This examination has three parts: (1) linguistic acts, speech acts, and conversational acts; (2) language and argument; and (3) fallacious reasoning. The exam is worth 150 points.


A. Speech Acts & Conversational Acts (15 points): Indicate whether the verbs in the following phrases name speech acts, conversational acts, or neither

1. respond to the question  
   
   **SPEECH**

2. irritate with his pontificating  
   
   **CONVERSATIONAL**

3. pump iron  
   
   **NEITHER**

4. drone on and on  
   
   **SPEECH**

5. convince with an argument  
   
   **CONVERSATIONAL**

B. Conversational Implicature (15 points): Indicate which, if any, of Grice’s conversational rules are violated by the italicized sentence in each of the following conversations. Assume a standard context. While there may be more than one involved, you need only list one.

1. “So you had a rough go with your boss last week, I hear?” “This winter has been a long one, don’t you think?”
   
   **RELEVANCE**

2. “Long day at work?” “I’m dead.”
   
   **QUALITY, RELEVANCE**
3. “I need a street address. Can you tell me where she lives?” “Somewhere in Idaho.”

   QUANTITY

4. “What do you think of him?” “That boy is a P-I-G.” [↩ Here “P-I-G” is spelled out.]

   MANNER | QUALITY

5. Written as the only content of a letter of recommendation: “Dear Sir. Mr. X was usually on time to class and produced homework that was generally legible. Yours sincerely, Professor Y”

   QUANTITY

C. Utterance Analysis (20 points): Describe a linguistic act, a speech act, and a conversational act the speaker might be performing in the following situations.

1. B comes over and inadvertently stands on A’s foot. A looks at B and says, in a somewhat pinched tone, “You’re standing on my foot.”

   LINGUISTIC ACT: Production of a well-formed (i.e., grammatical) English sentence in the indicative mood.

   SPEECH ACT: It is directly an assertion or observation and indirectly a request (that B get off A’s foot).

   CONVERSATIONAL ACT: A is implicating that she wants B to get off of her foot.

II. Language and Argument (60)

A. Standard Form and Validity (15 points): Put the following argument in explicit standard form and then determine whether or not it is valid.

1. Not all US senators support campaign finance reform. After all, if all US senators supported campaign finance reform, then Paul Ryan would support campaign finance reform. But Paul Ryan does not support campaign finance reform.

   Pl. If all US Senators supported campaign finance reform, then Paul Ryan would support campaign finance reform.

   P2. Paul Ryan does not support campaign finance reform.

   C. Not all US Senators support campaign finance reform.

   (Valid)
B. **Validity and Soundness** (15 points): Indicate whether or not the following argument is valid and whether or not it is sound.

1. Each of the following sentences in this argument are true: (A) All the teachers arrived on time. (B) Everyone who took a bus arrived on time. (C) Therefore, all the teachers took a bus.

   \[ \text{P1. All the teachers arrived on time} \]
   \[ \text{P2. Everyone who took a bus arrived on time} \]
   \[ \text{C. Therefore, all the teachers took a bus.} \]

   INVALID, UNSOUND

C. **Marking the Language of Arguments** (30 points): Read the following passage. Then, mark each of the ten numbered, italicized expressions using the following abbreviations:

1. M = argument marker
2. A = assuring term
3. G = guarding term
4. D = discounting term
5. E− = negative evaluative term
6. E+ = positive evaluative term
7. R = rhetorical device (e.g., irony, understatement, hyperbole, metaphor)
8. N = none of the above

**Biden Made the Right Decision**

By Sally Kohn, Wed October 21, 2015

It’s hard not to like Joe Biden. I’ve seen him speak in person several times, and his love for people and politics is downright *infectious* [1]. I’m sad he announced Wednesday he is not running for president, because he’s fun and he would have lit up the campaign.

*But* [2] I think he made the right decision. The path to winning the Democratic nomination certainly wasn’t clear, let alone easy, and it’s better for Biden to end his career at the high point of the vice presidency rather than try for the presidency once again and fail. And *while* [3] Biden seems genuinely to relish campaigning, campaigns are getting less and less fun by the day. The truth is that a Biden candidacy would have been enjoyable for voters (and the media). But it *probably* [4] wouldn’t have been very enjoyable for Biden.

