Consider the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Whether we eat at his place or mine, Ryan usually prepares the meal. Tonight I'd volunteered. I cook well, but not instinctively. I need recipes. Arriving home at six, I spent a few minutes recapping my day for Birdie, then took out the folder in which I stuff menus clipped from the *Gazette*. A five-minute search produced a winner. Grilled Chicken breast with melon salsa. Wild Rice. Tortilla with arugula salad.

Kathy Reichs, *Monday Mourning*, p 20

- Name four different types of inflection and give one example of each taken from the passage above.
- Find two adverbs in the passage that are derived from adjectives; write them down and underline the affix that changed them from an adjective to an adverb.
- Find two nouns in the passage that are derived from verbs by affixation; write them down and underline the affix that changed them from verbs into nouns.
- write down two compound nouns from the passage.

(5 marks)

### SECTION C

#### Phrases and Clauses – Syntax

8. Divide the following sentences into functional constituents. Write down and label each functional constituent on a separate line.

- The keepers from the zoo down the road should be here soon.
- Yesterday I showed them the piglets from the farm.

(10 marks)

9. Draw a tree diagram for the following sentence. Make sure you label each node of the tree:

These monkeys will sleep in the branches of trees.

(5 marks)

10. Consider the following list of 5 descriptions, then find examples of those things in the passage below. For each description, (a) – (e) write out ONE example from the passage. You should have 5 examples in total.

- (a) a sentence that contains an intensive complement that is an Adjective Phrase
- (b) a passive clause in perfect aspect
- (c) a clause whose Subject contains a conjunction
- (d) an active clause.
- (e) a prepositional phrase that modifies a noun (say which noun it modifies).

While the French door pane had been cleanly cut, without damage to the security-system trip wires, glass had been shattered in the foyer, dining room, and bathroom mirrors, and in every picture frame in the place. Fragments glittered from furniture, sinks, countertops, and floors. A few books and papers had been tossed here and there, but otherwise, the main living areas were unharmed. In contrast, the bedrooms were chaos. Bed pillows were shredded, drawers pulled out and upended, closets ransacked. A hasty inventory turned up two losses. Anne's digital camera. Anne's laptop. Otherwise nothing seemed to be missing.

Kathy Reichs, *Monday Mourning*, p74  
(5 marks)

### SECTION D

#### Phonetics and Phonology

11. Consider the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

/raɪən leɪd ðə bæɡ ɒn ðə kɒfi: teɪbəl streɪtənd n pleɪsɪd ə haʊnd ɒn eɪtʃ əv maɪ  
shouldəz fɔː rə lɒŋ maʊmənt hiː səd nʌθɪŋ /

- (a) There are two words with consonant errors in the passage and two words with vowel errors. Find these words and provide a corrected transcription.  
Note: the errors are not possible in any dialect of English.
- (b) Find two words containing a cluster of two adjacent stop consonants at the same place of articulation.
- (c) Find a word containing a stop adjacent to an approximant at the same place of articulation. (5 marks)

12. For each of the three term labels that follow, provide the associated symbol **and** a word that begins with that sound. For example:

voiced alveolar stop [d] dangerous

- |                                    |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) voiced post-alveolar affricate | (b) mid-central vowel          |
| (c) voiced lateral approximant     | (d) voiced palatal approximant |
| (e) voiced labio-dental fricative  | (f) voiced dental fricative    |
| (g) voiceless alveolar fricative   | (h) voiceless labial stop      |
| (i) low front vowel                | (j) voiced velar nasal stop    |
- (10 marks)

13. (a) List all the words that **end** with a stop sound:

payday    coin    take    note    mirror    trial    plush    plug    farm

- (b) List all the words that **begin** with an approximant sound:

under    jury    utilize    rural    who    what    urn    loose    usual

- (c) List all the words that **contain** an alveolar fricative between two vowel sounds:

electricity    rosy    physicist    fashion    rising    precise    polish

- (d) List all the words that **end** with a vowel sound:

cry    tile    auntie    paw    type    though    easy    little    cough

(5 marks)

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