



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA,  
14/16 AHMADU BELLO WAY, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS  
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MARCH/APRIL 2014 EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: ENG341

COURSE TITLE: THE PHONOLOGY OF ENGLISH

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

INSTRUCTION: Answer Any **3** Questions

1. Fill the blank space with the correct answer
  - i. The study of all the possible combinations of the phonemes of a language in order to write an acceptable unit larger than the phoneme is called \_\_\_\_\_. (2marks)
  - ii. 'The meeting starts right away' is made with Tune \_\_\_\_\_. (2marks)
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_ is concerned with the study of how speech sounds are produced. (2marks)
  - iv. The smallest meaningful, contrastive and distinctive sound unit of a language is called \_\_\_\_\_. (2marks)
  - v. Pure vowels are also called \_\_\_\_\_. (2marks)
  - vi. When the vocal cords vibrate, \_\_\_\_\_ sounds are produced. (2marks)
  - vii. Another name for plosive sounds is \_\_\_\_\_. (2marks)
  - viii. /m, n, ŋ/ are \_\_\_\_\_ sounds. (2marks)
  - ix. \_\_\_\_\_ is the process whereby a phoneme changes from its normal pronunciation in isolation or in a word to another phoneme that is close to it in manner or place of articulation in a continuous utterance. (2marks)
  - x. \_\_\_\_\_ is a phonological process involving the omission of a vowel sound in a sequence of sounds at the boundary juncture of an utterance. (2marks)
  - xi. /g/ is \_\_\_\_\_. (2marks)
  - xii. /ʌ/ is vowel number \_\_\_\_\_. (1mark)

2. Discuss briefly the process involved in the production and articulation of these sounds and give five examples of words containing such sounds.

- i) /p/ (5marks)
- ii) /n/ (5marks)
- iii) /b/ (5marks)
- iv) /d/ (5marks)
- v) /v/ (3marks)

3. Choose from the list the word that contains the sound within the slashed brackets. (24 marks: 2marks each)

- a. /t/ (i) listen (ii)gristle (iii)castle (iv)coughed
- b. /z/ (i) bags (ii) loss (iii) lice (iv) ceiling
- c. /b/ (i)plumber (ii)receipt (iii) tomb (iv) baby
- d. /h/ (i) hour (ii) whore (iii) honest (iv) behave
- e. /ʒ/ (i) mission (ii) television (iii) passion (iv) lesson
- f. /g/ (i) gnat (ii) plague (iii) poignant (iv) gnash
- g. /i/ (i) busy (ii) people (iii) tea (iv) deep
- h. /e/ (i) bury (ii) tea (iii) gate (iv) mean
- i. /i:/ (i) advantage (ii) dip (iii) fee (iv) weapon
- j. /ɔ:/ (i) pot (ii) soar (iii) dog (iv) what
- k. /ʌ/ (i) country (ii) floor (iii) mock (iv) lord
- l. /ɜ:/ (i) lecture (ii) labour (iii) colour (iv) journey

4. a) Identify and describe the sounds of the underlined letter(s) of the following words:

- i) oar (2marks)
- ii) above (2marks)
- iii) aware (2marks)
- iv) research (2marks)
- v) boys (2marks)
- vi) leopard (2marks)
- vii) law (2marks)
- viii) load (2marks)
- ix) gate (2marks)
- x) agriculture (2marks)

b) Transcribe the word 'sailor' phonemically. (3marks)

5. a) Use the notation + (positive or present in) and - (negative or absent in) to complete the table below. (20marks)

| S/N | Sound | Coronary | High | Back | Obstruent | Sonorant |
|-----|-------|----------|------|------|-----------|----------|
| 1   | l:    |          |      |      |           |          |

|   |    |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|----|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2 | ʊ  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3 | ɔ  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | ɔ: |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | d  |  |  |  |  |  |

b) Give one example each of words containing the sounds above.  
(3marks)