

**Eötvös Loránd University • Department of English Linguistics • Syntax (BBN-ANG-252) • sample exam**

This final examination consists of five 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!*

---

**1** Are the following statements *true* (T) or *false* (F)? Circle the correct answer in the right margin. [10 statements in total] (10 points)

- a. In the sentence *Dennis likes to play tennis*, the noun phrase of *tennis* is assigned structural accusative Case by *v*. T F
- b. In the structure of the sentence *John seldom will drink his tea hot*, there are two adjuncts, each attached to a projection of V. T F

**2** In the following statements, for each pair of options in curly brackets, please underline the option that you think is the correct one, directly on the exam paper. [10 pairs in total] (10 points)

- a. In *I heard the butcher slaughter the pigs*, the noun phrase following the finite verb is assigned {nominative / accusative} Case by {*v* / I} under {government / Spec-Head agreement}.

**3** Give fully detailed tree structures for the following sentences [2 in total; 10 points per tree]. Use a piece of scrap paper to draft your trees, and once you are satisfied with them, enter the trees in their final form directly on the exam paper in the boxes reserved for them. (20 points)

- (1) *Diligent students of English will often secure government jobs.*

**4** What causes the ungrammaticality of the following sentences? Choose the correct answer from the three options given below each sentence, and circle the corresponding letter. (There is **only a single correct answer** for each item; so please **do not circle more than one letter per item**.) [3 items in total; 2 points per item] (6 points)

(1) \**John likes to eat in a very sophisticated way, but Bill always devours.*

- A. a violation of the Case Filter for *a very sophisticated way*
- B. a violation the  $\theta$ -Criterion for *Bill*
- C. a violation of the Projection Principle

**5** Fill in the blanks. Please enter your completions directly on the exam paper, and please write legibly. [4 blanks in total] (4 points)

a. In *Dennis likes to play tennis*, the verb *like* takes as its complement an infinitival \_\_\_\_\_ with a silent \_\_\_\_\_.

---

The following section is **optional**, and can earn you points to compensate for errors made in the above.

**6** Complete the following statements, as precisely as possible. Write your continuations directly on the exam paper in the spaces provided. [5 statements in total] (5 points)

- a. A verb like *to drop* is intransitive when it does not, and transitive when it does, combine with a projection of \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. When it introduces a subordinate yes/no-question, the word *if* occupies \_\_\_\_\_.

---

The total number of points for sections 1–5 is 50. Section 6 can earn you an additional five (5) points to make a grand total of 55. Your grade will be calculated by summation of the points earned for sections 1–6, divided by 10, and rounded to a whole integer. 25 points is the minimum score for a passing grade.

---