

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION
APRIL 2021

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

COURSE NUMBER: ALL103/IDE-ALL103

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. ANSWER FOUR (4) QUESTIONS IN ALL.**
 - 2. CHOOSE ONE QUESTION FROM EACH SECTION.**
 - 3. MARKS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR UNTIDY WORK, WRONG SPELLING, AND UNGRAMMATICAL SENTENCES.**
 - 4. ALL EXAMPLES SHOULD BE GLOSSED.**

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR.

SECTION A

Choose one question from this section

Question 1

Write the IPA symbols representing the following phonetic descriptions, and illustrate each of the sounds with a word in a language that contains the sound:

- i) A voiceless labiodental fricative;
- ii) A low back vowel;
- iii) A voiced bilabial fricative;
- iv) A voiceless alveolar lateral fricative;
- v) A voiceless alveopalatal ejective affricate;
- vi) A voiced coarticulated labiovelar stop;
- vii) A voiceless alveopalatal fricative;
- viii) A voiced velar nasal;
- ix) A voiced palatal approximant;
- x) A schwa;
- xi) A voiceless glottal stop;
- xii) A low central vowel;
- xiii) A high back lax vowel;
- xiv) A voiceless velar fricative;
- xv) A voiced rhotic liquid;
- xvi) A voiced alveolar affricate
- xvii) A low-high back diphthong;
- xviii) A voiceless interdental fricative;
- xix) A voiceless glottal fricative;
- xx) A voiced labiodental fricative;
- xxi) A voiced bilabial fricative;
- xxii) A voiceless coarticulated labiovelar stop;
- xxiii) A voiced bilabial implosive;
- xxiv) A voiced alveopalatal fricative;
- xxv) A voiceless velar aspirated stop;

[25 MARKS]

Question 2

Provide a three term label description of each of the sounds represented by the following IPA symbols:

- | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| [g] | [m] | [dz] | [d] | [ʒ] | [X] | [j] | [ŋ] |
| [β] | [tʃ' | [ɸ] | [c] | [x] | [N] | [dʒ] | [n] |

Example: [f]

Glottal activity
Voiceless

Place
labiodental

Manner
fricative

[25 MARKS]

SECTION B

Choose one question from this section

Question 3

- a) Discuss two advantages of describing speech sounds acoustically. (4 marks)
- b) What distinguishes the following sets of sounds in terms of formant structure:
 i) Vowels from nasals;
 ii) Nasals from laterals; (12 marks)
 iii) Voiced sounds from voiceless sounds;
 iv) Fricatives from stops.
- c) Discuss the following terms in relation to acoustic phonetics:
 i) Sound waves;
 ii) Frequency; (9 marks)
 iii) Pitch.

[25 MARKS]

Question 4

- (a) The following transcription represents one person's reading of this passage. Write out the passage using Standard English orthography.

[ɪt ɪz pɔsəbl tə trænskraɪb fənetɪklɪ ɛnɪ ʌtrens, ɪn ɛnɪ læŋgwɪdʒ, ɪn sɛvrəl dɪfrənt weɪz ɔl əv ðəm juːzɪŋ ðɪ ælfəbet ænd kənvenʃənz əv ðɪ aɪ pi eɪ. (ðə seɪm θɪŋ ɪz pɔsəbl wɪð moʊst ɪntənəʃənəl fənetɪk ælfəbets) ə trænskɪpʃn wɪtʃ ɪz meɪd baɪ juːzɪŋ lɛtəz əv ðə sɪmpləst pɔsəbl feɪps, ænd ɪn ðə sɪmpləst pɔsəbl nʌmbə, ɪz kɔld ə sɪmpl fəʊnɪmɪk trænskɪpʃn].

