



**NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, ABUJA**  
**Faculty of Arts**  
**Department of Languages**

2021\_1 EXAMINATION

**COURSE CODE:** ENG 331

**COURSE TITLE:** INTRODUCTION TO SEMANTICS

**TIME ALLOWED:** 3 HOURS

**INSTRUCTION:** Answer Any 4 Questions

- 1a) Define the term semantics. **(3½ marks)**
- b) Discuss Alfred Korzybski's contribution to the study of semantics. **(7 marks)**
- c) Comment on the interrelatedness of language, communication and semantics. **(7 marks)**

**(17½/45 minutes)**

- 2a) With one example each, distinguish between hyponymy and polysemy as forms of lexical relations. **(7½ marks)**
- b) Compare content and form words in Semantics. **(4 marks)**
- c) Compare vagueness and ambiguity as semantic concepts. **(6 marks)**

**(17½/45 minutes)**

- 3a) List five types of speech acts. **(2½ marks)**
- b) Discuss three out of the five types of speech acts listed in (a) above. **(6 marks)**
- c) Identify and discuss the three levels of speech acts in this passage:

"Hello everyone, please move to the right side of the classroom". The students, who had been gathered in clusters all over the room, began to move hastily towards the right side of the classroom. Nobody wanted to annoy Miss Sandra, the school administrator, on the first day of resumption. **(9 marks)**

**(17½/45 minutes)**

- 4a) Briefly explain the concept of literary communication. **(2½ marks)**

b) Identify the types of structural constructions and how they have been deployed to express meaning in the following passages: **(9 marks)**

1. Oh, King, may you live forever. Is it right that we sit and watch our young men and women hacked down by criminals every day? I ask again, is it right that we allow our land to be ravaged by our enemies while we sit and only complain?

2. Amope charged at him, yelled on top of her voice, seized him by his trousers and then hit him with the plastic bowl she had been dangling on her right hand.

c) Explain how euphemism and irony could be used to communicate meaning in literary works **(6 marks)**

**(17½/45 minutes)**

5. Write short notes on the following approaches to the study of semantics:

a) Traditional semantics **(4½ marks)**

b) Structural semantics **(4 marks)**

c) Behavioral semantics **(4 marks)**

d) Generative semantics **(5 marks)**

**(17½/45 minutes)**