



**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**  
**FOURTH YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF**  
**BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS/BACHELOR OF ARTS**  
**SECOND SEMESTER 2023/2024**  
**[JANUARY – APRIL, 2024]**

**LING 421: MODERN SYNTACTIC THEORY**

**STREAM: Y4 S2**

**TIME: 2 HOURS**

**DAY: TUESDAY, 3:00 - 5:00 P.M.**

**DATE: 16/04/2024**

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**INSTRUCTIONS**

- 1. Do not write anything on this question paper.**
- 2. Answer question ONE (Compulsory) and any other TWO questions.**

**QUESTION ONE**

- a) Using well-labelled tree diagrams show that the sentences below have both a deep and surface structure.
  - i. This story was believed by the villagers
  - ii. Whom did you meet at the river? (10 marks)
- b) From the derivations in (a) above, explain three principles of movement in the Government and Binding Theory. (6 marks)
- c) Explain the differences between transformational generative grammar and x-bar theory. (6 marks)
- d) Using bracketing, show the syntactic structure of the sentence:
  - i) The bottle of water must have cracked open. (8 marks)

## QUESTION TWO

Explain the following terms as used in modern syntactic theory.

- i. Principles
- ii. Parameters
- iii. Maximal projection
- iv. governor
- v. Bounding

(20 marks)

## QUESTION THREE

Explain the concept of merge and highlight its assumptions. Give an example in each case.

(20 marks)

## QUESTION FOUR

Give a configurational representation of the clause: **'that the lecturer presented his thesis.'**

(20 marks)

## QUESTION FIVE

Explain how the Binding Theory accounts for the referential properties of noun phrases.

(20 marks)