

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

FIRST SEMESTER, 2006

Campus: City

LINGUISTICS

Introduction to English Linguistics

(Time allowed: TWO 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.

CONTINUED

SECTION A
Word Meaning – Semantics

1. The English word-form “fall” can mean “an unintentional descent” OR “Autumn”. Assuming these two meanings are related, which ONE of the following statements describes this fact?

- a) There are two different words spelt “fall” and they are homonyms.
- b) There are two different words spelt “fall” and they are synonyms.
- c) There are two different words spelt “fall” and they are antonyms.
- d) There is one word spelt “fall” that is polysemous.

(1 mark)

2. From the following list of words, 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

shiny	male	owner	two	female	passed
solid	possession	past	gas	too	dull

(5 marks)

3. Give an example of a superordinate and two of its co-hyponyms, and show with examples how you can use tests to prove which is the superordinate and that the co-hyponyms are co-hyponyms.

(5 marks)

CONTINUED

SECTION B
Word Structure – Morphology

4. Describe the main characteristics of English compound words and give an example.
(2 marks)
5. Describe the main characteristics of complex words and give an example.
(2 marks)
6. Draw 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.

ball-point pens

(2 marks)

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

Title IX prohibits discrimination based on sex by any school that receives federal money. Schools show compliance in many ways: by ensuring that numbers of athletes match their gender ratios in the student population, by increasing opportunities for female athletes, and by fully accommodating women's interests. In recent years, college athletic departments have been adding large equestrian, field hockey and rowing teams, whose numbers of female athletes balance their football squads and other male teams.
(<http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/8123591.htm> 3/10/2004)

- (a) In English, the form 's' is used to represent three different inflectional morphemes. State the meaning or function of these three morphemes, find an example of each in the passage above, and write the word containing that example next to the appropriate label.
- (b) State the lexical class of the three words you gave as your answers to (a).
- (c) Find a sentence with two auxiliary verbs in it. State their meaning or function of each of these auxiliaries, and identify the affix that always goes with each.

(5 marks)

SECTION C
Phrases and Clauses – Syntax

8. Consider the following sentence and answer the questions that follow.

i) Yesterday the keepers showed the gorillas a movie about their homeland.

- (a) Divide the sentence at i) into functional constituents. Write down and label each functional constituent on a separate line. (5 marks)

- (b) Draw a tree diagram for the sentence at i). Make sure you label each node of the tree.

(10 marks)

9. Apply two tests to determine whether the underlined words in the following sentence form a constituent or not. Write the sentences you've made up to show how you applied the tests and state your conclusion clearly.

In recent years, college athletic departments have been adding large equestrian, field hockey and rowing teams to balance their football squads.

(4 marks)

SECTION D
Phonetics and Phonology

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

/ yestədeɪ ðə ki:pəz shoud ðə ɡərɪləz ə movi:jəbaut ðə houmlənd /.

- (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 a word containing two adjacent stops at the same place of articulation.

(5 marks)

11. 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) voiceless post-alveolar affricate | (b) low front vowel |
| (c) voiced dental fricative | (d) voiceless glottal fricative |
| (e) voiced labial nasal stop | (f) voiced alveolar approximant |
| (g) voiced alveolar stop | (h) voiceless labial stop |
| (i) high front vowel | (j) voiceless labio-dental fricative |

(10 marks)

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

tap cute tail through mean cuff push plug fawn

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

yellow jet up whale how laugh run honest out

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

Russian pastry easy fiction prices precious texture

(4 marks)
