



# **MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY**

**REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR  
4<sup>TH</sup> YEAR FIRST SEMESTER**

**SCHOOL OF ARTS, HUMANITIES SOCIAL SCIENCES  
& CREATIVE INDUSTRIES  
BACHELOR OF ARTS LANGUAGE &  
COMMUNICATION/BACHELOR OF EDUCATION  
ARTS**

**COURSE CODE: LAC 4105  
COURSE TITLE: ADVANCES IN THE DESCRIPTION  
OF ENGLISH SYNTAX**

**DATE: 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

**TIME: 8.30AM – 10.30AM**

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- **Question One is Compulsory**
- **Answer Any Other TWO**

• *This paper consists of 3 printed pages. Please turn over*

1. Parse the sentence below using traditional grammar parsing schema
  - a) The lecturer noted your absence in class today. (10 mks)
  - b) Explain the weaknesses of traditional grammar. (10 marks)
  - c) Discuss the tenets of Phrase structure grammar. (10 marks)
2. With specific examples explain the following concepts as used in syntax.
  - i) Wh-movement
  - ii) Passive constructions
  - iii) Recursion
  - iv) C - command (20 mks)
3. i) Use tree diagrams to illustrate the following :
  - a. The man chased the rat
  - b. The girl is in the kitchen
  - c. The boy ran (10 mks)ii) Explain the following terms as used in Phrase structure grammar:
  - a) Mother node
  - b) Daughter node
  - c) Branch
  - d) Dominance
  - e) Immediate dominance (10 marks)
4. Discuss the following concepts as used in syntax
  - a) Deep structure
  - b) Transformations
  - c) Subcategorization rules
  - d) Context sensitive rules. (20 mks)
5. Explain the notions of case, competence and performance of grammars in syntax (20 mks)

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