

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR UID: _____

YOUR TA: _____

No material is admitted except paper and pencil. Remember to write legibly. There is a maximum of 50 Points. The midterm is worth 10 % of the overall score, less than a single assignment. So do not panic!

Total number of points: 50

Your Score: _____

Question 1. (5 Points) In the following sentences, name the subject, the object and the indirect object if present.

- (1) The priest drank the wine hastily.
- (2) The dean awarded a prize to the student.

Answer: (1) Subject /the priest/, Object: /the wine/, (2) Subject: /the dean/, Object: /a prize/, the student/. *Remarks.* Subject, object and so on are grammatical notions and refer to constituents. This is why it is not acceptable to say that the subject of (1), say, is “priest”. I have awarded no penalty for that, because these points are naturally confused elsewhere. Also, it is debatable if the direct object is /to the student/. I counted both answers as correct.

Question 2. (5 Points) Determine for the pronouns listed below the gender (answer ‘any’ if the word is unspecified for gender) and number, and case (nom(inative), gen(itive) or acc(usative)) and say whether they are reflexive or not (answer ‘yes’ if they are reflexive, and ‘no’ otherwise). If more answers are possible, list them.

	gender	number	case	reflexive
we	any	pl	nom	no
himself	masc	sg	acc	yes
them	any	pl	acc	no

Remarks. Many people answered ‘genitive’ for the case of /himself. Also, singular and plural are formal categories, and it is not admitted to confuse them with “one” and “2 or more” or “more than one”. Half a point off if you did. That that applies also to “masculine” (formal) as opposed to “male” (semantic).

Question 3. (8 Points) Draw an X-bar-tree for (1) up to the VP. (*hastily* is an adverb, so it modifies a projection of the verb.)

Solution.

$$[_{VP}[_{DP}[_{D'}[_{D} \text{the}][_{NP}[_{N'}[_{N} \text{priest}]]]]]]][_{V'}[_{V'}[_{V} \text{drank}][_{DP}[_{D'}[_{D} \text{the}][_{NP}[_{N'}[_{N} \text{wine}]]]]]]][_{AdvP}[_{Adv'}[_{Adv} \text{hastily}]]]]]]$$

Remarks. About half of the people got that right, but others made plenty of sometimes needless mistakes. I said that */hastily/* is an adverb, so you should not call in an A (that is an abbreviation for “adjective”). No penalty if you did, as long as you remained consistent. Similarly, if people gave me TP and CP structure it just had to be correct. I said that */hastily/* modifies a projection of the verb. 1 point off if you got that wrong. Likewise, if the subject was not specifier of VP or the object not the complement, 1 point off. 1/2 point if you omitted the intermediate projection (unless it was D’). Some people violated various properties of X-bar syntax. They should study it carefully!

Question 4. (5.5 Points) Here is a context free grammar. The start symbol is S.

$S \rightarrow \text{The mouse } Y \text{ ran away.}$

$Y \rightarrow \text{that saw the cat } Y \mid \text{that saw the rat}$

Give two examples of a derivation of a complete sentence.

Answer. First derivation

S

The mouse Y ran away.

The mouse that saw the rat ran away.

Second derivation:

S

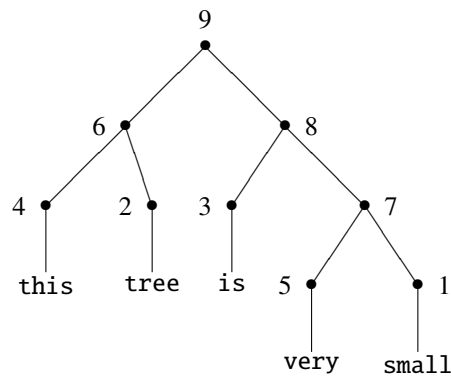
The mouse Y ran away.

The mouse that saw the cat Y ran away.

The mouse that saw the cat that saw the rat ran away.

Remarks. Most people got that right. No points if you just gave me two sentences. That means you did not attempt to give me a derivation (which I what I asked for). 1 point off if you forgot the 'S' at the beginning. Some people used arrows. No need to do that (but no penalty if you did).

Question 5. (8 Points) Consider the following tree. For each node (1 through 9), say which nodes it c-commands. (You may safely ignore the words here.)



