

KISII UNIVERSITY

JAN-APRIL 2024 EXAM DRAFT

LING 421: MODERN SYNTACTIC THEORY

ANSWER QUESTION 1 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:
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)