

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND
LITERATURE
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER
JULY, 2017

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH PHONETICS
AND PHONOLOGY

COURSE CODE: ENG 211/ IDE-ENG 102

TIME ALLOWED: TWO (2) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

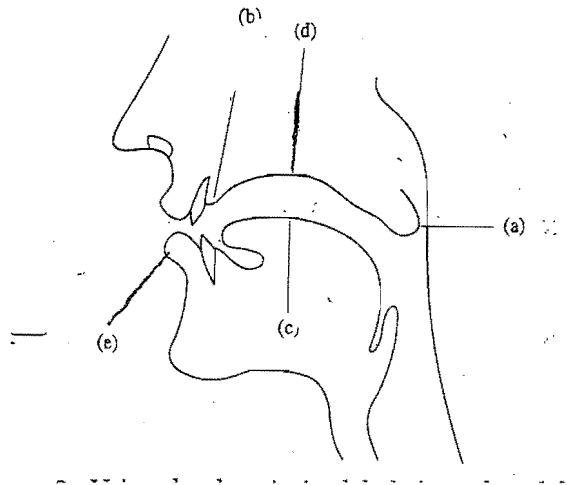
1. This paper has four (4) questions.
2. Question 1 is compulsory.
3. Choose one other question from Questions 2 to Question 4.
4. All questions are worth thirty (30) marks each.
5. Presentation of answers should follow linguistic conventions, and good language use will attract credit.

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

Question 1

(a) (i) Name the articulators indicated in the diagram below.

[5 marks]



(ii) Give the names of the speech sounds produced by the articulators indicated in the diagram.

[5 marks]

(iii) Give examples of words in which the sounds in (ii) above occur.

[5 marks]

(b) Study the following English regular verbs in their past tense forms, and answer the questions that follow.

Watched [wɒtʃt]

Owned [əʊnd]

Opted [ɒptɪd]

Rushed [rʌʃt]

Whizzed [wɪzd]

Helped [helpt]

Soaked [səʊkt]

Sorted	[sɔ:tɪd]
Guided	[gaɪdɪd]
Gunned	[gʌnd]
Painted	[peɪntɪd]
Swerved	[swə:vɪd]
Begged	[begd]
Passed	[pɑ:st]

- (i) Write the different pronunciations of the past tense suffix in English. [3 marks]
- (ii) Describe the contexts in which each pronunciation occurs. [6 marks]
- (iii) Which pronunciation of this suffix has the widest distribution? [1 mark]
- (iv) What is the linguistic name used for a form with the widest distribution? [1 mark]
- (v) The changes in the pronunciation of the past tense marker are morphophonemic, rather than purely phonological. Explain why. [2 marks]
- (vi) What is the name given to a rule that affects the pronunciation of morphemes? [2]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

Question 2

- (a) Describe the movements of the articulators during the pronunciation of the following sounds:

- (i) [t] [5 marks]
- (ii) [ŋ] [5 marks]
- (iii) [s] [5 marks]
- (iv) [u] [5 marks]
- (v) [l] [5 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

Question 3

(a) Write the phonetic symbol for the initial sound of each of the following words.

Example: ooze [u]

- | | | |
|--------|------------|----------|
| (i) | Psycho | [1 mark] |
| (ii) | Contact | [1 mark] |
| (iii) | Thomas | [1 mark] |
| (iv) | Though | [1 mark] |
| (v) | Physics | [1 mark] |
| (vi) | Usual | [1 mark] |
| (vii) | Civic | [1 mark] |
| (viii) | Easy | [1 mark] |
| (ix) | Xenophobia | [1 mark] |
| (x) | Hour | [1 mark] |

(b) Write the phonetic symbol for the last sound in the words below:

- | | | |
|--------|----------|----------|
| (i) | Long | [1 mark] |
| (ii) | Neigh | [1 mark] |
| (iii) | Fleece | [1 mark] |
| (iv) | Rough | [1 mark] |
| (v) | Watch | [1 mark] |
| (vi) | Switched | [1 mark] |
| (vii) | Little | [1 mark] |
| (viii) | Suppose | [1 mark] |
| (ix) | Bags | [1 mark] |
| (x) | Cow | [1 mark] |

(c) Briefly explain why the feature, the segment and the syllable are important units of phonological analysis. [10 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

Question 4

(a) Give the correct technical term and one example for the following descriptions:

- (i) Speech sounds produced with the airstream flowing through the sides of the mouth. [3 marks]
- (ii) A unit of linguistic structure consisting of a syllabic element and any segments associated with it. [3 marks]
- (iii) Gaps in a language inventory that correspond to non-occurring but possible forms. [3 marks]
- (iv) A set of constraints on how sequences of sound segments pattern. [3]
- (v) A class of speech sounds in whose production there is either a total or partial obstruction of the airstream. [3 marks]

(b) With the aid of examples, explain what is meant by the following terms:

- (i) Phoneme [3 marks]
- (ii) Allophone [3 marks]
- (iii) Oral sound [3 marks]
- (iv) Nasal sound [3 marks]
- (v) Complementary distribution [3 marks]