



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA,  
PLOT 91, CADASTRAL ZONE, JABI, ABUJA  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
**DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES**  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018 EXAMINATION

COURSE CODE: ENG341

COURSE TITLE: THE PHONOLOGY OF ENGLISH

TIME ALLOWED: 2 HOURS

**INSTRUCTION:** Answer **Question 5** and any other **two** Questions (*Your correct use of language elements will earn you additional 2 marks for each question attempted.*)

1. (a) With two examples each, briefly discuss your understanding of segmental phonemes. (10 marks)  
(b) Briefly discuss the following:
  - a. Stress (5 marks)
  - b. Intonation (5 marks)
2. Scholars generally agree that there are 20 English vowels. Give a description of 10 pure vowels in relation to their position on the vowel trapezium. (20 marks)
3. Draw the English consonant chart and properly label it. (20 marks)
4. (a) Underline the last consonant sound in the following words:
  - (i) thing
  - (ii) sing
  - (iii) fricative
  - (iv) predator
  - (v) thoughtful (5 marks)  
(b) Indicate the stressed syllable in the words below by properly placing stress on them:
  - (i) manly
  - (ii) womaniser
  - (iii) stabiliser
  - (iv) psalm
  - (v) who (5 marks)  
(c) Indicate vocalic sounds in the words below by underlining them:
  - (i) sudden
  - (ii) comb
  - (iii) gnat
  - (iv) pail
  - (v) sing (5 marks)

(d) Underline the fricative sounds in the following words:

(i) hero

(ii) honour

(iii) however

(iv) thought

(v) herbal

(5 marks)

5. (a) Use the table below to show the distinctive features of the sounds indicated in the first column:

| Sounds | Vocalic | Sonorant | Anterior | Coronal | Nasal | Voice | High |
|--------|---------|----------|----------|---------|-------|-------|------|
| /i:/   |         |          |          |         |       |       |      |
| /e/    |         |          |          |         |       |       |      |
| /u/    |         |          |          |         |       |       |      |
| /ɔ:/   |         |          |          |         |       |       |      |
| /a:/   |         |          |          |         |       |       |      |
| /ŋ/    |         |          |          |         |       |       |      |
| /tʃ/   |         |          |          |         |       |       |      |
| /k/    |         |          |          |         |       |       |      |
| /d/    |         |          |          |         |       |       |      |
| /f/    |         |          |          |         |       |       |      |

(10 marks)

(b) Give the possible allophonic variants of the present tense element in English by using the examples below. Transcribe the affected words to show the present tense allophonic variant.

(i) Sade takes home ten-thousand-naira salary monthly.

(ii) Mikhail loves having the dogs in the house.

(iii) Uche likes boarding buses to school.

(iv) Prof Authe tells good stories to the children in the orphanage.

(v) Prof Nwabueze is the current Dean of FSS.

(5 marks)

(c) Use the sentences below to show the morphophonemic realisation of the English past tense.

Transcribe the affected words to show the plural allophonic variant.

(i) The HOD discussed the need for a language laboratory in the Department of Languages with the VC.

(ii) The newly appointed DG visited the president yesterday.

(iii) The University employed some new lecturers recently

(iv) Susan stopped the bus in order to board it.

(v) She laughed long and hard on hearing the cock and bull story.

(5 marks)