



**NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
14-16 AHMADU BELLO WAY, VICTORIA ISLAND LAGOS
MARCH/APRIL 2016 EXAMINATION
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**COURSE CODE: ENG432
COURSE TITLE: Pragmatics**

TIME: 2HRS

INSTRUCTION: ANSWER THREE (3) QUESTIONS IN NOT MORE THAN 2 PAGES FOR EACH QUESTION. QUESTION FIVE (5) IS COMPULSORY.

1. Write short notes on any two(2) of the following:
 - a. Pragmatics versus Semantics
 - b. Text versus Context
 - c. Reference versus Inference

2. Identify and explain pragmatic elements in the following statements:
 - a. 'Win 20x N1million this season (picture of a box in Christmas wrappings) Stanbic IBTC Bank (this - refers to the Christmas season, and not just any season.
 - b. Power, control, simplicity-easy cooking at your finger tips (Kenwood microwave oven advertisement) (your - refers to you if you buy a Kenwood microwave oven)
 - c. She started eating water melon after she was diagnosed with cancer (presupposition that she had not been eating water melon before the diagnosis b) She now has cancer (c) the lack of sufficient preventive remedies like fruits may have caused the cancer)
 - d. The football team managed to make it through to the semi-finals (presupposition that the matches were tough (b) the team lacked the capacity to win (c) their making it through was a surprise.

3. a. Evaluate the adequacy of the response to the question in the dialogue below based on Grice' s conversational maxims.
Speaker: How many children do you have?
Addressees: We have a child
- b. State and explain the implicature and explicature of the response.
4. Below is a sponsoring organisation' s mail to one of the participants regarding flight bookings. Read the mail and describe the likely pragmatic effects on the addressee. Identify any politeness strategies and comment on whether they are adequate.

Please let me know if there are any problems with the proposed flight. Unfortunately, it is most likely that we will only be able to offer you this flight. I spoke to the travel agency today and they mentioned that all the other flights were substantially more expensive.

5. Provide a pragmatic analysis of this exchange based on Speech Acts theory:
- Speaker (Professor): Please, you cannot park there, I need to move out.
- Addressee (Driver): The owner of the car parked in front of you should move out of the way.
- a. State the locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts associated with the exchange.
- b. Evaluate the response of the addressee based on Adegbija' s (1982) concept of the elements that constitute a 'pragmasociolinguistic' context.