

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FINAL EXAMINATIONS 2009

TITLE OF PAPER: AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH PHONETICS AND
PHONOLOGY

COURSE CODE: ENG 102/ IDE-ENG 102

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Answer TWO questions: Question One and any other question.
2. Number your answers appropriately.
3. Close attention should be paid to content, organisation, expression and mechanical accuracy in the essay type questions.
4. This paper is 3 pages long; cover page included.

**THIS PAPER SHOULD NOT BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN
GRANTED BY THE INVIGILATOR**

Question 1 (40 marks)

- a. Explain the differences between **the phonetics of English** and the **phonology of English**. Provide suitable examples to illustrate your points (10 marks).
- b. What is a **phoneme**? How is a phoneme related to **an allophone**? (10 marks)
- c. How are **the sounds** of English different from the **letters of the alphabet**? (10 marks)
- d. Explain the adaptation of the **organs** of the human body to the **production of human speech sounds**. Give examples with **at least five organs** (10 marks).

Question 2 (20 marks)

- a. Explain **the parameters** for the description of English **pure vowels**. Provide suitable examples to illustrate your points (10 marks).
- b. English vowels are grouped into **pure vowels** and **diphthongs**. Explain the significance of this segmentation, using suitable examples (10 marks).

Question 3 (20 marks)

- a. Using the parameter of **place of articulation**, explain briefly the classification of English consonant sounds (10 marks).
- b. Briefly explain how English consonants are classified using the principle of **manner of articulation** (10 marks)

Question 4 (20 marks)

- a. Briefly explain what a **syllable** is in English (5 marks)
- b. Provide the English **syllabic formula**. Give **one word** to illustrate its full realisation (5 marks).
- c. English words are **mono-syllabic**, **disyllabic**, or **poly-syllabic**. What do these terms mean? Provide **at least three English examples** for each of these categories (10 marks).

Question 5 (20 marks)

- a. What is **stress** in English phonology? (5 marks)
 - b. How many **stress types** are there in English? (5 marks)
 - c. Explain the **semantic** and **attitudinal** functions of stress in English intonation (10 marks)
-