

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION

JULY 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 the classification of English consonants using the parameters of place of articulation. (10 marks)

B. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of spoken language. (10 marks)

C. Discuss the following with the aid of examples:

- a) Pure vowels (2½ marks)
- b) Diphthongs (2½ marks)
- c) Triphthongs (2½ marks)
- d) Polysyllabic words (2½ marks)

D. Transcribe the following into normal orthography

[In Inŋlɪ/, nɑʊns, vɜ:bs, ædʒɪktɪvz ənd ædvɜ:bs meɪk ʌp ðe la:dʒ pɑ:t Df æ vəkæbjələri. ðeɪ ər æ kəntent wɜ:ds Df eɪ læŋɡwɔdʒ wɪtʃ ər sʌmtaɪmz k :kd ðe əʊpən kla:s wɜ:ds bɪkDz wɪ æd nju: wɜds tə ðɪz kla:sɪz]

(10 marks)

Question 2

I. Discuss the following, with the aid of examples:

- a) Affricate (2½ marks)
- b) Lateral (2½ marks)
- c) Nonsense words (2½ marks)
- d) Plosives (2½ marks)

(10 marks)

II. Give the correct linguistic name for the following:

- a) Each letter or combination of letters will represent the same sound at all times within the same language and across languages. (2 marks)
- b) The identification of a feature in a speech sound by making use of the pluses and minuses indicating the presence or absence of that feature, respectively, in that sound. (2 marks)
- c) Speech sounds that are produced by raising the front portion of the tongue to be in contact or almost in contact with alveolopalatal ridge. (2 marks)
- d) Variation in pronunciation of the same phoneme. (2 marks)
- e) A unit of pronunciation. (2 marks)

(10 marks)

Question 3

- a) Write the nine syllable permutations. Give at least one example for each (9 marks)
- b) Define syllable boundary. Give at least two examples to demonstrate your understanding. (4 marks)
- c) Give a complete description of the features that are found in the internal structure of a syllable. (5 marks)
- d) List two ways for analysing syllables (2 marks)

Question 4

Express the distinction between the following as clearly as you can. Provide suitable examples.

- a) oral and nasal (4 marks)
- b) Tense and lax (4 marks)
- c) Phoneme and allophone (4 marks)
- d) Stop and affricate (4 marks)
- e) Glottal and glottalic (4 marks)

(20 marks)