

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
**FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**  
**DECEMBER 2015**

**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 three (3) questions.
2. Question 1 is compulsory.
3. Choose one other question between Question 2 and Question 3.
4. Question 1 is worth thirty (30) marks and Questions 2 and 3 are worth twenty (20) marks each.
5. Presentation of answers should follow linguistic conventions, and good language use will attract credit.

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

## QUESTION 1 (COMPULSORY)

(a) Explain what is meant by the following terms, and give examples to illustrate your answer.

- |       |                     |           |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|
| (i)   | Airstream mechanism | [2 marks] |
| (ii)  | Transcription       | [2 marks] |
| (iii) | Assimilation        | [2 marks] |
| (iv)  | Phonotactics        | [2 marks] |
| (v)   | Syllable            | [2 marks] |

(b) Give the feature that was used to classify each of the following sets of speech sounds:

- |       |                      |           |
|-------|----------------------|-----------|
| (i)   | [f, v, m, w, p]      | [2 marks] |
| (ii)  | [i, e, m, n, l, w]   | [2 marks] |
| (iii) | [k, g, i, u, ŋ]      | [2 marks] |
| (iv)  | [b, a, v, z, r]      | [2 marks] |
| (v)   | [s, z, ʃ, tʃ, ʒ, dʒ] | [2 marks] |

(c) Discuss two reasons why there is a lack of one-to-one correspondence between orthography and pronunciation. Give examples to illustrate your answer. [5 marks]

(d) Discuss two things that form part of a speaker's phonological knowledge. [5 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

## QUESTION 2

(a) Rewrite the following paragraph in spelling.

It wəz ə mə:vələs ,selɪ'breɪʃn. ðə gests wə(r) dɪ'lɑɪtɪd tu si: ðæt ðə ,deɪkə'reɪʃnz ðæt ðə stɑ:f prə'veɪdɪd wə(r) ɔ:l meɪd əv rɪ:'sɔ:kld mə'tɪəriəl. ðeə wəz sɪtɪ dɪ'lɑɪt wen ə ɡɜ:l brɔ:t aʊt ə 'pækɪt əv tɪps fə i:tl 'pɜ:sn. əvə ɡrʊ:p fɪnɪʃt əvəz ɪn nəʊ taɪm səʊ wi: wə(r) ɡlæd wen 'eɪndʒl ə'raɪvd.

[10 marks]

(b) Describe the following speech sounds according to their place of articulation, manner of articulation and state of the glottis. Give an example of a word in which each speech sound occurs.

- |       |     |            |
|-------|-----|------------|
| (i)   | [ŋ] | [2 marks]  |
| (ii)  | [s] | [2 marks]  |
| (iii) | [k] | [ 2 marks] |
| (iv)  | [ɛ] | [2 marks]  |
| (v)   | [w] | [2 marks]  |

**[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]**

### QUESTION 3

(a) Formalise the following phonological rules:

- (i) A consonant becomes rounded or labialised before a rounded vowel. [4 marks]
- (ii) A voiceless consonant becomes aspirated before a stressed vowel [4 marks]
- (iii) A nasal becomes syllabic when a preceding schwa has been deleted. [4marks]

(b) For each of the rules in (a), give one word that illustrates it, and then transcribe the word. [6 marks]

(c) What is the name of the assimilation process that is accounted for by the rule in (a (i) above? [2 marks]

**[TOTAL: 20 MARKS]**