

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

M.A.

M.A. English Language (Modern): Modern English Grammar

COURSE CODE : ENGLMA02

DATE : 03–MAY–05

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

MA in English Language (Modern) 2005

Modern English Grammar

Answer three questions.

Candidates must not present substantially the same material in any two answers, whether on this paper or in other parts of the examination.

1. Discuss the distinction between lexical cohesion and grammatical cohesion in English.
2. Either (a): Discuss the following pairs of sentences in terms of information packaging:

*To give up now would be a mistake. / It would be a mistake to give up now.
The butler stole the necklace./It was the butler who stole the necklace.
You need a holiday./What you need is a holiday.*

- Or (b): What thematic motivations can account for the use of existential constructions in English?
3. "Since formal markers of aspect are not predominant in the verb, English is a 'tense', not an 'aspect' language". (Brinton) Discuss.
 4. Discuss the structure of the different clause types in English and their uses.
 5. Describe the structure of the English noun phrase.
 6. "Whereas speakers perforce construct sentences on the run, writers linger over them, fashioning them into objects of a complexity that can sometimes be overwhelming." (Wallace Chafe)
- Using this quotation as a starting point, discuss some of the major differences between speech and writing.
7. Why is it useful to analyse language at different 'levels', such as the form level, the function level and the thematic level?
 8. "A great many English words may, if considered isolatedly (as parts of 'language'), belong to more classes than one; but in each particular application (in 'speech') they can only belong to one, and it is generally easy to determine which one." (Jespersen)

Discuss.

9. “We use the term ‘prototypical’ for the central or core members of a category that have a full set of distinctive properties.” (Huddleston and Pullum)

Discuss the notion of prototype, as applied to the categories of language.

10. To what extent is the term ‘analytic mood’ useful in English grammar?
11. What problems may be encountered in attempting to distinguish between subordination and coordination in English?
12. Write an essay on the ways in which aspectual meaning is expressed in English.
13. Critically evaluate the notion that Adjuncts/Adverbials are ‘peripheral’ in clause structure.
14. Is the traditional class of English determiners justifiable? Motivate your answer.