



# **MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY**

**REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2022/2023 ACADEMIC YEAR  
FIRST YEAR SECOND SEMESTER**

**SCHOOL OF ARTS HUMANITIES SOCIAL  
SCIENCES AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES  
PhD (LINGUISTICS)**

**COURSE CODE: LIN 9208**

**COURSE TITLE: SYNTAX METHODS**

**DATE: 26/4/2023**

**TIME: 0830-1130 HRS**

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## **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer any **THREE** questions

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

## QUESTION ONE

(a) Using the following sentences and with the aid of tree diagrams, explain how nodes are related vertically and horizontally. (10mks)

- (i) The students were being punished by the teacher.
- (ii) They might have caught some fish.
- (iii) The man is a very controversial one.
- (iv) Several very intelligent people were interviewed recently for the well-paying job.
- (v) Some may have been taking alcohol last year.

(b) Explain how the Binding theory works and how it would handle the following structures:

- (i) She despises herself.
- ii) A group of applicants may present themselves

(10 marks)

## QUESTION TWO

Discuss what you understand by X-bar Syntax. (20 mks)

## QUESTION THREE

Using illustrations, account for the WH-movement in both **Wh** and **YES/NO** questions. (20 mks)

## QUESTION FOUR

Using examples, discuss what you understand by Head movement in Syntax. (20 mks)

## QUESTION FIVE

(a) Examine the major tenets of the Minimalist Programme. Provide illustrations. (10 mks)

b) How would the passive sentence such as 'The shirt was stolen' be handled within the minimalist programme? (10mks)

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