

Test in English for TESOL Candidates

1. Consider the following pairs of sentences. The one with an asterisk in each pair is considered unacceptable, though it might be grammatical. Please explain what might be the verbal feature(s) that lead to the judgment. What might be the difference(s) mirrored in the syntax? (20%)

*Betty has noticed the famous painting for two hours.
Betty has been looking at the painting for two hours.

*Bill Clinton has stepped down from the presidency for six years.
Bill Clinton has been out of office from the presidency for six years.

*Wanda has left home for five years.
Wanda has been away from home for five years.
2. Please define the word "grammar" in a broad sense and describe different models of grammar. (20%)
3. Please use oral and nasal vowels in English as examples to explain the concept of "complementary distribution" in phonology. (20%)
4. Please explain the term "discourse analysis" in pragmatics. What is discourse analysis concerned with? (20%)
5. Languages make an important distinction between two kinds of words—content words (nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs) and function words (conjunctions, prepositions, and articles). Please explain from neurological and psychological perspectives why the distinction is important and how it might contribute to our knowledge about human languages. (20%)