

# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

*University of London*

## EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

*For the following qualifications :-*

B.A.

### **Italian X255: Issues in Italian Syntax**

COURSE CODE : **ITALX255**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **02-MAY-02**

TIME : **10.00**

TIME ALLOWED : **3 hours**

02-C0807-3-30

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**TURN OVER**

**ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM ALL SECTIONS AS INSTRUCTED BELOW.**

• **Section A - Phrasal Constituency and Thematic Assignment.**

Answer THREE of the following four questions (1, 2, 3, and 4). (*Questions 1-3 should be answered in the spaces provided below.*)

1. Determine whether the *underlined* expression in the following FOUR sentences is a phrasal constituent, and if so provide its syntactic category and its head as in the examples given. Remember to distinguish VP from IP. You may restrict your choice to the following phrasal categories: DP, AP, VP, IP, PP.

	NO:	YES:	Category:	Head:
E.g.1: John <u>likes Mary</u> .	-	<i>Yes</i>	<i>VP</i>	<i>like</i>
E.g.2: The <u>dog bit</u> a cat.	<i>No</i>	-	-	-
a. Italians have <u>always loved good food</u> .	___	___	___	___
b. The students have <u>all left</u> .	___	___	___	___
c. These <u>books come from London</u> .	___	___	___	___
d. We <u>do not like cats</u> .	___	___	___	___

2. Determine whether the *underlined* expression in the following FOUR sentences is a phrasal constituent, and if so provide its syntactic category and its head as in the examples given. Remember to distinguish VP from IP. You may restrict your choice to the following phrasal categories: DP, AP, VP, IP, PP.

	NO:	YES:	Category:	Head:
E.g.1: Gli uomini <u>hanno sempre bevuto vino</u> .	___	<i>Yes</i>	<i>IP</i>	<i>hanno</i>
E.g.2: Gli uomini <u>hanno sempre bevuto vino</u> .	<i>No</i>	___	___	___
a. Gli italiani <u>berranno sempre vino</u> .	___	___	___	___
b. <u>Gli italiani berranno</u> sempre vino.	___	___	___	___
c. <u>Aver viaggiato molto</u> è un bene.	___	___	___	___
d. Questi libri arrivano <u>da Londra</u> .	___	___	___	___

**TURN OVER**

3. Determine whether the *underlined* expression in the following FOUR sentences is an *argument* of one of the available verbs or simply an *adjunct*, as in the examples given. Pay attention to any potential movement operation displacing arguments from their base-generated position.

	An argument:	An adjunct:
E.g.1 : I never eat <u>frozen beans</u> in the morning.	Yes	
E.g.2 : I never eat frozen beans <u>in the morning</u> .		Yes
a. I like to hear music <u>while sleeping</u> .	_____	_____
b. <u>These books</u> were bought by my father.	_____	_____
c. We ate <u>in the afternoon</u> .	_____	_____
d. <u>The students</u> seem to have left.	_____	_____

4. Give one reason why in the passive sentence “*Mary was met in the garden by John*” the PP ‘*by John*’ is not considered an argument theta-marked by the verb ‘*to meet*’.

• **Section B - Syntactic Movement.** Answer ALL questions (5, 6, and 7).

5. Provide the syntactic tree-structure representation for EITHER sentence (a) OR sentence (b) below. You may restrict your phrasal categories to DP, NP, IP, VP, and PP, and parse the quantifier ‘*tutti*’ under the node-label Q (for ‘quantifier’) and the adverb under the node-label ADV. Remember to label each word and each tree-node with the appropriate syntactic category. Whenever a movement operation applies, properly represent all traces left behind by the moving item.

- Gli studenti mangeranno sempre tutti carne.
- Carlo parla spesso con Maria.

6. Provide the syntactic tree-structure representation for EITHER the Italian sentence in (a) OR the English sentence in (b) below.

This exercise concerns the ‘split-Infl hypothesis’: you MUST use the phrasal categories AgrP and TP and clearly indicate the content of their head. Use these categories together with the usual categories DP, NP, and VP. You may analyse the quantifier ‘*tutte*’ under the node-label Q (for ‘quantifier’), the neg-marker ‘*not*’ as Neg (for ‘negation’), and the adverbs *spesso* and *always* under the node-label ADV.

Remember to label each word and each tree-node with the appropriate syntactic category. Whenever a movement operation applies, properly represent all traces left behind by the moving item.

- Le donne mangiavano spesso tutte il pane.
- The women did not always eat meat.

**CONTINUE**

7. Provide the syntactic tree-structure representation for EITHER the Italian sentence in (a) OR the English sentence in (b) below.

You may restrict your phrasal categories to DP, NP, CP, IP, and VP. You may also use PPP to represent past-participles, and analyse interrogative items such as Italian *'chi'* and English *'what'* as DPs. Remember to label each word and each tree-node with the appropriate syntactic category. Whenever a movement operation applies, properly represent all traces left behind by the moving item.

- a. Chi ha mangiato i biscotti?
- b. What has John discovered?

• **Section C - Passives, Ergatives, and Raising Structures.**

Answer BOTH questions (8 and 9). When providing tree-structure representations, always remember to label each word and tree-node with the appropriate syntactic category. Whenever a movement operation applies, properly represent all traces left behind by the moving item.

8. Provide the appropriate syntactic tree-structure representation for the sentence in (a) below. You may restrict your phrasal categories to DP, NP, IP, and VP. You may use PPP to represent past-participles, and the label Q for the quantifier *'tutti'*.

a. *I bambini sembrano aver tutti mangiato.*

9. On the basis of the data in (a) and (b) below, determine whether the sentence in (a) is an ergative or passive construction, and then provide the appropriate syntactic tree-structure representation for it. You may restrict your phrasal categories to DP, NP, IP, VP, and PastParticiple-Phrase (i.e. PPP). The symbol *'\*'* represents ungrammatical status.

a. *Le bombe sono scoppiate.*

b. *\*Le bombe sono scoppiate dalla polizia.*

**TURN OVER**

**Section D - Case-theory and Null-subjects.**

Answer BOTH questions (10 and 11).

10. For each of the following FOUR sentences, determine which head assigns case to the DP in **bold**, and provide its syntactic category, as in the example given.

	Case-assigning head	Category
E.g.: John likes <b>Mary</b> .	<i>like</i>	$V^o$
a. Carlo ha dato i soldi a <b>me</b> .	_____	_____
b. <b>Marco</b> sembrava non aver mangiato abbastanza.	_____	_____
c. Bill expects <b>me</b> to go with him.	_____	_____
d. It is vital for <b>John</b> to show an interest.	_____	_____

11. Consider the sentence in (a) below.

Answer the following TWO questions:

- (i) What is the subject of the subordinate clause “piovere”?  
 (ii) Why is the sentence ungrammatical?

- a. \* È necessario piovere.  
*It is necessary to rain.*

**END OF PAPER**