



ENG507

Solved Mid-Term_Spring2026

ABSTRACT

This comprehensive collection of notes is accurately crafted to empower students to excel academically, ensuring they achieve a minimum of 80% marks in their examinations. The content is organized with clarity and precision, focusing on key concepts, critical analyses, and practical applications tailored to the syllabus. These notes serve as a reliable resource for both thorough preparation and last-minute revision. Designed to inspire confidence and mastery, this guide is an essential tool for students striving for academic excellence.

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Solved Mid-Term

Short Questions (3 Marks)

1. Three Airstream Mechanisms

1. Pulmonic Airstream Mechanism
2. Glottalic Airstream Mechanism
3. Velaric Airstream Mechanism

2. Alternatives of Broad and Narrow Transcription

- Broad Transcription = Phonemic Transcription
- Narrow Transcription = Phonetic Transcription

3. Allophones

- Systematic variants of a phoneme.
- Do not change meaning.
- Example: Different pronunciations of /p/ in "pin" and "spin".

4. Suprasegmental Features

From the given list, suprasegmental features are:

- Duration
- Intonation
- Stress

5. Degrees of Lexical Stress

1. Primary Stress (')
2. Secondary Stress (,)
3. Unstressed Syllable

6. Articulatory Gestures

Movements made by speech organs during sound production. Examples:

- Bilabial
- Dental
- Alveolar
- Velar
- Palatal

7. Language Features

- Urdu → Nasalization/Nasal Vowels
- Punjabi → Retroflex Sounds
- Pashto → Retroflex Sounds
- Sindhi → Retroflex Sounds

8. Lax Vowel

A vowel produced with less muscular tension than a tense vowel.
Examples: /ɪ/, /ʊ/, /e/.

9. Short Vowels in English

There are 7 short vowels in BBC English (RP):

- ɪ (pit)
- e (pet)
- æ (pat)
- ʌ (putt)
- ɒ (pot)
- ʊ (put)
- ə (another)

Examples: /ɪ/ in pit, /e/ in pet.

10. Variables of Pitch

- Pitch Height
- Pitch Range
- Pitch Movement

11. Broad & Narrow Transcription (True/False Facts)

- Broad transcription = Phonemic ✓
- Narrow transcription = Phonetic ✓
- Broad uses // ✓
- Narrow uses [] ✓

12. Three Features Used to Describe Articulated Sounds

- Place of Articulation
- Manner of Articulation
- Voicing

13. Ingressive Airstream

Air moves inward instead of outward during speech production.

14. Lexical Stress

Stress placed on a syllable within a word to make it prominent.
Example:

- /'teacher/
- /a'bout/

15. Three Diphthongs with Examples

Diphthong Word

/eɪ/	bay
/aɪ/	buy
/ɔɪ/	boy

16. Classes of Function Words

- Articles → a, an, the
- Conjunctions → and, or
- Prepositions → of, with, on

Long Questions (5 Marks)

1. Acoustic Phonetics (Facts/Basics)

Acoustic phonetics studies the physical properties of speech sounds. It examines sound waves, frequency, duration, amplitude, and formants. It uses instruments such as Praat software to analyze speech scientifically. Acoustic phonetics provides objective evidence about speech sounds.

2. Affricatives (Important T/F Topic)

Affricate Facts

- Combination of a plosive and a fricative.

- Same place of articulation.
- English has two affricates:
 - /tʃ/ (church)
 - /dʒ/ (judge)

3. American vs BBC English (Rhoticity)

BBC English (RP)

Non-rhotic

/r/ often not pronounced after vowels

car → /kɑ:/

American English

Rhotic

/r/ pronounced everywhere

car → /kɑr/

4. Change IPA into Plain Words

IPA	Word
/weɪfərər/	wayfarer
/əʊnli/	only
/məntl/	mantle
/tɑ:rtər/	tarter
/əraʊnd/	around

5. Short Vowels, Long Vowels and Diphthongs

Short Vowels (7)

ɪ, e, æ, ʌ, ʊ, ɒ, ə

Long Vowels (5)

ɪ:, ɑ:, ɔ:, u:, ɜ:

Diphthongs (8)

eɪ, aɪ, ɔɪ, əʊ, aʊ, ɪə, eə, ʊə

6. Weak Form in Connected Speech

Weak forms occur when function words are pronounced in a reduced form during connected speech.

Examples:

- and → /ən/
- of → /əv/
- to → /tə/

Weak forms make speech natural and fluent.

7. English Consonants

a. Number of Consonants

English RP contains **24 consonants**.

b. Three Voicing Categories Often Mentioned

- Voiced
- Voiceless
- Aspirated

8. Stop Sounds and Place of Articulation

Sound	Place
p, b	Bilabial
t, d	Alveolar
k, g	Velar

9. Fricatives

English Fricatives:

- f
- v
- θ

- ð
- s
- z
- ʃ
- ʒ
- h

10. Voiceless Sounds at End of Syllables / p,t,k after /s/

Rules

- Voiceless consonants often occur at syllable endings.
- p, t, k lose aspiration after /s/.