(16 Marks)

- (b) Transcribe phonetically the siSwati items which follow:

- | | | | |
|------|--------|--------|-----------|
| i) | dlala | 'play' | |
| ii) | buka | 'look' | (9 marks) |
| iii) | inyosi | 'bee' | |
| iv) | gijima | 'run' | |

[25 MARKS]

SECTION C

Choose one question from this section

Question 5

- a) Consider the following data from Ganda, a language spoken in Uganda, and do the tasks which follow:

kola	'do'
wawaabira	'accuse'
lwana	'fight'
buulira	'tell'
lya	'eat'
omugole	'bride'
effirimbi	'whistle'
olulimi	'tongue'
wulira	'hear'
omuliro	'fire'
eddwaliro	'hospital'
jjukira	'remember'

- (i) Are the liquids [l] and [r] allophones of the same phoneme in Ganda or do they belong to separate phonemes? (2 marks)
- (ii) If you believe they belong to separate phonemes, give evidence from the data. If you believe they are allophones of the same phoneme, list the conditioning environments. (6 marks)

- b) Name the single feature that distinguishes the following pairs of sounds:

- i) [i] : [ɪ]
 ii) [k] : [x]
 iii) [f] : [v]
 iv) [i] : [e]
 v) [ŋ] : [h] (11 marks)
 vi) [z] : [d]
 vii) [kʰ] : [k]
 viii) [e] : [o]
 ix) [n] : [ɲ]
 x) [r] : [l]
 xi) [s] : [ʃ]

- c) Distinguish between accidental gaps and systematic gaps. Support your argument with examples from English.

(6 marks)

[25 MARKS]

Question 6

- a) In Southern Congo, a Bantu language spoken in Angola, the non-palatal segments [t, s, and z] are in complementary distribution with their palatal counterparts [tʃ, ʃ, ʒ], as shown in the following words:

[tobola]	“to bore a hole”
[tʃina]	“to cut”
[kesoka]	“to be cut”
[ŋkofi]	“lion”
[zeŋa]	“to cut”
[ʒima]	“to stretch”
[kasu]	“emaciation”
[tʃiba]	“banana”
[zevo]	“then”
[azimola]	“alms”
[kunezulu]	“to heaven”
[tanu]	“five”

- i) Considering the data in (6a) above, state the distribution of each pair of segments given below:

[t] – [tʃ]
[s] – [ʃ]
[z] – [ʒ]

(6 Marks)

- ii) Which phones should be used as the underlying phoneme for each pair of segments in (6a (i))? State the reasons for your choice. (8 Marks)

- b) Study the data from siSwati presented below and answer, the following questions:

dʒilit'a	‘take down’
d ^v onsa	‘pull’
dʒinja	‘be needy’
d ^v uma	‘thunder’
d ^v u6a	‘refuse smth.’
lid ^v olo	‘knee’
d ^v ula	‘hit heavily’
dʒ ^z abula	‘tear’
dʒ ^z eleta	‘offend’
dʒ ^z ad ^z e	‘sister’

- i) On the basis of the data, are [b] and [m] separate phonemes or allophones of the same phoneme? If you think they are separate phonemes, provide evidence from the data. If you think they are allophones state their distribution.

(6 Marks)

- ii) Based on the same data, are the phones [d^z] and [d^v] separate phonemes of siSwati or are they allophones of the same phoneme. If you think they are separate phonemes, give your reasons. If you think they are allophones state their distribution. (5Marks)

[25 MARKS]

SECTION D

Answer the following question

Question 7

- a) Distinguish between the following linguistic terms and concepts. Give for each argument an example from any language:
- i) aspirated and unaspirated; (4 marks)
 - ii) voiced and voiceless; (5 marks)
 - iii) Pulmonic and glottalic airstream mechanism. (4 marks)
- b) The sounds [k] and [f] are associated with different orthographic representations (letters). For each sound, provide at least 3 different examples, from any language. In your examples, underline the part of the word that represents the [k] and the [f] sound. (6 Marks)
- c) The combination of letters *ch* can be pronounced in different ways. Provide a minimum of 3 different examples, from any language. For each word you find, indicate the sound that is represented by the combination *ch*. (6 Marks)

[25 MARKS]