

**UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND**  
**LITERATURE**  
**FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER**  
**DECEMBER 2016**

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

**COURSE CODE: ENG 211/ IDE-ENG 102**

**TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. This paper has four (4) questions.**
- 2. Question 1 is compulsory.**
- 3. Choose one other question from Questions 2 to Question 4.**
- 4. All questions are worth thirty (30) 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

(a) Write the symbols of the speech sounds described below. Give at least two examples of words in which the sounds occur.

(i) Voiced palatal glide [2 marks]

(ii) Voiceless glottal stop [2 marks]

(iii) Voiced dental fricative [2 marks]

(iv) Alveolar lateral liquid [2 marks]

(v) Voiceless bilabial stop [2 marks]

(b) Describe the activities that take place in the glottis during the articulation of voiced and voiceless speech sounds. [5 marks]

(c) From the list of words below:

(i) identify five minimal pairs [5 marks]

(ii) write the phonemes that cause contrast in each minimal pair. [5 marks]

(iii) write one distinctive feature for each pair of phonemes. [5 marks]

1. Beet

2. Loud

3. thy
4. Cod
5. Pick
6. Bit
7. Cud
8. Lied
9. Pig
10. thigh

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

## Question 2

Read the data from British English below, and answer the questions that follow.

### (a) DATA:

Pressure	[preʃə]
Spray	[spreɪ]
Scream	[skri:m]
Cream	[kri:m]
Extreme	[ekstri:m]
Break	[breɪk]
Comparison	[kəmpærɪsn]
Demonstrative	[dɪmənstrətɪv]
Demoralise	[dɪmərəlaɪz]
Accredit	[əkredɪt]

Incongruous [ɪŋkɒŋgruəs]

Private [ˈprɪvət]

- (i) Identify the different allophones of the alveolar liquid /r/. [2 marks]
- (ii) Describe the contexts of the occurrence of each allophone. [4 marks]
- (iii) What is the underlying form of these allophones? Why? [2 marks]
- (iv) State the phonological rule that guides the occurrence of these allophones. [5 marks]
- (v) Formalize the rule stated in (iv) above. [2 marks]

(b) Draw syllable structures for the following words:

(i) Cry [2 marks]

(ii) Helped [3 marks]

(iii) Sclerosis [5 marks]

(c) Define the terms below. Illustrate your answer using examples

(i) Open syllable [2 ½ marks]

(ii) Zero onset [2 ½ marks]

**[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]**

### Question 3

(a) Name one feature that is shared by the speech sounds in each of the groups given below:

(i) [ f, p, b, m, v, w] [2 marks]

- (ii) [ m, n, l, w, a, e, o] [2 marks]
- (iii) [ k, g, i, u, ŋ] [2 marks]
- (iv) [ a, ε, ɪ, ɲ, ʀ ] [ 2 marks]
- (v) [ s, ʃ, p, t, f, k, tʃ] [2 marks]

- (b) Oral stops and affricates are non-continuant obstruents while fricatives are continuant obstruents. Explain this statement, and illustrate your answer using examples. [10]
- (c) Draw a labelled vowel chart and place these vowels: [ ə, i, e, ε, u]. [10 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

#### Question 4

With the aid of examples, explain what is meant by the following:

- (a) Contrasts in analogous environments [5 marks]
- (b) Homorganic nasal [5 marks]
- (c) Manner of articulation [5 marks]
- (d) Phonotactics [5 marks]
- (e) Co-articulatory effect [ 5 marks]
- (f) Supra-segmental feature [ 5 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]