



University of Sri Jayewardenepura

Bachelor of Arts in English - General External Degree (Part 1) Examination
September/October 2015

English Language

ELAN 1002: Understanding English Grammar

Time: **Three Hours**

Answer any **FOUR** questions

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1. a. Briefly explain the difference between Prescriptive Grammar and Descriptive Grammar. (07 marks)
- b. Write a short note on Clause Elements. (08 marks)
- c. Identify whether the underlined words in the following sentences function as Gerunds or Present Participles. (05 marks)
- Siri enjoys teasing his kids a lot.*
 - Mala is learning to play the guitar.*
 - Saman always has a shower before going to office.*
 - Growing trees is good for the environment.*
 - Growing trees are good for the environment.*
- d. Identify the grammatical mistakes in the following sentences (each sentence has one mistake) and explain each mistake. (05 marks)
- That student is medical.*
 - We haven't seen much cars in this town. .*
 - She only likes himself.*
 - The teacher did not let the student to attend the class.*
 - Cats likes to drink milk. .*

2. a. Write a short note on Classification of Nouns. (08 marks)
- b. Write a short note on Syntactic Functions of Adverbs. (07 marks)
- c. Identify whether the conjunctions in the following sentences are Coordinating Conjunctions, Correlative Conjunctions, or Subordinating Conjunctions. (05 marks)
- Piyal met the manger and asked him about his promotion.*
 - You can't both keep the cake and eat it.*
 - Give me a ring when you arrive at home.*
 - He found a good job but gave it up soon.*
 - Sisira never helps anybody although he is very rich.*
- d. Identify whether the underlined Proforms in the following sentences are Proforms for Noun Phrases, Proforms for Adverbials (time, place, and manner), Proforms for Verb Phrases or Proforms for Clauses/Sentences. (05 marks)
- Peter own lots of cows. They are all black.*
 - Let me have all the marks by next week. I will do so.*
 - They had the party in the garden. They had enough room there.*
 - They arrived at 8.00 p.m. I was not at home then.*
 - My best friend does not understand me. That makes me feel sad.*
3. a. Explain the difference between Words and Phrases. (07 marks)
- b. Write a short note on Verb Phrases. (06 marks)
- c. Discuss the structure and functions of Prepositional Phrases. (07 marks)
- d. Identify the syntactic function of each Noun Phrase in the following sentences. (05 marks)
- The chief surgeon, an expert in organ-transplant procedures, did it.*
- Don't be a fool!*

4. a. Explain the difference between Main Clauses and Subordinate Clauses. (06 marks)
- b. Write a short note on Conditional Clauses. (07 marks)
- c. Explain the difference between Finite and Non-finite Clauses. (07 marks)
- d. Identify the type of Adverb Clause of the Subordinate Clauses in the following sentences. (05 marks)
- i. *I will meet you before I start my class.*
 - ii. *I didn't trouble him as he was not well.*
 - iii. *Though we are in the same class, we never talk to each other.*
 - iv. *If you tell me everything, I will let you go.*
 - v. *I will give you some money so that you can rid yourself of the debts.*
5. a. Explain with examples the difference between Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences. (06 marks)
- b. Write a short note on Different Types of Sentences. (08 marks)
- c. Write a short note on Use of Agents in Passives. (06 marks)
- d. Combine the two sentences in each of the following sentence pairs changing one of the sentences into a Prepositional Phrase. (05 marks)
- i. *The story wasn't interesting. It was about a rat.*
 - ii. *That woman is my neighbor. She is with a dog.*
 - iii. *I want to buy the dog. It is on the roof.*
 - iv. *We went to the meeting. They had it in the ballroom.*
 - v. *The girl gave me a present. She is from Congo.*