

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE
EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
DECEMBER 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 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 (COMPULSORY)

- (a) Describe the different states of the glottis during the production of voiced and voiceless speech sounds. [5 marks]
- (b) According to Ladefoged (1993:8), "at most places of articulation, there are several basic ways (manners) in which articulation can be accomplished." Discuss **four** of these manners. Illustrate your answer using examples. [20 marks]
- (c) Explain why [w] is classified both as a bilabial as well as a velar sound. [5marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

QUESTION 2

- (a) Compare the careful speech and rapid speech pronunciations of the following English words and phrases; then, name the process or processes that make the rapid speech pronunciation different from the careful speech.

	<u>Careful speech</u>	<u>Rapid Speech</u>
(i) In my room	[ɪn maɪ ru:m]	[ɪm maɪ ru:m]
(ii) I see him	[aɪ si: hɪm]	[aɪ si: jɪm]
(iii) Shall we	[ʃəl wɪ]	[ʃlwi]
(iv) Balloons	[bəlʊ:nz]	[blu:nz]
(v) Once	[wʌns]	[wʌnts]
(vi) My advice	[maɪ ədvaɪs]	[maɪ əvaɪs]
(vii) Best book	[best bʊk]	[bes bʊk]
(viii) Protection	[prətekʃən]	[pətekʃən]
(ix) Hand me that	[hænd mi: ðæt]	[hæmi: ðæt]
(x) Pam will miss you	[pæm wɪl mɪs ju:]	[pæmlɪmjə]

[10 marks]

(b) Read the words below, and answer the questions that follow.

Ban, fat, pit, bell, tape, heat, meal, more, pat, tap, pen, chain, vote, bet, far, bun, goat, heel, sane, tale, vet

(i) Which of the words above would be treated as minimal pairs? Identify ten minimal pairs. [10marks]

(ii) Write any ten consonant phonemes that appear in the data in (b) above.

[10 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 Marks]

QUESTION 3

(a) Give **two** examples of items that meet each of the descriptions given below:

(i) Words that have four consonant clustered codas. [2 marks]

(ii) Non-existent but possible forms that do not violate any of the English onset constraints. [2 marks]

(iii) Existent words which violate the English onset constraints. [2marks]

(iv) Words that have syllabic liquids. [2 marks]

(v) Words that have triphthongs. [2 marks]

(b) Draw syllable structures for the following words:

(i) Fusion [4 marks]

(ii) Custody [3 marks]

(iii) Sunrise [3 marks]

(c) Define the following terms, and illustrate your answer using examples.

(i) Sound segment [3 marks]

(ii) An input of a phonological rule [3 marks]

(iii) Distinctive feature [2 marks]

(iv) Redundant feature [2 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 marks]

QUESTION 4

- (a) Using descriptive phonetic terms such as “sibilant”, “fricative” and so on, provide a single feature that all the segments in each below group share. Avoid over-obvious answers such as:

[+ Consonantal] or [-consonantal] or [+ vowel].

Example: [b, d, g, m, j, o] are all [+ voice]

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-----------|
| (i) | [p, t, k, g, tʃ, dʒ] | [2 marks] |
| (ii) | [u, k, g, o, w, ɒ] | [2 marks] |
| (iii) | [l, m, r, n, j, w, o, a] | [2 marks] |
| (iv) | [t, d, l, r, n, s, z] | [2 marks] |
| (v) | [p, b, m, f, v] | [2 marks] |

- (b) Discuss **three** things that form part of a speaker’s phonological knowledge. Use examples where appropriate to illustrate your answer. [10 marks]

- (c) Describe the following speech sounds based on place of articulation, manner of articulation, and state of the glottis:

- | | | |
|-------|-----|----------|
| (i) | [p] | [1 mark] |
| (ii) | [ʃ] | [1 mark] |
| (iii) | [ð] | [1 mark] |
| (iv) | [j] | [1 mark] |
| (v) | [ŋ] | [1 mark] |

- (d) Give examples of words in which the sounds in (c) above occur. [5 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]