The Phonetics of English Pronunciation (WS2008/9) Mock exam

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Note: Unless otherwise stated, all sections refer to the Southern British variety of English.

1 International Phonetic Alphabet

1.1 Consonants

Explain the meaning of the following IPA consonant symbols by marking the correct value for voicing, place, and manner of articulation. $(3 \times \text{per line})$

	voiced	voiceless	bilabial	labiodental	dental	alveolar	postalveolar	palatal	velar	glottal	plosive	nasal	tap/flap	fricative	approximant	lateral approx.
$[\int]$																
[g]																
[m]																

1.2 Vowels

Explain the meaning of the following IPA vowel symbols by marking the correct value for height, position, and rounding. $(3 \times \text{per line})$

			U	_ \			/							
	close	near-close	close-mid	mid	open-mid	near-open	open	front	near-front	central	near-back	back	unrounded	rounded
[a]														
[c]														
[i]														

Mock exam 2

2 US vs. British English

For each of the the following narrow transcriptions, mark whether the variety of English is more likely to be pronounced by a speaker of US or British English. (1 \times per row)

	British	SO
[ˈwaːtəː]		
[lixn]		

3 Pitfalls for Germans

The following *narrow* transcriptions contain instances of where a German speaker has mispronounced English words. For each one, mark which (if any) of the common pitfalls listed in the columns the speaker has fallen into. ($up \ to \ 9 \times per \ line$)

	1			\ <u>_</u>		_		,		
		$\langle au h angle$	FVC^a	/1/	"R"	\{w\}	$\langle { m ng} angle$	/æ/	${\rm diphthong}^b$	weakening c
manage	[ˈmɛnɪʧ]									
swallow	['solor']									

^aFinal Voiced Consonant(s)

4 Boundary effects

The following utterances contain several opportunities for words to be linked together or otherwise influence each others' pronunciation in *normal*, *fluent speech*. For every word boundary, mark whether a boundary effect is possible, and if yes, which kind occurs. $(1 \times \text{per column})$.

4.1 If ① only ② I ③ could ④ sing ⑤ higher ⑥ in ⑦ this ⑧ song!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
consonant-vowel linking								
[j]-linking								
[w]-linking								
[ɹ]-linking								
assimilation								
elision								
none of the above								

^bpronouncing diphthongs as monophthongs

^cweakening of unstressed vowels

Mock exam 3

5 Stress test

Display your understanding of unstressed vowel weakening by selecting the best transcription for each of the following English words. (Circle the corresponding letter)

5.1 irrevocably

- a. [ˌɪrəˈvəʊkəbli]
- b. [ˌɪrɛˈvəʊkəblɪ]
- c. [ˌɪrəˈvəʊkablı]
- d. [ˈəreˈvəʊkɪbli]

$5.2 \quad organisational$

- a. [ˌɔːgənɪˈzeɪʃənl̩]
- b. [ˌɔːganɪˈzeɪʃnəl]
- c. [ˌɔːgənɪˈzeɪʃnəl]
- d. [arginelose | constant | con

5.3 bad-mannered

- a. ['bæd'mænɪd]
- b. ['bæd'mænəd]
- c. ['bæd'mænd]
- d. [ˈbædˈmæneəd]