



**ALUPE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE**

*... Bastion of Knowledge ...*

P. O. Box 845-50400 Busia(K)  
principal@auc.ac.ke  
Tel: +254 741 217 185  
+254 736 044 469  
off Busia-Malaba road

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL  
ACADEMICS, RESEARCH AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

---

# UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

## 2020/2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

### FOURTH YEAR SECOND SEMESTER REGULAR MAIN EXAMINATION

## FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS)

**COURSE CODE: ENG422**

**COURSE TITLE: THEORIES OF SYNTAX AND DESCRIPTION OF  
ENGLISH GRAMMAR**

**DATE: JUNE 7, 2022**

**TIME: 14:00 – 17:00**

---

### INSTRUCTION TO CANDIDATES

- SEE INSIDE

**THIS PAPER CONSISTS OF THREE PRINTED PAGES**

**PLEASE TURN OVER**

THEORIES OF SYNTAX AND DESCRIPTION OF ENGLISH GRAMMAR - MAIN EXAMINATION

STREAM: B.Ed. (ARTS)

TIME: 3 HOURS

Answer question **ONE** and any other **TWO** questions

**Question One**

- a) Distinguish between *competence* and *performance* in linguistic study. (6 Marks)
- b) Using examples from a language of your choice, discuss the significance of the following concepts in syntactic theory:
  - i. Observational adequacy (2 marks)
  - ii. Descriptive adequacy (2 marks)
  - iii. Explanatory adequacy (2 marks)
- c) Give **two** sentences that conform to each of the following grammatical judgments:
  - i. Unacceptable but grammatical (4 marks)
  - ii. Acceptable but ungrammatical (4 marks)
- d) Capture the X- bar representation of the following units:
  - i. The students of linguistics at Alupe University College (5 Marks)
  - ii. Very upset with their behaviour (5 Marks)

**Question Two**

- a) Using tree diagrams, analyze the **two** meanings of the sentence below:

He saw the man with binoculars. (10 marks)

- b) Distinguish between *descriptive grammar* and *prescriptive grammar*. Provide relevant illustrations (10 marks)

**Question Three**

- a) Compare and contrast *syntactic theory* and *traditional grammar*. (13 Marks)
- b) Explain the term *anaphor* as used in syntactic theory using two illustrations (3 Marks)
- c) Provide an appropriate sentence and label a *pronominal* in it. (4 Marks)

**Question Four**

- a) Providing adequate examples from a language of your choice, discuss the key features of the following sub-theories of Government and Binding.
  - i. X-bar theory (5 Marks)
  - ii.  $\theta$ -Theta theory (5 Marks)
  - iii. Case theory (5 Marks)
- b) Discuss the terms *head* and *argument* as used in syntactic theory. Use adequate illustrations. (5 Marks)

**Question Five**

Study the sentences below and answer the questions that follow:

- a) Kamau had been interviewed by Mary.
- b) Kamau had been interviewed by yesterday.
  - i) Draw tree diagrams for each of the sentences above. (10 Marks)
  - ii) Formulate a single set of Phrase Structure (PS) rules for the diagrams in (a) above. (10 Marks)

\*\*\*\*\*