

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND THE INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE
EDUCATION**

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

2007/8

**COURSE TITLE: AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH PHONETICS
AND PHONOLOGY**

COURSE CODE: ENG I02

TIME ALLOCATED: 2HRS

TOTAL MARKS: 60 MARKS

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS IN ALL**
- 2. ANSWER QUESTION 1 AND ONE OTHER QUESTION**
- 3. DO NOT OPEN THIS EXAMINATION PAPER UNTIL YOUR
INVIGILATOR INSTRUCTS YOU TO DO SO**

QUESTION 1

A) Describe the following and give one example for each.

- a) a stop (2)
- b) an appointment (2)
- c) a sibilant (2)
- d) a diphthong (2)
- e) stress (2)

(10)

B. Discuss in detail two obligatory phonological rules and two optional phonological rules in the English language. Illustrate each with an appropriate example.

[8 marks]

C) Write down the phonetic symbols representing the following descriptions, and illustrate each of the sounds with two English words.

- i) a high tense unrounded vowel
- ii) a voiceless dental fricative
- iii) a labial nasal stop
- iv) a voiceless alveolar fricative
- v) a mid front lax unrounded vowel

(5)

D) Describe the following:

- a) Intonation and stress (2)
- b) articulatory phonetics (2)

E. Write brief notes on the following concepts.

- a) phoneme and allophone
- b) complementary distribution and free variation
- c) acoustic and articulatory phonetics
- d) assimilation

[8 marks]

F a) Study the following data and explain what triggered the phonological changes.

| | | | |
|----|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| i) | | careful speech | casual speech |
| | get Paul | [get p ^h əl] | [gɛp p ^h əl] |
| | foot_ball | [fʊt b əl] | [fʊp b əl] |
| | | | (5) |

QUESTION 2

6. a) What is stress? (5)

b) Place the stress symbol where appropriate in the following words. Explain why you placed the stress in each position.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Placing stress | (2marks) |
| Explanation | (3 marks) |
| i) 'stand' | |
| 'pot | (5) |
| ii) Transportation | |
| Photographic | (5) |
| iii) Telepathy | |
| Photography | (5) |

QUESTION 3

7. Give a three-term description of each of the following speech sounds:

| | | |
|------|-------|-----|
| i) | [t] | (3) |
| ii) | [s] | (3) |
| iii) | [ʒ] | (3) |
| iv) | [^] | (3) |
| v) | [e] | (3) |

b) Write the phonetic symbol of the sound that is described below:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| i) voiced bilabial stop | (1) |
| ii) voiced palatal approximant | (1) |
| iii) voiced labiodental fricative | (1) |

- iv) voiced alveolar lateral (1)
- v) short front high vowel (1)

[5 marks]

QUESTION 4

Study the following data and explain what triggered the phonological changes.

- | | | |
|----|----------------|-----------------|
| i) | Column A | Column B |
| | <u>L</u> eak | l <u>e</u> ague |
| | W <u>r</u> ote | r <u>o</u> de |

- focus on the vowel sounds.

(5)

ii) Transcribe the following words phonetically placing both primary and secondary stress.

- i) Oceans (3)
- ii) Lucky (3)
- iii) bud (3)
- iv) Often (3)
- v) catch (3)

[15 marks}