Question 1: What is a prescriptive grammar? Give two (typical) examples of English prescriptive rules. (10 points)

Question 2: Give an example illustrating the creative aspect of language. (10 points)

Question 3: Discuss arbitrariness in language by examining the relationship between speech sounds and the meanings that they represent. Give proper examples to illustrate your discussion. (10 points)

Question 4: Explain what 'speech act' means, and give two examples to illustrate your discussion. (10 points)

Question 5: How do we know that the internal structure of 'Mary enjoys the movie' is [Mary] [enjoys the movie], rather than [Mary enjoys] [the movie] or [Mary] [enjoys the] [movie]? Justify your answer. (15 points)

Question 6: Suppose that the English word *Wisconsin* is transliterated as 威斯康新 in **Mandarin**. Describe the differences in the pronunciations of the two words using your knowledge of phonetics. Also, discuss the motivations of the sound modifications in the word 威斯康新 based on your knowledge of Mandarin phonology. (15 points)

Question 7: (20 points)
For each of the following statements, write T for True and F for False.

1) Nasality is a distinctive feature for English vowels.
2) The English aspiration rule and the vowel nasalization rule are both assimilation rules.
3) If two sounds occur in the same phonological environment, they may be in free variation or in contrastive distribution.
4) Mandarin Chinese has only one contour tone.
5) A phoneme is different from a morpheme primarily because it is smaller in size than a morpheme.
6) Children in the babbling period may be able to distinguish between the sounds of their language and the sounds that are not part of the language.
7) Pidgin languages are not rule-governed, because of their rudimentary nature.
8) A syntactically correct sentence is not necessarily meaningful.
9) The number of Phrase Structure Rule we posit in our grammar can be infinite.
10) The reason that extremely long sentences are rarely/never heard in our daily lives is that our mental grammar can not generate such sentences.

Question 8: Select the one best answer. (10 points)

1) In spoken language, lexical ambiguity often results from the use of _____ in a sentence
   a. synonyms
   b. homonyms
   c. antonyms
   d. heteronyms

2) Which of the following properly describes the relationship between the word *bow* [baw] in *bown down to* and the word *bow* [bow] in *a bow tie*?
   a. homonymy
   b. polysemy
   c. hyponymy
   d. homograph

3) The word *key* could mean an instrument used to apply to a lock, or an answer sheet for a test or assignment.   This example exemplifies
   a. homonymy
   b. heteronymy
   c. polysemy
   d. synonymy

4) Which semantic relation among sentences is exemplified by the pair of sentences "Vicky is an only child/Sarah is Vicky's sister"?
   a. paraphrase
   b. contradiction
   c. entailment
   d. none of the above

5) Which semantic relation among sentences is exemplified by the pair of sentences "My pet likes the taste of chocolate fudge/My pet finds chocolate fudge tasty"?
   a. paraphrase
   b. contradiction
   c. entailment
   d. none of the above