



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

MARCH/APRIL 2014 EAMINATION

COURSE CODE: ENG321

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COURSE TITLE: Contemporary English Usage (3C)

TIME: Time: 2 Hours

INSTRUCTION: Answer any 3 questions of your choice.

1. What is grammar? Write a short note on various types of grammar you know.
2. What are the factors responsible for English as the most widely used language in Nigeria?
3. Explain the differences between Old English and Modern English.
4. Every acceptable sentence in English should be both syntactically and semantically correct. Argue for or against this assertion with copious examples.
5. There are still scholarly debates on the existence of Nigerian English. If you accept the existence of this variety, state your proof with basic examples.
6. Critically assess the statement that 'General American' is beyond accent and region.

ENG321: Contemporary English Usage (3C)

PREAMBLE:

The students are required to answer any **three** questions of their choice. If a student answers more than three questions, mark the first three and disregard the remaining. Each question carries 23 marks. The remaining 1 mark should be awarded for intelligent and functional use of language.

Question 1.

Critically assess the statement that “Contemporary English is a newer version of Modern English in current use”

These facts are relevant.

- Modern English is the form of the English language spoken since the Great Vowel Shift, completed in roughly 1550.
- Modern English began in England during the Elizabethan era which is also around the time of the great poet, William Shakespeare. English was imposed in regions around the world such as the United States, India, and Australia through colonization by the British Empire.
- Contemporary English is the current English usage which is in line with the immediate communication requirements of the users.

Modern English began the attack on archaisms while contemporary English finished the war.

Note; mark on impression out of 23 marks.

Question 2.

English usage is sometimes determined by situations, professions and vocations. Explain varieties according to subject matter in this regard.

The following points are relevant;

* Varieties according to the subject matter are sometimes referred to as ‘registers’, though this term is applied to different types of linguistic variety by different linguists.

* With varieties according to subject matter, on the other hand, the presumption is rather that the same speaker has a repertoire of varieties and habitually switches to the appropriate one as occasion arises.

* Most typically, perhaps, the switch involves nothing more than turning to the particular set of lexical items habitually used for handling the topic in question.

* It need hardly be emphasized that the type of language required by choice of subject matter would be roughly constant against the variables (like dialect, national standard).

Mark on impression out of 23 marks.

Question 3.

In the generation of sentences, form and function may affect meaning. Explain with adequate examples.

The following points are relevant and should be discussed in detail by the student.

* Form and function in contemporary English seemed to have different perspectives. It is possible in Contemporary English to have forms which are used in different functions because of the high linguistic creativity of the users of Contemporary English.

This is one of the problems of realizing a true Standard English.

Mark on impression out of 23 marks.

Question 4.

Rhetoric is public speaking but speech making absorbs all forms. Discuss this proposition properly.

The following points are relevant;

A clear distinction must be made between Rhetoric and Public Speaking.

Tools of Rhetoric

Repetition and Variation

Rhythmic Triads

Parallelism

Inverted Order

Suspension for Climax

Imagery

Mark on impression out of 23 marks.

Question 5.

Usage is individual style but *use* is a product of linguistic rules. Explain this statement from your understanding of *style*, *use* and *usage*.

These points are relevant;

* ***Use* and *Usage* in Contemporary Grammar**

*A successful and distinctive writing style is an elusive bird of paradise.

Use, Usage and Linguistic Style

*Language is penned down in words, the writer or speaker uses words to suit his purpose.

*Style in communication can be analyzed in order to understand the meaning of certain information.

*This simply implies that language use has some characteristics of style in it.

Mark on impression out of 23 marks.

Total score = 69 + 1 = 70 marks.