

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO – SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF ARTS
SECOND YEAR EXAMINATION IN ARTS – SEMESTER I – 2017/2018
ESL 2112 – The Structure of English Grammar

Time: Two (02) Hours

Answer all questions in Part A and any two (02) questions from Part B.

Part A

1. Consider what features of the following sentences mark them as belonging to non-standard dialects of English. Rewrite them in Standard English, keeping the meaning as close as possible to the original. (4 marks)
 - a. *It ain't my fault. She ain't come as she promised the other day.*
 - b. *She don't want no drink.*

2. Although **determinatives** (a lexical category) mostly function as **determiners**, many are also found in the function of **modifiers**. In the following sentences, identify where determinatives are used as determiners, and where they are used as modifiers. (8 marks)
 - a. You don't have to be this cautious with your new employee. He seems a reliable person.
 - b. The second problem is more serious than the first.
 - c. The patient feels all the better after taking the new medicine.
 - d. I don't like that dress. It's too gaudy.

3. Sometimes a single word can function as a determiner/modifier and also the head. We call this the **fused-head** construction. Identify the fused heads in the following sentences and write out the complete phrase without the fusion. (6 marks)
 - a. *Many of the ministry's projects are only failures.*
 - b. *I'm sure all would agree with you about the need for a change.*
 - c. *Ramani has a little money with her, but I don't have any.*

4. For each of the following adjectives, decide whether it can be used in **attributive/ predicative/ postpositive** functions. Give evidence in the form of phrases or sentences. (12 marks)
 - a. *payable*
 - b. *unaware*
 - c. *previous*
 - d. *unspoken*

5. Using the licensing criterion, determine whether the **underlined** expressions are **complements** or **adjuncts** to their heads. (10 marks)
- He placed the book on the top shelf.*
 - He strongly insisted on playing the guitar.*
 - My uncle persuaded me to go abroad.*
 - His interest in language increased with time.*
 - He liked to learn music.*
6. Based on linguistic evidence identify the underlined parts in the following sentences as **finite/non-finite** clauses. Also, mention the reason for your choice briefly. (6 marks)
- I'm very careful about eating out while travelling.*
 - It is mandatory that she fulfil the company's requirements before she applies for the post of manager.*
 - All the projects completed during the last five years are now considered to be failures.*
7. The underlined words in the following examples belong to the categories of **verb** and **preposition**. Using the **predicand** requirement argument, show in which sentences the underlined expressions are used as a verb and in which sentences they are used as a preposition. (8 marks)
- predicand* - the part of the sentence that predicative complements & adjuncts relate to (usually an NP)
- Following the heavy rains, there was a flash flood in the city centre.*
 - Carefully following the instructions, I tried to fill in the visa application form quickly.*
 - Owing deep gratitude to his company, he decided not to leave the company.*
 - Owing to lack of experience, the company refused to offer me a high salary.*

Part B

8. The word *up* is a **particle** in *You need to back up your files regularly on your computer*, while it is a **preposition** in *My friend climbed up the boundary wall*. In the following sentences, what syntactic evidence can you present in support of the distinction you make between particles and prepositions. The particles and prepositions are underlined for you. (8 marks)
- I tried to cheer up my son by buying him some ice-cream.*
 - The man at the gate stared at the girl.*
 - We finally knocked on the door painted red.*
 - She took off her hat after coming into the building.*

9. Classify the following words as **adverbs** or **prepositions**, basing your answers on the tests like **modification of nouns** and **complementation of the verb *be***. You need to show your test sentences. (8 marks)
- often*
 - downstairs*
 - indoors*
 - again*
10. Determine whether the underlined expressions below are **objects** or **predicative complements**. Give syntactic evidence in support of your answers. You can make use of tests like **adjective phrase replacement**, **passivization**, **bare role NP** and so on. One argument/test for each item is sufficient. (8 marks)
- The committee seemed the right group of people for the task.*
 - The lawyer proved his point clearly.*
 - The recent underworld activities look a threat to society.*
 - We have remained true friends all our life.*
11. Determine if the underlined verbs used in the following sentences are in their **present**, **plain present**, **preterite** or **past participle** form. Use the substitution test to determine which form occurs in these instances citing the evidence you use. For substitution, you are recommended to use verbs that have different shapes for the preterite and past participle. For checking on the plain present form, you are required to change the number of the NP used in the sentence. (8 marks)
- Whenever it rains, the animals in the jungle move to higher grounds.*
 - I don't want anyone injured by trying to rescue people from the fire.*
 - This is not the book the course prescribed.*
 - The senior students helped the freshers enrol in different courses.*