

## MSc Intro to Syntax – examples of possible exam questions

1. For each of the following sentences, name all the Noun Phrase constituents. For each of the constituents you mention, provide some evidence that it is a constituent based on the replacement and the movement test.

- (1) The lonely man in the corner quietly drank a pint of beer in the pub.
- (2) I do not understand why ghosts cannot be seen in the dark.

2. Consider the following sentence:

- (3) Everybody expected Carl to write a novel.

Give the structure (in the form of a tree diagram) of the passive counterpart of this sentence (you may leave out the *by everybody* phrase from this passive).

3.

a. What causes the contrast in grammaticality between the following sentences?

- (4) a. Maria expected the kettle to boil over
- b. \*Maria persuaded the kettle to boil over

4.

a. Why are the following sentences not well-formed?

- (5) a. #The star tries to emit radiowaves
- b. #Maria tries to emit radiowaves

b. For both (5a) and (5b), explain why its well-formedness does or does not change when we replace the verb *tries* with the verb *seems*.

5. For each of the italicized phrases, (i) indicate what the head of the phrase is (ii) indicate what the complement is, if there is one (iii) indicate what the specifier is, if there is one.

- (6) a. They flew *right across the blue river*
- b. I met a man who was *extremely fond of eating banana ice cream*
- c. *To smoke cigarettes* is a health hazard

6. The following sentence is ambiguous:

- (7) John was persuaded to marry in the church

a. Give a paraphrase of both readings.

b. For each of the readings, provide the structure the sentence has in this reading.