

# **UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

## **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

### **FINAL EXAMINATION**

**DECEMBER, 4 2009**

- TITLE OF PAPER:** AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH  
PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY
- COURSE CODE:** IDE/ENG 102
- TIME ALLOWED:** TWO (2) HOURS
- INSTRUCTIONS:**
- 1. This paper has four (4) questions.**
  - 2. Answer two questions in all.  
Question 1 is compulsory.**
  - 3. Choose the second question from  
question 2 to 4.**
  - 5. Close attention should be paid to  
content, organization, expression  
and mechanical accuracy in the  
essay type questions.**
  - 6. Number your answers  
appropriately.**

**This paper should not be opened until permission has been  
granted by the invigilator**

### Question 1 (Compulsory)

A. Briefly explain how English consonants are classified using the principles of manner of articulation.

(10 marks)

B. Discuss briefly the physiological characteristics that are found in humans that are responsible for making humans able to produce speech sounds.

(10 marks)

C. Transcribe the following into normal orthography.

[It ɪz ˈpɒsəbl tə trænskrɪb fəˈnɛtɪklɪ ˈɛni ˈlɪtrəns,  
In ˈɛni ˈlæŋgwɪdʒ, In ˈsevrəl ˈdɪfrənt ˈwəɪz ˈɔɪ əv ðəm  
ˈjuːzɪŋ ði ˈælfəbet ənd kənˈvɛnʃnz əv ði ˈaɪ pi ˈeɪ, (ðə ˈseɪm  
ˈθɪŋ ɪz ˈpɒsəbl wɪð ˈməʊst ˈlɪðə ɪntəˈnæʃənl fəˈnɛtɪk  
ˈælfəbetz ðə.)

(10 marks)

D. Discuss the following and provide suitable examples.

i) Phonotactics (2½ marks)

ii) English stress (2½ marks)

iii) Regressive assimilation (2½ marks)

iv) Systematic gaps (2½ marks)

(10 marks)

### Question 2

A. Describe the following speech sounds fully.

i) [ tʃ ] (3 marks)

ii) [ ɔː ] (3 marks)

iii) [ ? ] (3 marks)

iv) [ ð ] (3 marks)

B. Give the correct technical term for each of the following places of articulation. Provide one example of a sound pronounced at each:

i) – both lips (1 mark)

ii) – lower lip to upper teeth (1½ mark)

iii) – back of tongue to soft palate (1½ mark)

iv) – tip of tongue between the teeth (1½ mark)

v) – at the glottis (1 mark)

vi) – ridge behind upper teeth (1½ mark)

### Question 3

- a) Briefly explain what a syllable is in English. Give one example showing the syllable in a linguistic format. (5 marks)
- b) Provide the organisation or internal structure of a monosyllabic word. (5 marks)
- c) Provide the English syllabic formula. Give one word to illustrate its full realisation. (5 marks)
- d) Define these terms and provide at least three English examples.

- i) Poly-syllabic word (2½ marks)
- ii) Mono-syllabic word (2½ marks)

### Question 4

I Write brief notes, and provide one example for each.

- a) free variation (2 marks)
- b) tense and lax (2 marks)
- c) lateral (2 marks)
- d) complementary distribution (2 marks)
- e) Phonetic environment (2 marks)

II Give the correct linguistic name for the following:

- a) Produced at the glottis by the glottis itself. (2 marks)
- b) When the vocal folds are apart, air passes directly through the glottis. (2 marks)
- c) Refers to features that go beyond or apply beyond one sound segment. (2 marks)
- d) Pitch movement in spoken utterance that is not related to differences in word meaning. (2 marks)
- e) Gaps in the inventory of possible English words, none of which violates any constraints on onset combinations found in English. These forms can exist in the language if they have a possible referent. (2 marks)

(10 marks)