

NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA  
PLOT 91, CADASTRAL ZONE, JABI, ABUJA  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018 EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: ENG421

COURSE TITLE: NEW TRENDS IN SYNTAX

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

INSTRUCTION: Answer Any 3 Questions (*Your correct use of language elements will earn you additional 3 marks for each question attempted.*)

1. Explain clearly each of these concepts in the Minimalist Program:  
(a) TP (5 marks)  
(b) DP (5 marks)  
(c) VP (5 marks)  
(d) CP (5 marks)  
[Use of examples for each concept will earn you more marks]  

(20 marks)
2. Demonstrate, with a sentence each, how the **to** and **do** insertions help to rescue structures from crashing in **ditransitive**, **polar question** and **negative** structures in the Minimalist Program, clearly explaining the process. (20 marks)
3. Critically examine how the Bare Phrase Structure (BPS) is different from the X-Bar Theory in terms of the flexibility of the structure. [Examples to demonstrate your point(s) will earn you good marks] (20 marks)
4. Explain clearly to your friend what you understand by the Trace Theory in GB Syntax.  
[Examples to illustrate your point(s) will earn you good marks]  

(20 marks)
5. (a) Analyse the following sentences using the BPS  
(i) Sing songs (2 marks)  
(ii) Good shoes (2 marks)  
(iii) Come to John (2 marks)  
(iv) Musa eats eba (2 marks)  
(v) She can sing (2 marks)  
(b) Analyse these structures with tree diagrams, using the DP phrasemarkers:  
(i) the Vice-Chancellor (2 marks)  
(ii) the books (2 marks)  
(iii) my mother (2 marks)  
(iv) the man of the people (2 marks)  
(v) these sheep (2 marks)

(20 marks)

