

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:–

M.A.

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

COURSE CODE : ENGLMA01

DATE : 04–MAY–06

TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours

MA in English Language (Modern) 2006

Phonetics and Phonology of Modern English

Three hours

Answer Question 1 and any two other questions.

Do not use substantially the same material in 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.

At that moment, Langdon turned from the window. 'The tomb...' he said suddenly, facing them with a faint glimmer of hope in his eyes. 'I know where to look on Newton's tomb. Yes, I think I can find the password!'

Teabing's heart soared. 'Where, Robert? Tell me!'

Sophie sounded horrified. 'Robert, no! You're not going to help him, *are* you?'

Langdon approached with a resolute stride, holding the cryptex before him. 'No,' he said, his eyes hardening as he turned to Leigh. 'Not until he lets you go.'

Teabing's optimism darkened. 'We are so close, Robert. Don't you dare start playing games with me!'

'No games,' Langdon said. 'Let her go. Then I'll take you to Newton's tomb. We'll open the cryptex together.'

'I'm not going anywhere,' Sophie declared, her eyes narrowing with rage. 'That cryptex was given to me by my grandfather. It is not *yours* to open.'

Langdon wheeled, looking fearful. 'Sophie, please! You're in danger. I'm trying to help you!'

'How? By unveiling the secret my grandfather died trying to protect? He trusted you, Robert. *I* trusted you!'

Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code*

- (b) Find a possible example in the above passage of each of the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (i) syllabic consonant | (vi) rising nuclear tone |
| (ii) linking /r/ | (vii) devoiced obstruent |
| (iii) contrastive nucleus placement | (viii) nasalised rounded vowel |
| (iv) yod coalescence | (ix) closing diphthong |
| (v) alveolar plosive elision | (x) aspirated bilabial plosive |

2. Describe the phonetic properties and distribution of the English approximants. In what ways do they constitute a natural class?

TURN OVER

3. Give a detailed account of the phonetic regularities underlying the formation of regular English plurals, -ing forms, and past tenses.
4. Outline the phonetic characteristics of an appropriate standard accent of English that might be used by learners of English. Justify your choice of such a standard.
5. What determines the speaker's placement of nuclear accents in English?
6. Discuss the view that assimilation in English is a characteristic of sloppy speech. Illustrate your answer with phonetically transcribed examples.
7. How does the rhythmic stress pattern of English affect vowel length and vowel quality?
8. Discuss the evidence for and against treating *either* the glottal stop [ʔ] or the affricates [tʃ, dʒ] as phonemes of English.
9. English /d/ is usually classified as a voiced alveolar plosive. How adequate is this classification?

END OF PAPER