

International Phonetic Association

Certificate Examination in English Phonetics

London, Wednesday 9th June, 2005

Time: 09.00-11.30

Answer ALL questions. All four questions are equally weighted. Use diagrams and transcribed examples as appropriate.

1. Using a standard set of symbols for Received Pronunciation (or, if you prefer, some other accent that you specify), make a phonemic transcription of the following passage in an informal colloquial style. Indicate rhythmically stressed syllables, but not intonation.

You know birds can imitate mobile phones? Well, I read this thing about elephants mimicking lorries. Some workers at an animal sanctuary in Tsavo in Kenya heard this engine noise coming from an enclosure. When they checked it out, they found it was a ten-year-old female African elephant making it! They were gob-smacked! It said that recordings of her low-frequency sounds had a similar acoustic pattern to the ones from real lorries. Apparently, it's the first example of sound imitation in a non-primate terrestrial mammal. It said that elephants typically communicate with chirping noises. I didn't know that, either.

2. Give a detailed articulatory account, with appropriate diagrams, of the movements made by the speech organs in pronouncing the word **printers**.
3. **EITHER** Explain the organization of the IPA chart. Make sure that your answer includes discussion of the following points:
 - a) 'active articulator' and 'passive articulator';
 - b) affricate articulations;
 - c) empty cells and shaded cells;
 - d) double articulations.

OR Outline the RP (Standard Southern British) English vowel system and discuss, with examples, some of the major allophonic variants that are common to these vowels.

4. **EITHER** Explain four of the following terms:
 - (i) *coarticulation*
 - (ii) *coalescence*
 - (iii) *assimilation*
 - (iv) *t-glottalling*
 - (v) *elision*

Illustrate your answer with examples taken from the text you have transcribed for Question 1 above.

OR Using the sheet provided, mark up suitable intonation patterns in the following dialogue and then justify your decisions paying particular attention to *tonality, tonicity, and tone*:

[TURN OVER]

- A *Come round to my place and we can order a take-away. We can watch a DVD, if you like.*
- B *OK. It's ages since we did anything like that.*
- A *Chinese, Indian or pizza?*
- B *Oh, I don't know! You choose. I don't really mind. Although actually, I'm not very keen on curries.*
- A *We'll go for Chinese, then. Then I can have curry and you can have something a bit more bland.*

[END OF PAPER]

Examiners: P. Ashby, J.C. Wells

International Phonetic Association

Certificate Examination in English Phonetics

London, Monday 15th August, 2005

Time: 09.00-11.30

Answer ALL questions. All four questions are equally weighted. Use diagrams and transcribed examples as appropriate.

1. Using a standard set of symbols for Received Pronunciation (or, if you prefer, some other accent that you specify), make a phonemic transcription of the following passage in an informal colloquial style. Indicate rhythmically stressed syllables, but not intonation.

Did you know that the Walnut Whip's been around since 1910? It seems to be Nestlé Rowntree's oldest existing product. Apparently, one of the sweets is eaten every two seconds in Britain. I can hardly believe that. But they generated £8 million of sales a couple of years ago. When I was little, each whip had a whole nut inside the chocolate shell as well as one on top. You don't get that now, of course. But even with present economies, they get through a million walnuts a week in the factory in Halifax! I don't know why I'm so interested – I hate the things myself!

2. Give a detailed articulatory account, with appropriate diagrams, of the movements made by the speech organs in pronouncing the word **scribbled**.
3. **EITHER** Describe and illustrate the following sound types:
- (i) *affricate*
 - (ii) *click*
 - (iii) *double articulation*
 - (iv) *velarized consonant*

Say why each of these types cannot be found in the main grid of the IPA chart.

OR Outline the RP (Standard Southern British) English vowel system and then **either** a) if you are a native speaker of English, discuss the principal ways in which the vowel system of your accent varies from this

or b) if you are a non-native speaker of English, discuss some of the problems this vowel system presents for learners of English who share your mother tongue.

4. **EITHER** What is a *citation form*? Use data from the text you transcribed in Question 1 above to illustrate a discussion of the ways in which citation forms might undergo change in English connected speech.

OR Explain what you understand by the terms *tonality*, *tonicity*, and *tone*. Illustrate your answer using data from the following dialogue (see over).

[TURN OVER]

Dialogue

Note: Do **NOT** transcribe this dialogue and do **NOT** not give a full intonation mark up – only mark up the sections you select to use as data.

A *What have you got on? Your trainers?*

B *I have at the moment, yes. But I'm changing them. I can't dance very well in trainers.*

A *Who said anything about dancing? I mean, I'm wearing flip-flops. I can't dance in those, either. But they match my top. They're the ones with the purple flowers on. The ones I got in Ibiza, in the market.*

B *But if we're going to a club, we need to be able to dance.*

A *But dancing means shoes.*

B *Well that's what I thought. Yes.*

A *But I haven't got any shoes with me. I've only got trainers, flip-flops, sandals and water shoes. I certainly haven't got purple shoes and I've no shoes with flowers on. In fact I didn't even pack any proper shoes. I thought this was a beach holiday.*

B *But you knew we'd go clubbing. You knew we'd go to a club. We always go clubbing. Now you've ruined it and you're getting all stropky. Change your outfit! Or haven't you brought any other clothes, either? I thought it was odd when you only had cabin baggage. Some holiday this is going to be! I'm not going on my own to the club.*

[END OF PAPER]