



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH

- LEVEL 3

FINAL EXAMINATION

- December 2012

THE STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- LSD 1204

DURATION

- THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 15. 12. 2012

TIME: 9.30 am.

- 12.30pm.

ANSWER QUESTION 1 AND 2 OTHERS, SELECTING ONE FROM PART B AND ONE FROM PART C.

Part A

1. a] i) What are the criteria used to classify
- i. a consonant sound
  - ii. a vowel sound

(03 marks)

- ii) Describe the following phonemes using the above criteria
- i. /b/ as in bilingual
  - ii. /f/ as in finish
  - iii. /e/ as in essential
  - iv. /i:/ as in sheep

(02 marks)

- b] i) Transcribe the following words according to Standard British English (RP) pronunciation and Lankan English (LE) pronunciation.

- those
- west
- window
- today
- vest

(02 1/2 marks)

- ii. RP has six plosives whereas LE has eight. Explain briefly using two examples from each extra plosive.  
(02 1/2 marks)
- c] i. RP has 12 pure vowel sounds - seven short and five long, but there are two extras in LE. Briefly discuss using the cardinal vowel diagram and examples.  
(10 Marks)
- ii. RP has eight diphthongs. Is this the same with LE? Showing the glides in the cardinal vowel diagrams, briefly discuss with examples  
(10 Marks)
- d] "While the phoneme is the abstract unit or sound-type ('in the mind'), there are many different versions of that sound-type regularly produced in actual speech ('in the mouth')" Yule (2003). Discuss the above quotation briefly with regard to different phones or allophones of a phoneme giving at least two examples.  
(10 Marks)

### Part B

2. a] Study the words given below and answer the questions that follow.
- a) exchangeable  
b) admirable  
c) respectable  
d) believable  
e) approachable
- i) What is the meaning of the suffix 'able'?
- ii) What is the word class of the word formed by the suffix 'able'?
- iii) Break up the above words into their constituent morphemes and underline the base morphemes. Are these base morphemes free morphemes or bound morphemes? Give reason for your answer.

iv) Add 03 more words with the suffix 'able' to the list.

b] Identify 03 derivational morphemes and 03 inflectional morphemes in the text given below.

*Burma's history reflects her complex ethnic balance. She was annexed to the British Empire in three wars between 1824 and 1886, but administration was divided between Burma proper and minority frontier areas. Until 1937 she was governed as a province of India. The country suffered enormous death and destruction during the Second World War when Aung San and Ne Win, the heroes of the National Liberation Movement, at first fought on the Japanese side while the Karnes, Kachens and other hill people stayed largely loyal to the British.*

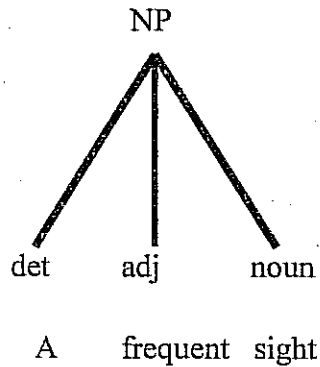
(30 Marks)

3) a] Identify the **noun phrases** in the paragraph given below.

*Located on the South Eastern dry zone of Sri Lanka, Keeriwala consists of three small fishing villages. There are many ancient Buddhist ruins scattered around the Keeriwala bay area and the common black faced wandaroo monkey is a frequent sight.*

(05 Marks)

- b] Draw tree diagrams to illustrate the underlying structure of the noun phrases you identified in section (3a). (Follow the format of the tree diagram given below – do **not** include this NP in your answer for 3a or 3b)



(25 marks)

### Part C

- 4) How do the forms of communication used by animals differ from human language?  
Discuss.
- 5) Comment on the English words in italics: *skyscraper*, *ketchup*, *ad*.  
Use them to discuss methods of word formation in English.
- 6) 'Human language is multifaceted' - Discuss this statement and illustrate your answer with examples.

(30 marks)