

## Topic 1: Phonetics

Outline the main ways in which accents differ from each other. Give examples from your OWN accent and at least ONE other accent, to illustrate your answer.

*NB: These textbooks will be useful. I've listed a few, given that you may want to write about accents of English beyond RP/Southern Standard British English, and General American:*

- Abercrombie, David. 1967. Elements of General Phonetics. (relevant section will be scanned on moodle)
- Wells, John. 1982. Accents of English. The British Isles. Cambridge University Press:
  - Volume 1, Chapter 1. Most of this chapter is available on google books (link on the Reading List). Scanned extract of sections 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 will be uploaded on moodle.
  - Volume 2 = The British Isles (e-book available)
  - Volume 3 = Beyond the British Isles (available on google books)
- Hughes, A., Trudgill, P. and Watt, D. 2013. English Accents & Dialects. 3rd Edition. Hodder (e-book available)
- Trudgill, P. and Hannah, Jean. 2017. International English: A guide to Varieties of English around the World (e-book available)
- Collins, Beverley, and Mees, Inger. 2013. Practical Phonetics and Phonology: A resource book for students. (e-book available)
- A good deal of information about accent variation – mainly for RP/SSBE and General American English – is given in the Phonetics textbooks listed on the L1B Reading List.

## Topic 2: Historical Scots

Discuss flyting as a typical genre of the Scottish Renaissance, paying attention to its linguistic features and cultural context.

## Topic 3: Middle English

What do we learn about Alisoun from the way she is described and the words she speaks in *The Miller's Tale*? You might wish to consider features of style, grammar, diction, imagery, figurative language and rhyme. Discuss also what the depiction of Alisoun reveals about the Miller's attitude towards love.

*Your answer should include some consideration of the historical, literary and linguistic contexts for Chaucer's writings. Your answer should give specific examples from The Miller's Tale of how Chaucer exploited the resources of Middle English for particular literary effects (such as irony, humour, wordplay and characterisation). You may also wish to refer to the Miller's Prologue.*