Node	c-commands
1	5
2	4
3	1, 5, 7
4	2
5	1
6	1, 3, 5, 7, 8
7	3
8	2, 4, 6
9	–

Remarks. Most people got that right. The rest mostly thought that 9 c-commands every other node. Some confused c-command with dominance or immediate dominance, or worse: sometimes the one, sometimes the other. (This is when I wrote that you are inconsistent: when I saw no consistent pattern that you applied.)

Question 6. (3 Points) Is the following rule a valid rule of X-bar-syntax for English?

$$\begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT :V} \\ \text{PROJ:2} \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT :V} \\ \text{PROJ:1} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \text{CAT :D} \\ \text{PROJ:2} \end{bmatrix}$$

Yes No , because

Answer. in English, specifiers must be to the left. *Remark.* To say that subjects must be on the left or something similar was also OK. Most people however got either the answer wrong (saying ‘yes’) or failed to give me a good the reason. I did not count the reply ‘no’ if the reason was too far off the mark. I think many people did not realise that I asked about English and not just X-bar syntax. However, a good share of people have no idea how to explain something in plain English. They gave me examples, say “drink the wine” to show that a DP can be to the right of a V (or V’), but that requires argument: you give me a string and do not show me that your labels have anything to do with what is asked for here.

Question 7. (4 Points) Look at the following sentence.

(3) The pilot looked at itself in the mirror.

Based on the principles of binding this sentence is ungrammatical because

Answer. the reflexive must be bound inside the CP, by Principle A. There is only one binder, /the pilot/. So, /the pilot/ binds /himself/. But they disagree in gender. *Remark.* Questions such as this one reveal whether you have understood the matter. Most people got one or the other thing wrong. They say, for example, that the pronoun is not bound but fail to say why. They say that the pronoun cannot be found again without a reason, and so on. I deducted points even if you heaped up the relevant keywords (Principle A, disagreement in grender) but failed to give me a coherent argument. I let people assume tacitly, though, that the only potential is /the pilot/ (and not, say, /the mirror/).

Question 8. (4 Points) Assign indices for these sentences that satisfy Principles A and B of binding.

- (4) The manager_[1] awarded him_[2] a big pay rise.
 (5) The manager_[1] awarded himself_[1] a big pay rise.

Remark. Almost everyone got this right. I shall not ask that question again...

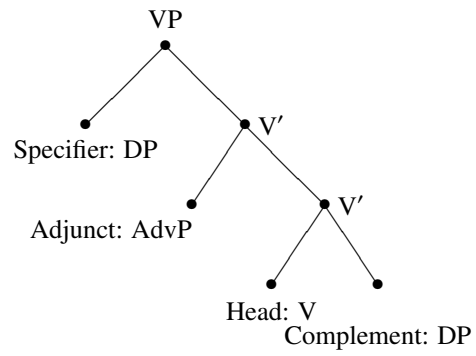
Question 9. (4.5 Points) Put the following DPs (and only them) into the plural.

- (6) [my recent discovery of this theorem]
 (7) [the governor's party, which angered the neighbor]
 (8) [the priest who lives around the corner]

Answer. (6) my recent discoveries of this theorem
 (7) the governor's parties, which angered the neighbor
 (8) the priests who live around the corner

Remark. Obviously, I did not want to know if you know how to put words into the plural, but rather whether you understood how to put a specific DP and only it into the plural. So many people did not see what I was aiming for. I gave you three DPs, called (6), (7) and (8), which had to be pluralised. This is as clear as it needs to be. (Adding 'main', as I did during the exam did not seem to help, though technically it said the same.) Most people additionally pluralised /this theorem/. It would have been consistent to then give me /our recent discoveries of these theorems/ in place of /my recent discoveries of these theorems/. Some people gave me back amputated DPs (/my recent discoveries/). Points off, too, but you were lucky that it did not show me whether you planned to pluralise the other one, too. (Some people made sure they wanted that as well, giving me /my recent discoveries/, /these theorems/, separately.) Interesting for me was the discovery that there is a cline: more people offered the wrong solution for (6) than did for (7), and more for (7) than for (8). It means that some people were inconsistent; they did not give me /the priests who live around the corners/, while giving me /my recent discoveries of the theorems/. (Yes, with /my/ rather than /our/.)

Question 10. (3 Points) In the following tree, mark head, adjunct, specifier and complement if any:



Remark. Most people had it right. Popular mistake was to make the VP the head. 'Compliment' is something different from 'complement' (check with your dictionary). Thanks anyway.