UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

**FOURTH YEAR EXAMINATION FOR THE AWARD
OF DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS**

ENGL 416: CONTEMPORARY THEORIES OF SYNTAX

STREAMS: BA (Y4S1)   **TIME: 2 HOURS**

DAY/DATE: FRIDAY 07/12/2018   **11.30 A.M. – 1.30 P.M.**

INSTRUCTIONS: Answer three questions. Question ONE is compulsory

1.   (a)   Discuss four criteria that a theory of universal grammar should fulfill. [16 marks]
      (b)   Phrase structure grammar involves rules that generate structures. Give the

             possible structures that can be generated by the following rules.   [10
marks]

$$NP \longrightarrow (D) \begin{Bmatrix} +\{AdjP^+\} \\ +\{PP^+\} \end{Bmatrix}$$

AdjP $\longrightarrow$ (AdvP) Adj

AdvP $\longrightarrow$ (AdvP) adv

AdvP $\longrightarrow$ (AdvP$^+$) v (AdvP+)

TP $\longrightarrow$ NP (T) VP

(c)   State any two weaknesses of the phrase structure rules in generative grammar.

[4 marks]

2.   Discuss the following parameters that differentiate some languages from others.

[20 marks]

(i)   Head direction parameter

(ii)   Null-subject parameter

(iii)   Ergative case

(iv)   Wh-fronting parameter

3.   Using examples, explain the following constraints on wh-movement   [20 marks]

(i)   Wh-Island

(ii)   Complex noun phrase island

(iii)   Left-branch island

(iv)   Coordinate structure island

4.   Discuss the minimalist programme under the following sub titles

(i)   Bare phrase structure   [6 marks]

(ii)   Phonetic form (PF) & logical form (LF)   [6 marks]

(iii)   Feature valuation   [4 marks]

(iv)   Merge and move   [4 marks]

5.   (a)   Using examples, show how government is related to case assignment   [10 marks]

        (b)   State and explain the binding principle A, B & C   [10 marks]