



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

**14-16 AHMADU BELLO WAY, VICTORIA ISLAND LAGOS
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015 EXAMINATION**

COURSE CODE: ENG432

COURSE TITLE: PRAGMATICS

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) Give four different definitions of pragmatics that you know. 10 marks.

(b) State five different principles and goals of pragmatics that you know. 10 marks. 21 marks

2. (a) Explain the concept of tact in pragmatics. 10 marks

(b) Give two instances of when you failed to protect someone's face. 6 marks.

(c) State what their reactions were. 5 marks. 21 marks

3. Explain the basic tenets of each of these pragmatic theories:

(a) Bach's and Harnish's Intention and Inference Theory (7 marks)

(b) Levinson's Tri-Heuristic Theory (7 marks)

(c) Adegbija's Balanced and Unified Theory (7 marks). 21 marks

4. (a) Explain the interface of pragmatics and the lexicon. 11 marks

(b) Look at the following sentences and state the meaning of the word *settle* in each instance, considering the pragmatic context at the central factor.

- i. We eventually *settled* in Lagos after going round the country on transfer. (2½ marks)
- ii. At 35 years of age, Ade is yet to *settle down*. (2½ marks)
- iii. You can't go because you have not *settled* the zobo drink seller. (2½ marks)
- iv. Except you *settle* the policeman, you won't be able to have your licence back. (2½ marks) 21 marks

5. Look carefully at this conversation and give a pragmatic analysis:

Colleague A: We have just been paid our salary.

Colleague B: That means you can buy it now.

Colleague A: Yes. I am going to see him immediately.

Colleague B: (nodding approval) That is very good.

(a) Give a detailed description of the most appropriate pragmatic element that is operational here 9 marks.

(b) Outline the process of the operation of the pragmatic concept of choice in the exchange above 12 marks. 21 marks