

2 ½ hours

Answer *QUESTION 1* and any *TWO* other questions.

1. Make a broad transcription of the following passage, dividing into word groups, marking stress, intonational nucleus and nuclear tone. State the accent you are transcribing.

“What’s up?” said Elaine.

“Well,” said Walker, “there’s a letter in this morning’s post.”

“Really?” said Elaine.

“I’ve been asked to go to America.”

“Have you?” said Elaine, “and who by?”

“Well, some university over there is looking for a creative writing fellow and they naturally thought of me.”

“What does it mean?” said Elaine after a pause.

“Oh, I go and sit around and write creatively and they pay me seven thousand dollars for doing it.”

“I thought you always said that creative writing was ridiculous,” said Elaine.

“Well, okay, yes, I do,” said Walker. “Still, every man has his price. Mine happens to be six thousand nine hundred dollars.”

“They just topped it,” said Elaine.

“It looks like it,” said Walker.

“Do you want to go?” Elaine then said.

This was it, and Walker knew it was; he said, “Do I?” and then realised he was being irritating. But how did he know? He tried it another way. “Do you?” he said.

Malcolm Bradbury: *Stepping Westward*

2. Describe in detail the likely pronunciation of each /t/ sound in the following sentence:
Stan caught the train at eight twenty.
On what basis can they all be transcribed as /t/?
3. Outline the articulatory differences between the English approximants /w j r l/. In what ways do they behave phonologically as a natural class?
4. What is a vowel? What contextual factors affect the quantity (length) and quality of vowels in English Received Pronunciation (RP)?

TURN OVER

5. Outline the main constraints on syllable-final consonant clusters in English. What phonetic regularities underlie the formation of plural and past tense suffixes?
6. What generalisations can be made about the use of falling versus rising intonation patterns in English? Use the passage transcribed in question 1 to illustrate your answer.
7. Explain and illustrate the relevance to English of *THREE* of the following:

alveolar plosive elision	place assimilation of stops
weak forms	intrusive /r/
obstruent devoicing	affricates
8. Outline the important differences between RP and any *ONE* other accent of English with which you are familiar. What claims does RP have to be treated as a "standard" for English pronunciation?

END OF PAPER