

**Eötvös Loránd University • Department of English Linguistics • Syntax (BBN-ANG-251) • sample exam**

This final examination consists of four sections. You should answer all parts of each section. Please follow the instructions for each section carefully, and hand in the exam paper when you are finished.  
**Good luck!**

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**1** For each of the following statements, pick the best continuation. Carefully assess all the options.  
**Never circle more than a single option.** (20 statements; 1 point per statement)

- (1) In the structure of *Why won't you accept me for what I am?*
- A there are two *wh*-phrases, each introducing a *wh*-question
  - B while *why* is in the specifier position of CP, *what* occupies the C-position
  - C *for* is a complementiser
  - D there are two first-person singular pronouns, one of which serves as a subject
- (2) With reference to the structure for *My computer just broke down*, it is the case that
- A *my computer* gets the Theme  $\theta$ -role in the specifier position of the VP of *break*
  - B *just* is a modifier that occupies an adjunction position
  - C *down* is a prepositional particle that finds itself in the complement of V
  - D the statements in A–C are all accurate

**2** For each of the following sentences, pick the description that best represents its syntax.  
(2 sentences; 5 points per sentence)

- (1) *The professor of syntax plays jazz.*
- A The PP *of syntax* is the complement of the noun *professor*; the phrase *the professor of syntax* is base-generated in SpecIP; there is no *v* present.
  - B The PP *of syntax* is an adjunct to the N'-projection of *professor*; the phrase *the professor of syntax* is base-generated in SpecvP and moves to SpecIP.
  - C The PP *of syntax* is an adjunct to the N'-projection of *professor*; the phrase *the professor of syntax* is base-generated in SpecIP; there is no *v* present.
  - D The PP *of syntax* is the complement of the noun *professor*; the phrase *the professor of syntax* is base-generated in SpecvP and moves to SpecIP.

**3** For each of the following ungrammatical structures, identify the cause of its ungrammaticality from among the candidates given. Do not pick more than a single option.  
(5 sentences; 2 points per sentence)

- (1) \* $[_{IP} \text{The ranger}_i [_{I'} \text{will} [_{vP} \underline{t}_i [_{v'} v+\text{rescue}_j [_{vP} \text{the lion} [_{v'} \underline{t}_j \text{the girl}]]]]]]]$
- A the Projection Principle: the verb *rescue* fails to project its full  $\theta$ -grid
  - B the  $\theta$ -Criterion: *the girl* fails to receive a  $\theta$ -role from *rescue*

**4** Are the following statements *true* (T) or *false* (F)? (10 statements; 1 point per statement)

- (1) Both in *Donald touched her intimately* and in *Donald touched her intimate parts*, the feminine pronoun gets accusative Case under government from *v*. T F
- (2) In *\*She was lying the baby in bed*, the absence of *v* from the structure causes a violation of the  $\theta$ -Criterion and the Case Filter. T F

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The maximum number of points that you can score for this exam is 50. Your score will be divided by 10, and rounded to a whole integer. 26 points shall be deemed the minimum score for a passing grade.

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