

International Phonetic Association Certificate Examination in English Phonetics

London, Wednesday 16th May, 2012

2½ hours

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, of 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.

Seems we've had the wettest April since Met Office records began, back in 1910. The really curious thing though, is that so much of the country is still in drought. The hose-pipe ban's a disaster for us. We were hoping to fix the bald bits in the lawn, but I'm not walking to and fro to the end of the garden every night with watering cans for the new turf. No way. I'd sooner plant cacti! Course, if it keeps raining at this rate, there wouldn't be a problem. But you can't bank on that. Mind you, I can't say I didn't enjoy having temperatures in the 20s for a few days, back in March!

2. Describe in detail, with appropriate diagrams, the movements made by the organs of speech in pronouncing the phrase *sun cream*.
3. **EITHER** English vowels are often described as falling into two groups, long vowels and short vowels. How realistic is this division in phonetic terms?

OR Describe in detail each of the following concepts: *glottal stop*, *t-glottalling*, *glottal reinforcement* (also termed *glottalization*) and *ejective plosive*. In each case, demonstrate the contribution to English pronunciation.

4. **EITHER** What is stress and what functions does it serve in English speech?

OR Describe the way in which intonation can be used by speakers of English to change the meaning of the following text (which has been left unpunctuated): *the shop which normally closes early is still open*

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International Phonetic Association

Certificate Examination in English Phonetics

London, Tuesday 28th August, 2012

2½ hours

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.

I don't think the Olympics actually did much for my personal fitness at all, while they were on. I didn't even have to scramble for a train to get there. With no tickets, and – initially at least – complete disinterest in the whole affair, once they'd whetted my appetite, all I needed was the sofa, the telly and the remote control. I was instantly addicted. I watched everything, from diving to dressage, and boxing to BMX-ing... including all sorts of things I didn't even know existed, like handball and rhythmic gymnastics. I was glued to the opening ceremony and the closing one, even though in both cases I had to get up early the next morning. I wonder if I'll feel the same about Rio?

2. Describe in detail, with appropriate diagrams, the movements made by the organs of speech in pronouncing the phrase *four clowns*.
3. **EITHER** Using data from the text in Question 1 above, demonstrate and explain the difference between *broad transcription* and *narrow transcription*. Outline the purposes served by these two ways of transcribing.

OR Describe in detail each of the following concepts: *velar*, *labial-velar*, *velarization* and *clicks*. In each case, demonstrate the contribution to English pronunciation.

4. **EITHER** English is described as a *stress-timed language*. What does this mean, and what other contributions are made by stress to English speech?

OR Describe the way in which intonation can be used by speakers of English to change the meaning of the following text (which has been left unpunctuated):

the students sitting in the back row couldn't see the screen

[END OF PAPER]