Examples:

- spin
- stop
- school

11. Two General Points of Intonation

1. Intonation shows speaker attitude and emotion.
2. Intonation helps distinguish statements from questions.

12. Five Features of Generative Phonology

1. Introduced by Chomsky and Halle.
2. Uses phonological rules.
3. Studies underlying representations.
4. Explains sound changes.
5. Includes insertion, deletion, and substitution rules.

Not Included

- Acoustic Phonetics
- Auditory Phonetics

13. Plosive Sounds

English Plosives:

- p
- b

- t
- d
- k
- g

Examples:

pin, bin, tin, din, kin, gum.

14. Oro-Nasal Process

The oro-nasal process controls whether air passes through:

- Mouth (oral sounds)
- Nose (nasal sounds)

Examples:

- Oral → /v/, /z/
- Nasal → /m/, /n/, /ŋ/

Controlled by raising or lowering the velum.

15. Fortis vs Lenis

Fortis	Lenis
Strong articulation	Weak articulation
Usually voiceless	Usually voiced
p, t, k	b, d, g

16. Five Features Used in Phonetic Description

1. Place of articulation
2. Manner of articulation
3. Voicing
4. Nasality
5. Aspiration

Q. No. Of syllables of exist; pronunciation and enough 3 marks

1. Ex-ist

2. Pro-nun-ci-a-tion
3. En-ough

Q. EXPLAIN the features (Voicing, MoA and PoA)

- ✚ Place of articulation = alveolar. The narrowing of the vocal tract involves the tongue tip & the alveolar ridge
- ✚ Manner of articulation = oral stop. (The narrowing is complete -- the tongue is completely blocking off airflow through the mouth. ...)
- ✚ Voicing = voiced. articulation, phonation, etc.

Q. Define the term 'rhotic accent'

A rhotic speaker pronounces the letter "R" in hard and water. In other words, rhotic speakers pronounce "R" in all positions.

Q. Write any three accents of language from the four.

1. Difference in phonological inventories. Compare /strʌt/ vs. /strɒt/.
2. Difference in phonetic features such as pronouncing /t/ as [ʔ].
3. Phonological distribution e.g., rhotic vs. non-rhotic accents.

Q. /i/, /u/, /a/, /æ/, describe the position of tongue.3

1. raising of the front of the tongue such as for /i/
2. the back of the tongue is raised for an /u/ vowel sound.
3. /a/ may be articulated with the soft palate lowered throughout
4. low vowel /æ/ as in man and by keeping the soft palate lowered.

Q. accent variation (3 marks)

- ✚ Difference in phonological inventories. Compare /strʌt/ vs. /strɒt/.
- ✚ Difference in phonetic features such as pronouncing /t/ as [ʔ].
- ✚ Phonological distribution e.g., rhotic vs. non-rhotic accents
- ✚ Lexical distribution e.g., /θ/ and /ð/ differences (as England and Wales have /ð/ and Scottish accents have /θ/).

Q. Three Major Concerns Discussed by Phoneticians Regarding Speech Production

Phoneticians are mainly concerned with:

1. How speech sounds are produced – Articulatory phonetics (observing what the speaker does).
2. How speech sounds are used in spoken language – Overlaps with phonology, studying meaningful speech sounds.
3. How we hear and recognize sounds – Auditory phonetics (perception by ear and brain).

Q. Alternate Names of Narrow and Broad Transcription

- ✚ Broad Transcription is also called phonemic transcription – uses slashes / / and represents phonemes without fine detail.
- ✚ Narrow Transcription is also called phonetic transcription or impressionistic transcription – uses square brackets [] and includes articulatory/auditory detail.

Q. Tone Language and Examples

A tone language is one in which pitch (tone) is used to change the meaning of a word.

Example: In Mandarin Chinese:

- ✚ /má/ (high pitch) means ‘mother’
- ✚ /mǎ/ (rising tone) means ‘horse’

Each tone is a property of the syllable, and the change in tone alters word meaning.

Q. Which Clues Are Not Related to Phonology?

Phonology deals with the systematic organization of sounds. Clues not related to phonology would be those concerned purely with physical production or perception of sounds, such as:

- ✚ Articulatory observations
- ✚ Acoustic properties (e.g., formants, waveform analysis)

Q. Convert transcribed words into plain words.

a) /weɪfəre/ wayfarer

b) /əʊnli/ b) only

c) /mæntl/ mantle

d) /tartər/ tartar

e) /ə. raʊnd/ around

Q. allophones OR Q. What does the statement "It is systematic variant of phoneme" tells.

An allophone is a definable systematic variant of a phoneme. Compare the following sets:

1. ‘s’ sound in words like sill, still and spill or in words like seed, steed and speed
2. ‘k’ sound in words like, key and car
3. ‘t’ sound in words like true and tea
4. ‘n’ sound in words like tenth and ten
5. Phone is a sound pattern having some acoustic features.

BS English

<https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaazKAVBfxoDMH4l9U0u>