

Practice Exam – SS 2008 The Phonetics of English Pronunciation

Name Matr.-Nr.

My main course of study is: BA__ / Mag__ / Lehramt__ / Diplom__ / other__

FR 4.3, Anglistik __ FR 4.6, Übersetz/Dolm __ FR 4.7, Phonetik __ Other __

My target accent is British English __ American English __

1. **The phonetic description of consonants:** a) Give the phonetic transcription symbol for the sound indicated by the underlined letter(s) in the following words and b) provide the phonetic description of the sound (N.B. take variants into consideration):

e.g. <cat> = [k^h]; a voiceless velar aspirated plosive

	<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Description</i>
i. through		
ii. tough		
iii. ridge		
iv. stoye		
v. thrifty		
vi. shelled		
vii. leisure		
viii. spoil		
ix. chase		
x. cache		

2. **Consonant problems:** Name and explain briefly the pronunciation problem for German learners of English in the consonantal sounds indicated by the underlined letters in the following sentence (number the points below and write the answers on the back of this page):

Why do politicians think they can put the world to rights?

3. ***The phonetic description of vowels:*** a) Give the phonetic transcription symbol for the vowel sound indicated by the underlined letter(s) in the following words and b) provide the phonetic description of the sound:

e.g. <bet> = /e/; a short, unrounded, front vowel between mid-close and mid-open.

	<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Description</i>
i. shoot		
ii. flood		
iii. good		
iv. women		
v. post		
vi. trout		
vii. cough		
viii. fought		
ix. creak		
x. stack		

4. ***Vowel problems:*** Specify the pronunciation problem for German learners of English in the vowel sounds indicated by the underlined letters in the following sentence (number the points and write the answers below and/or on the back of this page):

Food processing is ruining people's health. It destroys all the vital trace elements, and additives produce a chemical imbalance.

Countless allergies are the result.

5. Weak forms and linking: Transcribe the underlined sections, indicating any *reduced forms* (weak forms) and *linking phenomena*. (Mark the stressed words as an indication of the prosodic pattern you assume)

a) Text (6) W h a t i s t h e r e a s o n f o r t h i s ?

Transcr.: []

b) Text: (7) H o w c a n w e e x p e c t t o f i n d t h e a n s w e r ? .

Transcr.: []

c) Text: (10) T h e r e w o u l d b e n o c h a l l e n g e i f i t w e r e o b v i o u s .

Transcr.: []

d) Text: (10) P u t t h e o t h e r s ' f e e l i n g s o n a p a r w i t h y o u r o w n .

Transcr.: []

e) Text: (7) I t w o u l d n e e d t o b e a c c e p t e d b y a l l .

Transcr.: []

6. Stress-patterns: Mark the syllables with primary (') and secondary (,) stresses in the underlined sections of the following sentences (if unstressed syllables are underlined, leave them unmarked for stress):

a) Mary walked down the Mall to Buckingham Palace , walked up to the guards and posed for a snapshot. (8)

b) Her father-in-law was a real skinflint. He never payed for his share of the costs at any of the family celebrations. (8)

c) In the High Street, a number of department stores had closed down. They had given up because of competition from out-of-town hypermarkets (10)

d) Rain drove in her face and smeared her make-up. It ran down her face in black streaks. (6)

e) On Lake Constance the guest houses have been enjoying an upturn in the number of tourists. They hope that the trend is long-term. (8)