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Reg.No :

Name :

MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY, KOTTAYAM
MGU-UGP (HONOURS) Regular EXAMINATION October 2025
Third SEMESTER
Discipline Specific Core Course (DSC)- MG3DSCENG200 -
AN INTRODUCTION TO PHONETICS

(2024 ADMISSION ONWARDS)

Duration: 2 Hours

Maximum Marks: 70

Remember(K), Understand(U), Apply(A), Analyse(An), Evaluate(E), Create(C), Skill(S), Interest(I)
and Appreciation(Ap)

Students should attempt at least one question from each course outcome to enhance their overall outcome attainability.

Part A

MCQ

Answer all questions

Each question carries 1 marks

1. The phonatory system produces sound through [U] / [CO1]
 - a). The vibration of vocal cords
 - b). The movement of tongue
 - c). Expulsion of air
 - d). None of these

2. Which of the following is a back vowel? [A] / [CO2]
 - a). /i:/ b). /æ/ c). /u:/ d). /e/

3. Which pair represents a voiceless–voiced contrast? [K] / [CO3]
 - a). /f/ and /v/ b). /m/ and /n/ c). /l/ and /r/ d). /ŋ/ and /j/

4. In connected speech, which words usually carry stress? [U] / [CO4]

- a). Functional words b). Auxiliary verbs
- c). Content words d). Articles
5. Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales belongs to period? [U] / [CO1]
- a). Old English b). Middle English
- c). Early Modern English d). Modern English
6. Identify the sound represented by the letter " in the word "country ". [U] / [CO2]
- a). /k/ b). /h/ c). /tʃ/ d). /dʒ/
7. In athlete [æθəli:t], the insertion of a schwa is: [U] / [CO3]
- a). Elision b). Gemination c). Epenthesis d). Assimilation
8. Suprasegmental features are also known as [K] / [CO4]
- a). Secondary phonemes b). Lexical phonemes
- c). Morphological units d). Voiceless sounds
9. Identify the correct transcription for the word cupboard. [A] / [CO2]
- a). /kʌpbed/ b). /kʊpbəd/
- c). /kʌbəd/ d). /kʌbɔ:d/
10. Which of the following is a voiceless alveolar fricative? [U] / [CO3]
- a). /s/ b). /z/ c). /ʃ/ d). /θ/

[1x10 = 10]

Part B

SHORT ANSWER

Answer any **6** questions

Each question carries **5** marks

11. Differentiate between phonetics and phonology. [U] / [CO1]
12. English is an unphonetic language. Discuss with examples. [U] / [CO2]
13. Differentiate between releasing and arresting consonants with examples. [U] / [CO3]

14. How does assimilation operate in connected speech? Explain with examples. [U] / [CO4]
15. Define a protolanguage. How does the comparative method help reconstruct earlier languages, and why is it important? [U] / [CO1]
16. Explain the purpose and significance of the Cardinal Vowel System in phonetics. [U] / [CO2]
17. Write a note on morphologically conditioned allomorphs with examples. [U] / [CO3]
18. Transcribe the following text marking stress and intonation: [A] / [CO4]
- Devotee: How divine the atmosphere feels! Is the pooja over? What time is deeparadhana?
- Priest: It will start at six in the evening.
- Devotee: Can we get prasadam here?
19. Describe the structure of a tone group, explaining the roles of the pre-head, head, nucleus, and tail. [U] / [CO4]

[5x6 = 30]

Part C

ESSAY

Answer any **2** questions

Each question carries **15** marks

20. Discuss how the respiratory, phonatory and articulatory systems work together to produce human speech. [U] / [CO1]
21. Explain the different types of diphthongs in English RP and how they are categorised. [U] / [CO2]
22. Describe allophones in English with examples of aspiration, clear/dark /l/, and their distribution patterns. [U] / [CO3]
23. Transcribe the following passage marking stress and intonation. [A] / [CO4]
- Arun: (at hospital) How are you feeling, Biju?
- Biju: I'm afraid it isn't good news.
- Arun: Oh no, what happened?
- Biju: The doctor says there's a severe infection in my intestines. They may even have to operate. The antibiotics and the loneliness are really wearing me down.
- Arun: Don't worry, I'm here for you. What about your family?
- Biju: They come, but not often. My father is tied up with work from morning till night. Amma drops in regularly, but she can't stay for long.
- Arun: And your other friends?

Biju: Yes, a few visit, but they also don't stay long. At times I feel so lonely, afraid, and depressed.

Arun: That's natural, but don't lose heart. I have three consecutive holidays coming up. I'll be here every day with a friend of mine. The three of us can spend long hours together—chatting, playing cards, and listening to music. I'll also bring my iPod, so whenever you feel bored you can listen. You've always loved music, haven't you?

Biju: Yes, that would really cheer me up.

Arun: (steps outside and speaks to doctor) Doctor, may I know how long Biju will need to stay here? I hope it isn't too serious.

Doctor: It's an intestinal problem. We're running tests. He will recover—don't worry.

Arun: But how long will it take, Doctor?

Doctor: We can't say for sure until the reports come.

Arun: Thank you, Doctor. Please take good care of my friend.

(to Biju) Don't worry, yaar. I spoke to the doctor—he said it's nothing very serious. Now cheer up, let's play some cards.

[15x2 = 30]