YOUR NAME:
Grading: 0-25: 1   26-31: 2   32-37: 3   38-43: 4   44-50: 5

ADVANCED SYNTAX EXAM

Working time: 90 mins. **The questions are based on Newson et al:** *Basic English Syntax with Exercises***, the handouts on the seas homepage and the lectures.**

1. Multiple choice questions. Circle the right answer, there is always only one. (25)

1. Choose the best answer.
A. Only embedded clauses can be finite.
B. Only embedded clauses can be non-finite.
C. Both embedded clauses and main clauses can be non-finite
D. Finiteness is not a clausal property.

2. Which of the following sentences contains wh-movement?
A. *Who should I call?*   B. *She is the person you should call.*
C. Both.   D. Neither.

3. Which of the following sentences is a raising construction?
A. *I believe you to be the best.*   B. *I believe that you are the best.*
C. *You seem to be the best.*   D. *It seems that you are the best.*

4. What is the antecedent of the anaphor in this sentence: *Peter knows that Paul accidentally hurt himself.*
A. *Peter*   B. *knows*   C. the inflection   D. *Paul*

5. According to BESE aspectual auxiliary verbs
A. are dummy auxiliaries.   B. express perfective or progressive meanings.
C. are always finite.   D. can assign nominative Case.

6. What is the restriction on the position of VP-adverbs?
A. They have to precede the subject.
B. They have to precede the base position of the verb.
C. They have to precede the surface position of the verb.
D. There are no restrictions, they can be adjoined freely.

7. What explains the ungrammaticality of the following sentence understood as clausal negation: *Peter likes not ice cream* (intended grammatical form: *Peter does not like ice cream*)?
A. the EPP   B. the HMC   C. the SAI   D. the MCP

8. What accounts for the grammaticality difference between *the examining the patient*? vs. *the doctor's examining the patient?*
A. Only the second *examining* is verbal.   B. Only the first *examining* is verbal.
C. The second structure contains a vP.   D. The first structure contains a vP.

9. Why do *wh*-words have to undergo movement?
A. In order to be assigned theta-role.   B. In order to agree with the I head.
C. In order to be assigned Case.   D. In order to get their interpretation.

10. Which of the following statements is true for the structural position of restrictive and non-restrictive relative clauses?
A. Both of them are adjuncts.   B. Both of them are complements.
C. Restrictive relative clauses are adjuncts, non-restricive relatives complements.
D. Restrictive relative clauses are complements, non-restrictive relatives adjuncts.

11. Why can the operator be empty in relative clauses as opposed to questions?
A. Because relative clauses are always embedded. We have empty operators in embedded questions.
B. In non-finite constructions we always have empty operators.
C. The modified noun makes the operator recoverable in relative clauses.
D. For Case reasons.

12. What cannot be found in the head position of an IP?
A. +finite features   B. –finite features   C. negation   D. agreement

13. Why is the following sentence ungrammatical: *It seems John to have left*?
A. The expletive has no Case.   B. *John* has no Case.
C. The expletive has no theta-role.   D. *John* has no theta-role.

14. What explains the ungrammaticality of the following sentence: *He was invited John*?
A. UTAH   B. HMC   C. the Case Filter   D. the EPP

15. How many adjoined constituents are present in the following sentence:
Biggs, I have never trusted completely.

A. zero   B. 1   C. 2   D. 3

16. Choose the best answer.
A. Focus fronting targets a Spec position.
B. Focus fronting targets a head position.
C. Focus fronting is adjunction.
D. Focus fronting does not involve movement.

17. Where can PRO appear?
A. In any position without Case.   B. In the subject/object position of [-FIN] CPs.
C. In the subject position of [-FIN] CPs.   D. In the subject position of [-FIN] IPs.

18-21: Match the construction-types to the sentences. Write the matching letter next to the sentence.
A. subject control   B. object control   C. ECM   D. raising
18. *They believe Mary to be responsible for this.*
19. *The teacher asked the students to register for the course next semester.*
20. *The majority of the students seem to have done a good job.*
21. *I am trying hard to pass this exam.*

22. What is the role of the *–ing* suffix in gerunds?
A. It nominalizes a verbal projection.   B. It verbalizes a nominal projection.
C. It assigns Case to the subject.   D. It assigns Case to the object.

What do the following statements refer to? Again, write the matching letter next to the statements.
A. focus fronting   B. negative fronting   C. both   neither
23. The moved constituent leaves a trace.
24. There is a pause (*aka* comma intonation) between the fronted constituent and the rest of the sentence.
25. The movement is for Case reasons
26. The movement goes together with SAI.

27. Which of the following statements is true for complements?
A. They are introduced by a recursive rule.
B. They cannot undergo movement.
C. There are restrictions on the positions where they can occur.
D. Theoretically you can have an infinite number of them.

28. How many light verbs are there in the following sentence: *We have not been interviewed for ages*?

A. zero   B. 1   C. 2   D. 3

29. Which of the following sentences contains a sentential adverb?

A. *Mary will supposedly pass the exam.*   B. *I have carried out this task nicely.*
C. *I have never understood this problem.*   D: *You should do this thoroughly.*

30. Why can the possessive pronoun be coreferent with the R-expression in this sentence: *His$_i$ mother loves John$_i$ very much*?

A. Because *his* c-commands, therefore binds the R-expression.
B. Because *his* does not c-command, therefore does not bind *John.*
C. Because R-expressions need an appropriate antecedent.
D. It cannot, the sentence is ungrammatical under the reading indicated by the coindexation.

2. Explain in detail why the following sentences are ungrammatical. Identify the construction, then point out which component of grammar is violated and explain how. A comparison with the grammatical form may be helpful, but remember that simply giving the grammatical form is not an explanation. At times (not always!) drawing a tree may be helpful. (3 sentences for 10 points)

a. *It seems Mary to be cut out for the job.*
b. *Myself is so proud of me.*
c. *I am interested in the shooting this movie.*
d. *I believe they to remember everything.*
e. *While this paper I was revising last week, I thought of another analysis.*
f. *This is a man who$_i$ liberty$_j$ t$_i$ would never grant t$_j$ to us.*
g. *John$_i$'s result expects to be satisfied with himself$_i$.*
h. *Never before I had experienced such intensive feelings.*

3. Pick two of the following (four) sentences and draw a tree for (the bracketed part of) them (see sentence (e)). Detail the internal structure of DPs. Indicate Case assignment as well. (15)

a. I have finally understood syntax.

b. What were the advisors thinking?

c. John's friend has not seen that classic movie.

d. Semantics, I did not learn yesterday.

e. I support [*nominating this movie for the award*]

f. Under no circumstances will we accept these changes.

g. The professor's children are putting the presents under the tree.