

YOUR NAME: _____

YOUR ID: _____

YOUR TA: _____

No material is admitted except paper and pencil. Remember to write legibly. We prefer brief answers. 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. (4 Points)

1. Any phrase XP contains a head. Yes No
2. Any phrase XP contains a specifier. Yes No
3. Any phrase XP contains a complement. Yes No
4. If YP is the complement of X, then X equals Y. Yes No

Remarks: One point per correct answer; most people got that one right; the only exception was the last question. The answer must be no: NP can be the complement of P but N is not the same as P.

Question 2. (6 Points) Draw the general X-bar schema for coordination. Also, answer the following questions:

1. Two constituents can be coordinated if (and only if) they are both phrases. Yes No
2. A singular NP and a plural NP cannot be coordinated. Yes No

The schema:

$$X^n \rightarrow X^n \text{ Con } X^n$$

where $n = 0, 1$ or 2 .

Remarks: So many people got the second question wrong: you can say **Peter and the policemen**. Also, most people failed to memorize correctly the schema for coordination (worth 4 points!) or confused it with the standard X-bar schema.

Question 3. (2 Points) Answer the following questions.

1. In a relative clause the auxiliary moves to C. Yes No
2. In a constituent question, all constituents carrying a wh-word move to specifier of CP. Yes No

Remarks: Also here many mistakes. Although one would think that you needed to memorize facts here, this is really not so. You just have to create a sentence of the relevant sort, for example: **This is the man who I saw walk down the street**. The sequence **who I saw** reveals that the auxiliary is not moving around the subject. The second one is similar: **who did what to whom?** shows you that the answer must be no (and I said so many times).

Question 4. (8 Points) Draw the tree structure for the following sentence.

The cat sits almost on the mat.

Answer:

$$[IP [NP [Det \textit{The}] [N' [N \textit{cat}]]] [I' [I \textit{-Pst}] [VP [V' [V \textit{sits}] [PP [Deg \textit{almost}]]] [P' [P \textit{on}] [NP [Det \textit{the}] [N' [N \textit{mat}]]]]]]]]]]$$

Remarks: Most people got that right.

Question 5. (8 Points) Draw the tree structure for the following sentence indicating also the movements that took place. (You may use a single tree to do this.)

Will you read the book?

Remarks: Most people got that right.

Question 6. (8 Points) Draw the possible structures of the word **disengagement** based on the fact that **engage** is a verb.

Remarks: Most people got that right. 2 points off if you forgot the labels. Also, technically only one of the analyses is appropriate for English: $[N[V_{Aff}dis][V_{engage}]ment]$. This is because **dis** attaches to verbs, not nouns. But I counted any solution correct that had this analysis in it. If it was missing and I got only the other one, 3 points off. The suffix **ment** forms nouns, not adjectives. And the result in any case is a noun, not a verb (or adjective as some believed).

Question 7. (4 Points) Answer the following questions (continues overleaf!):

1. An affix can be added directly to an affix. Yes No
2. Affixes must be either prefixes or suffixes. Yes No
3. Inflectional affixes are added before derivational affixes. Yes No
4. English is predominantly prefixing, that is, it has more prefixes than suffixes. Yes No

Remarks: Maybe it was difficult to think that the answer is ‘no’ *all* the times. Most people made mistakes on the first one even though we had exercises to show that affix and affix cannot be directly combined. In general, affixes can be transfixes or infixes etc. Inflectional affixes come before not after derivational affixes, and English is predominately suffixing.

Question 8. (8 Points) Let G consist of the X-bar rules for English plus the following rules:

$$N \rightarrow \text{cat} \mid \text{bar} \mid \text{house}$$

$$V \rightarrow \text{runs} \mid \text{sees}$$

$$\text{Det} \rightarrow \text{the} \mid \text{a}$$

$$P \rightarrow \text{to} \mid \text{from}$$

Give *one* derivation for the sentence

the mouse runs from the bar

Answer:

IP

NP I'
 Det N' I'
 Det N I'
 Det N I VP
 Det N I V'
 Det N I V PP
 Det N I V P'
 Det N I V P NP
 Det N I V P Det N'
 Det N I V P Det N
 the N I V P Det N
 the mouse I V P Det N
 the mouse V P Det N
 the mouse runs P Det N
 the mouse runs from Det N
 the mouse runs from the N
 the mouse runs from the bar

Remarks: So many people missed that one completely. I gave 2 points for the tree, but the tree is *not* the derivation. Also, most people stopped at the prelexical level and, by miracle, pulled out the lexical string. They missed the fact that the insertion of lexical items is subject to the same process: applying a rule, and has to be done step by step. 2 points off if you missed that, only 1 point if there is an indication that you understood that it required a little more effort. No penalty for dropping I on the way or any minor inconsistencies. (Technically, I would have to write I[-pst], but I omitted the fine print.)

Question 9. (2 Points) Does the rule $\emptyset \rightarrow \text{bb}/\text{c_d}$ apply to the string *cd*?

■ Yes □ No

What is the output when applying the rule? Remarks: The output is *cbbd*. Some people said the rule does not apply and then gave me *cbbd*; this is flatly self-contradictory. Others gave me at least a consistent answer: no it does not apply, and the output is *cd*. Too bad, but that is false.