

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

M.A.

M.A. English Language (Modern): Phonetics and Phonology of Modern English

COURSE CODE : ENGLMA01

DATE : 09-MAY-02

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 hours

02-N0116-3-30

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TURN OVER

Answer Question 1 and any two other questions.

Do not use substantially the same material for more than one answer, whether on this paper or in other parts of the examination.

1. Answer both (a) and (b)

(a) Make a broad transcription of the following passage, showing plausible intonation. State the accent you are transcribing.

Nell was brushing the crumbs off the table, with the fancy electro-plated brush-and-pan set that Minnie Havis next door had given her as a wedding present. She was rushing around Edmund's plate with little short stabbing movements as if she'd like to brush him away as well. 'Why don't you just leave it, Nelly?' Lillian said mildly. 'And I'll do it when Eddie's finished.'

'Because breakfast's over with,' Nell said, avoiding Lillian's eye.

'But breakfast's not over with,' Lillian said, trying to sound reasonable even though she felt like pinching her sister. 'Edmund's only just started his and I'm going to make another pot of tea. Do you want a cup?'

'No thank you,' Nell replied self-righteously. 'I've had my breakfast.'

'I didn't know we had only one sitting like a cheap hotel,' Lillian said crossly.

'I wouldn't know about hotels – cheap or otherwise,' Nell said with an arch little smile on her face because it wasn't often she could think of a clever rejoinder to anybody.

Kate Atkinson: Behind the Scenes at the Museum

(b) Find *one* example in the above passage of *each* of the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (i) devoiced postalveolar approximant | (ii) possible syllabic nasal |
| (iii) possible assimilation to bilabial | (iv) possible alveolar plosive elision |
| (v) aspirated bilabial plosive | (vi) possible linking /r/ |
| (vii) devoiced plosive | (viii) a dental nasal |
| (ix) contrastive nucleus placement | (x) a stressed pronoun |

2. Explain the relationship between *long*, *short* and *weak* vowels in Received Pronunciation. What factors cause RP vowels to vary in duration?
3. "The glottal stop, though frequently used by RP speakers, is not a significant sound in the RP system." (Gimson). Discuss.
4. Discuss the important similarities and differences between the semivowels and the liquid consonants of English. What justification is there for labelling them all as "approximants"?

5. In what ways do co-articulatory processes affect *either* voicing *or* place of articulation in English?
6. Discuss the phonetics and phonology of /r/ liaison in non-rhotic varieties of English.
7. What is a weak form? Does the difference between strong and weak forms play any distinctive role in English?
8. Explain and illustrate the relevance to English of three of the following:

compression	syllabic consonants	compound stress
affricates	nuclear tones	regular plural formation
9. Can any valid generalisations be made about the intonation of questions?

END OF PAPER