

# **UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION**

**JULY 2012**

**TITLE OF PAPER: AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY**

**COURSE CODE: IDE/ENG 102**

**TIME ALLOCATED: 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 questions 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. How is the syllable used to classify English words? Provide at least three English examples for each of these categories (10 marks)
  - B. Write an essay on the English syllable, drawing attention to the syllabic formula. Provide illustrations (10 marks)
  - C. Transcribe these words phonetically:
    - a. Sack
    - b. Rye
    - c. Rust
    - d. X-ray
    - e. Wrong doing
    - f. Yes
    - g. Wide
    - h. Staging
    - i. Slip stream
    - j. Slippery

(10 marks)
  - D. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of spoken language (10 marks)
- [40 marks]**

**Question 2**

Discuss the following with the aid of examples:

- a. Glottal and Glottalic (5)
- b. Affricate and Stop (5)
- c. Phoneme and Allophone (5)
- d. Labiovelar and bilabial (5)

**(20 marks)**

**Question 3**

I) Give the correct linguistic name and example of the following:

- a. Two sounds that are used alternatively without changing the meaning of the word
- b. When the velum is lowered, the air is allowed to pass through both the oral and nasal cavities
- c. Space between one syllable and the next
- d. Nasalisation of a vowel following a nasal consonant
- e. The presence or absence of a feature

(10 marks)

II) It has been pointed out that spelling is not suitable to be used in phonetics because it violates the principle of one-to-one correspondence between sound and symbol. Explain briefly why some of the letters in the following words violate this principle.

- a. exude
- b. shoe, threw
- c. write, debt
- d. call, can
- e. Eunice, useless

(5 marks)

III) With the aid of examples, write brief notes on the following:

- a. English Stress
- b. Allophones in Complementary Distribution

(5 marks)

**[20 marks]**

**Question 4**

- I) Discuss the physiological characteristics that enable humans to produce speech sounds (10 marks)
- II) Discuss the adaptation of the body organs to produce speech sounds (10 marks)
- [20 marks]