



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA,
14/16 AHMADU BELLO WAY, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
MARCH/APRIL 2014 EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: ENG421

COURSE TITLE: NEW TRENDS IN SYNTAX

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

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

1. (a) Define the economy of derivation. (6 marks)
(b) With two examples, explain the economy of derivation in the Minimalist Program. (16 marks)
2. (a) Discuss the Spell-out as a syntactic interface. (8 marks)
(b) Explain the Spell-out operational procedure as it exists in the syntactic framework of the Minimalist Programme. (14 marks)
3. (a) Can we call the Shortest Move Principle an economy principle? (6 marks)
(b) Using the sentences below, discuss your view of the concept.
 - (i) How do you describe how he did it?
 - (ii) When did he say what you told him?
 - (iii) What he said was what I heard. (14 marks)
4. (a) Identify (2 marks) and explain four of the phrasal categories in the Minimalist Program. (14 marks)
(b) Use of examples will give additional marks. (5 marks)
5. (a) With the aid of a tree diagram, explain the transformational process that birthed the derivation of this sentence: *The book was taken by her.* (10 marks)
(b) State clearly each stage of the transformational process for the sentence. (10 marks)