More substantively, a Biden candidacy might simply have muddied the otherwise helpfully clear waters *between* [5] Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders.

Take the first Democratic debate, where Clinton tried to argue that her plan for how to deal with
the ills and excesses [6] of Wall Street was "more comprehensive" and "tougher" than Sanders'. Sanders' response? "Well, that's not true."

On this issue, Sanders is right. He is a lifelong economic populist, to the point where he's not afraid to criticize the structural failings of capitalism and change the underlying rules of the game to make sure the economy helps poor people and working families. Clinton, on the other hand, has certainly [7] embraced some of the rhetoric of populism in her latest campaign. But the extent to which it courses through her bones [8] -- let alone her policies -- is questionable. ...

With a little more than a year until the presidential election, it's essential [9] for Democratic voters -- and Americans in general -- to see a debate in the primaries in which conventional centrist economic policy is exposed and evaluated in light of a viable, populist alternative. Clinton and Sanders are having that very real and important debate. "Regular Joe," who repeatedly promotes centrist policies that most help the country's elite, would have unhelpfully complicated things.

"I can die a happy man never having been president of the United States of America," Biden once told a reporter. "But it doesn't mean I won't run." Now, apparently he won't run. And while we should be grateful for his public service up until now, his decision is also a public service -- because [10] the Democratic primary will run better without him.

III. Fallacious Reasoning (40)

A. Each of the following is a multiple choice question that supplies an argument and asks you to indicate which type of argument it is. (24 points)

1. Everyone recognizes that one minute is not an eternity. Right? So consider: if you add a second to one minute, you get one minute and one second. Also not an eternity. Add another second. Still not an eternity. You can continue to add seconds for an eternity and you still won't get an eternity. So there is no such thing as eternity.

   a. Conceptual slippery slope argument
   b. Fallacy of equivocation (i.e., an equivocal argument)
   c. Argument from the heap
   d. None of the above
2. Look. The guy over blows .075 and doesn’t get arrested and I blow .08 and I do? Come on! There isn’t any real difference between .075 and .08. That isn’t fair!

   a. Argument from the heap
   b. Fairness slippery slope argument
   c. Fallacy of equivocation
   d. None of the above

3. The temperature is rising. The temperature is 65° Fahrenheit. Thus, 65° Fahrenheit is rising.

   a. Fallacy of equivocation
   b. Causal slippery slope
   c. Conceptual slippery slope
   d. None of the above

4. ...[I]f once a man indulges himself in murder, very soon he comes to think little of robbing; and from robbing he comes next to drinking and Sabbath-breaking, and from that to incivility and procrastination. Once begin upon this downward path, you never know where you are to stop. Many a man has dated his ruin from some murder or other that perhaps he thought little of at the time. (Thomas De Quincey, "Second Paper on Murder")

   a. Argument from the heap
   b. Fairness slippery slope argument
   c. Causal slippery slope argument
   d. None of the above
B. For the following argument, (a) select the type of argument it is, and (b) explain whether or not you take it to be a good argument. (16 points)

1. If I let you get away with that, you'll recognize that I'm a soft touch, and you'll take advantage of me again. This will keep happening until you've lost all respect for me. So I have to put my foot down here and say no – I cannot let you get away with that.

   a. Causal slippery slope argument
   b. Conceptual slippery slope argument
   c. Fallacy of equivocation
   d. Argument from the heap

   **Evaluation:**

   Either evaluation is accepted if the account of the context in which the argument is located makes that evaluation reasonable.

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**Extra Credit**

A. **True/False** (10 points): Determine whether the following are true or false and circle your answer.

1. If all the steps of an argument are true, you can conclude that it is a valid argument. **T/F**

2. An argument cannot be sound unless it is valid. **T/F**

3. The only time you can tell anything about the validity of an argument from the actual truth values of the constituent sentences is when all of the sentences are false. **T/F**

4. Every argument with a true premise and a false conclusion is invalid. **T/F**

5. Every argument with a true conclusion is sound. **T/F**