



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, JABI, ABUJA
91 CADASTRAL ZONE, NNAMDI AZIKIWE EXPRESSWAY, JABI -
ABUJA
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
2025_2 EXAMINATIONS

COURSE CODE: ENG 341

COURSE TITLE: The Phonology of English

COURSE UNIT: 3 Credit Units

Time allowed: Three (3) Hours

Instruction: Answer Question one and any three questions.

- 1a. With relevant examples, explain to a non-linguistic student what linguists mean when they say that phonemes are in free variation and complementary distribution. (15 marks)
- 1b. The study of allophones is important in the study of English phonology. Discuss what you understand by the term, allophones. With convincing reasons, justify its importance in the study of English phonology. (10 marks)
- 2a. Describe these sounds: /p/ and /b/ in terms of their manner and place of articulation. (7 marks)
- 2b. Show two letters or combination of letters each of the sounds in 1a above can represent. Give examples with two words each, to show where they occur. (8 marks)
- 3a. Show the sounds described as continuants and explain how they are produced in terms of their manner and place of articulation. (8 marks)
- 3b. Evaluate the reasons why some sounds are described with release and tense features. (7 marks)
- 4a. How would you define phonology and describe who a phonologist is to a junior course mate? (7 marks)
- 4b. With copious examples, show that phonemes are contrastive and distinctive sound units that are only meaningful when they are combined in an acceptable manner in a language. (8 marks)
- 5a. Explain what you understand by phonotactics. (5 marks)
- 5b. Give the sound combination sets that are possible in English syllable. (10 marks)