

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
SUPPLEMENTARY 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 2 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 terms **phonetics** and **phonology**, stating how the two are related (10 marks).
- b. If a **phoneme** is “the smallest meaningful element of sound”, what is an **allophone** (10 marks)?
- c. Briefly explain how the **pulmonic air stream** has been adapted for speech production in English language (10 marks).
- d. How true is it to say that the **sounds of English** do not correspond with the **letters of the alphabet**? Give some examples (10 marks).

Question 2 (20 marks)

Write an essay on the **vowels** of the English language.

Question 3 (20 marks)

Discuss the **articulatory parameters** used in the description of English consonant sounds.

Question 4 (20 marks)

- a. Write an essay on the English **syllable**, drawing attention to the **syllabic formula**. Provide illustrations (10 marks)
- b. How is the **syllable** used to classify **English words**? Provide **at least three English examples** for each of these categories (10 marks).

Question 5 (20 marks)

- a. Write a brief essay on **stress** and **stress types** in English phonology? (10 marks)
 - b. Discuss the **semantic** and **attitudinal** functions of stress in English intonation (10 marks).
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