

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 : 27-APR-06

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

MA in English Language (Modern) 2006

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 notions of idiomaticity and compositionality, as they apply to English.
2. Using illustrative examples, discuss the difference between lexical aspect (or aktionsart) and grammatical aspect (or viewpoint aspect).
3. Write an essay on the syntax and semantics of clausal negation in English.
4. The spoken language is, in fact, no less structured and highly organised than the written. It could not be otherwise, since both are manifestations of the same system. (Michael Halliday)

Discuss.

5. Discuss the structure and uses of the English existential construction.
6. Discuss the syntactic and semantic properties of V+NP+to-infinitive constructions in English.
7. Discuss the syntactic differences between main clauses and subordinate clauses in English.
8. Using the following sentences as illustrations, write an essay on the ways in which the order of constituents can be varied within sentences, and the pragmatic factors which are relevant to such variation.

On the desk lay a large envelope.
It was during the war that he made most of his money.
Making money is what he does best.
It's unfair to blame children for their parents' mistakes.
Mistakes must be paid for.

TURN OVER

9. Using the following extract from the beginning of a short story as illustration, and examples of your own if you wish, discuss some of the ways in which cohesion may be achieved in English

1 They made the usual preparations. Charlotte bought a small leg of
lamb, picked purple broccoli and sprigs of mint. All were Timothy's
favourites, purchased every year for April 23rd, which this year was a
Thursday. Odo ensured that the gin had not gone too low: a gin and tonic,
5 and then another one, was what Timothy liked. Odo did not object to that,
did not in fact object to obtaining the gin specially, since it was not
otherwise drunk in the house.

 They were a couple in their sixties who had scarcely parted from
each other in the forty-two years of their marriage. Odo was tall, thin as a
10 straw, his bony features receding into a freckled dome on which little hair
remained. Charlotte was small and still pretty, her grey hair drawn back
and tidy, her eyes an arresting shade of blue. Timothy was their only
child. (William Trevor, *Timothy's Birthday*)

10. Critically discuss Huddleston and Pullum's account of the structure of English noun phrases.
11. Write an essay on the relationship between mood and modality in English.
12. Numerous kinds [of Adjuncts/Adverbials] are commonly distinguished, though in some cases the distinctions are more semantic than strictly syntactic. (Rodney Huddleston)

In the light of Huddleston's comment, give an account of Adjuncts/Adverbials in English.

13. Critically discuss Frederick Newmeyer's slogan "Grammar is grammar and usage is usage."