



**COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, THEOLOGY, HUMANITIES &
EDUCATION**

HEC201/HEN303: SYNTAX AND SEMANTICS

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

LECTURER: DR P. R. SVONGORO

DURATION: 3 HRS

INSTRUCTIONS.

1. Answer any **three** questions. All questions carry **equal** marks.

2. Number your answers carefully.

3. Begin each answer on new page and write legibly.

Answer any **three** questions

Question 1

Using examples, explain the view that 'verbs typically denote actions, adjectives typically denote states while prepositions typically denote locations or relationships'. **[20 marks]**

Question 2

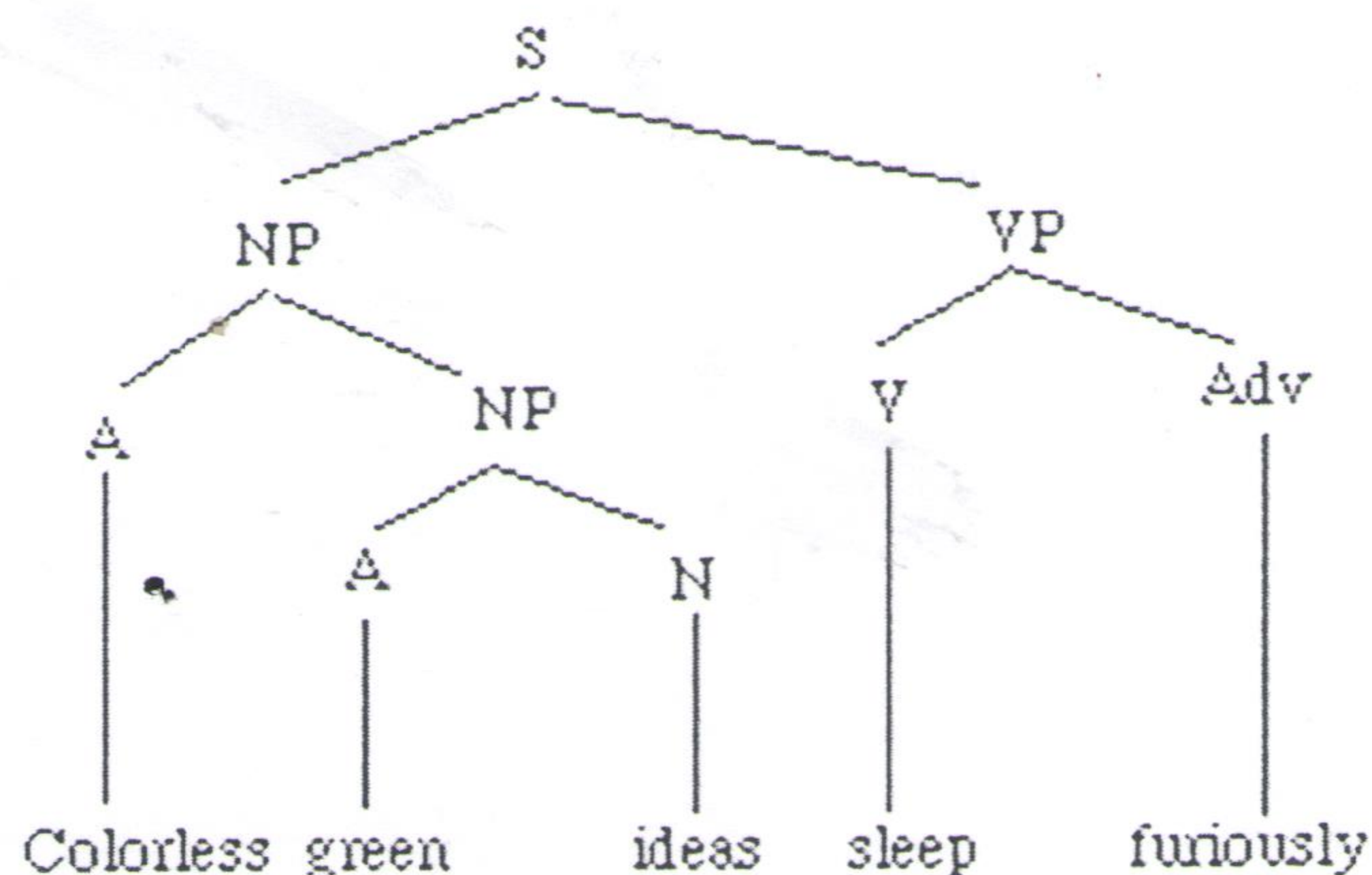
To what extent does the study of lexical and sentential semantics make a contribution to our understanding of language and meaning? **[20 marks]**

Question 3

Demonstrate the syntax-semantics interface by showing that syntactic elements (N, V, A, P, Adv for instance) have distinct roles in syntax which change when one looks at thematic/semantic roles. **[20 marks]**

Question 4

Study the following famous tree diagram by Noam Chomsky (1957) and answer the questions that follow.



- (i) Using the above tree diagram as a starting point, show that the study of syntax 'involves studying how phrases are nested in other phrases'. **[10 marks]**
- (ii) Explain the issues of interest to someone studying Syntax and Semantics which are raised by the sentence represented in the tree diagram. **[10]**

Question 5

Study the following constructions and answer the question which follows.

- (a) the Zimbabwean History teacher
- (b) They wrote difficult tests and exams.
- (c) The judge will make the ruling on the flower beach.

Using the three examples above as a starting point, explain the different types of ambiguity and show how ambiguity is a syntactic and semantic issue. **[20 marks]**

END OF EXAMINATION