

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
FINAL EXAMINATION

MAY 2011

TITLE OF PAPER: AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH
PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

COURSE CODE: IDE/ENG 102

TIME ALLOWED: 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.
- 4.) Close attention should be paid to content,
organisation, expression, and mechanical accuracy
in the essay type questions.
- 5.) Number your answers appropriately.
- 6.) Work must be tidy and proofread.

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

Question 1 (Compulsory)

- a) With the aid of examples, discuss the five problems or disadvantages that are associated with spelling, if it were to be used in phonetics (10 marks).
- b) Explain the parameters for the description of English pure vowels. Provide suitable examples to illustrate your points (10 marks).
- c) Briefly explain the classification of English consonants using the parameter of place of articulation (10 marks).
- d) Write the following in phonetic transcription:
- a) Physics
 - b) Merry
 - c) Marry
 - d) Transcription
 - e) Yellow
 - f) Weather
 - g) Tease
 - h) Phonetics
 - i) And
 - j) Languages

(10 marks)

Question 2

- a) Write in phonetic symbols the sounds that are described below:
- i) Voiceless interdental fricative (1 mark)
 - ii) Glottal stop (1 mark)
 - iii) Alveolar lateral liquid (1 mark)
 - iv) Voiced palatal glide (1 mark)
 - v) A central long vowel (1 mark)

- b) Describe the following speech sounds fully:

- i) /z/ (3 marks)
- ii) /m/ (3 marks)
- iii) /d/ (3 marks)
- iv) /d₃/ (3 marks)
- v) /p/ (3 marks)

Question 3

I) Discuss the following with the aid of examples:

- a)
- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| i) Syllable | (1 mark) |
| ii) Monosyllable | (1 mark) |
| iii) Polysyllable | (1 mark) |
| iv) Disyllable | (1 mark) |
- b) Syllable Boundary (2 marks)
- c) English speakers sometimes have a difficulty in demarcating the word happy into its syllable boundaries. Give at least two possibilities of demarcating the word (2 marks)
- d) What do we call the linguistic solution of demarcating the above word? (1 mark)
- e) Give the final form of the word after the process in (d) above. (1 mark)

II) Give the correct linguistic name for the following:

- a) Vowel becomes nasalized before a nasal consonant (2 marks)
- b) Pitch movement in spoken utterance that is not related to differences in word meaning (2 marks)
- c) The presence or absence of a feature (2 marks)
- d) One speech sound influences another to become different from it in articulatory or acoustic terms (2 marks)
- e) Features that go beyond or apply beyond one sound segment (2 marks)

Question 4

I) Explain the following and give one example to illustrate each:

- a) Acoustic Phonetics and Articulatory phonetics (5 marks)
- b) Assimilation (5 marks)

II) Group the following speech vowels into the categories provided below:

(ɔ:, ɪ, æ, ʌ, ɑ:, i:, ə, e, ɔ, ɛ)

- a) Tense ()
- b) Rounded Vowels ()
- c) Central Vowels ()
- d) Unrounded Vowels ()
- e) Low front vowel ()
- f) Lax Vowels ()

(10 marks)