

UNIVERSITY OF ESWATINI
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & INSTITUTE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
FIRST SEMESTER FINAL EXAMINATION PAPER
DECEMBER 2019

TITLE OF PAPER: INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH PHONETICS AND PHONOLOGY

COURSE CODE: ENG 211/ IDE-ENG 211

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. All transcriptions must be presented properly.

QUESTION 1 (COMPULSORY)

(a) Provide the IPA symbol of one example of a speech sound produced at each of the places of given below.

- (i) Glottals [1 marks]
- (ii) Dentals [1 mark]
- (iii) Velars [1 mark]
- (iv) Labials [1 mark]
- (v) Palatals [1 mark]

(b) Explain how oral stops and nasal stops differ in the manner in which they are articulated. [5 marks]

(c) Describe the three ways of identifying phonemes in a language. Give examples of how you go about identifying the phonemes using each of the ways you have described. [10 marks]

(d) For each word given below, mark primary and secondary (where present) stresses. You don't have to transcribe them.

- (i) Telegraphic [2 marks]
- (ii) Telegraphy [2 marks]
- (iii) Export (verb) [2 marks]
- (iv) Reject (noun) [2 marks]
- (v) Export (noun) [2 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

Question 2

The table below presents a list of words and their transcriptions as uttered by a 2-year-old child.

(a) In your answer booklet, provide the transcription of each word as an adult speaker would say it. Make sure that the numbering is clear. [10 marks]

Word	2-year-old utterance	Adult utterance
(i) School	/kul/	
(ii) Huge	/hudʒ/	

(iii)	Computer	/kəmputi/	
(iv)	Enormous	/noməs/	
(v)	amazing	/meziŋ/	
(vi)	gloves	/glægz/	
(vii)	vanilla	/nænilæ/	
(viii)	violin	/aiolin/	
(ix)	spaghetti	/pægeti/	
(x)	zoo	/ju:/	

(b) Compare the words you have transcribed with the child's version. Identify three phonological changes that the child introduces in order to deal with difficult sounds or sequences of sounds. [12 marks]

(c)

(d) State (in words) one phonological rule in English that belongs to each of the types listed below. Exemplify your answer.

(a) Assimilation rule [4 marks]

(b) Epenthesis rule [4 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

Question 3

(a) Define the term "phonotactics". [2 marks]

(b) According to O'Grady, Dobrovolsky and Katamba (1996: 85), the words below resulted from borrowings from other languages. Basing your argument on the phonotactic constraints of English onsets as well as the suggestions given by the spellings of the words, explain why you would agree with O'Grady et al (1996)'s argument. In your discussion, describe the phonological adjustments that took place in order to accommodate the impermissible consonant clusters of these words in English.

- (i) Pterodactyl [5 marks]
- (ii) Psychology [5 marks]
- (iii) Genre [5 marks]

(c) Draw syllable structure diagrams for the words below:

- (i) Decline [5 marks]
- (ii) Improvise [5 marks]

(d) Define the term "accidental gap". Give an example to illustrate your answer. [3 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]

Question 4

(a) Explain what is meant by the terms below. Give examples (where applicable) to illustrate your answer.

- (i) Airstream mechanism [3 marks]
- (ii) Transcription [3 marks]
- (iii) International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) [3 marks]
- (iv) Vocal tract [3 marks]
- (v) Homorganic nasal [3 marks]

(b) Describe each of the writing systems given below. For each writing system, give an example of a language that uses it.

- (i) Logographic writing [4 marks]
- (ii) Pictographic writing [4 marks]
- (iii) Syllabic writing [3 marks]
- (iv) Alphabetic writing [4 marks]

[TOTAL: 30 MARKS]