

Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Programme: MA (English)

IV Semester Examination, April/May-2026

Course Title: **Advanced Phonetics**

Course Code: **MAEN402DST**

Time: **3 Hours**

Maximum Marks: **70**

Note: This question paper consists of three parts: Part-A, Part-B, Part-C. Number of words to answer each question is only indicative. Attempt all parts.

Part-A: contains **10** compulsory questions of multiple choice / fill in the blank / very short answer type question. Answer all questions. Each question carries 1 mark. **(10x1= 10 marks)**

Part-B: contains **08** questions of which students are supposed to answer **05** questions. Answer each question in approximately 200 words. Each question carries 06 marks. **(05x6= 30 marks)**

Part-C: contains **05** questions of which students are supposed to answer **03** questions. Answer each question in approximately 500 words. Each question carries **10** marks. **(03x10= 30 marks)**

Part – A

1. Answer all the following questions:

- i. Which of the following is a front vowel?
a. /u:/ b. /ɑ:/ c. /ɔ:/ d. /i:/
- ii. Which phonological Feature distinguishes /p/ from /b/?
a. Place of articulation b. Voicing c. Manner of articulation d. Nasality
- iii. In the word photographer, the primary stress falls on the:
a. First syllable b. Fourth syllable c. Third syllable d. Second syllable
- iv. Which of the following best characterizes the rhythm pattern of English language?
a. Equal duration of syllables b. Timing based on stressed syllables
c. Tone-based timing d. Morphology-based timing
- v. Rising intonation is commonly associated with:
a. Statements b. Commands c. Yes–No questions d. Exclamatory sentences
- vi. Nasal consonants such as /m/ and /n/ are produced when:
a. The velum is raised and air flows through the mouth
b. The velum is lowered allowing air to pass through the nose
c. The vocal folds remain open
d. The oral cavity is completely closed
- vii. Which factor most strongly influences spoken English in India?
a. British colonial administration
b. Influence of regional languages and phonological systems
c. Absence of suitable education policies
d. Media influence
- viii. The tendency of Indian speakers to interchangeably pronounce /v/ and /w/ exemplifies -
a. Phonemic merger due to L1 influence
b. Morphological change
c. Semantic shift
d. Syntactic interference

- ix. In English phonology, the term nuclear stress refers to:
- a. The first stressed syllable in a word
 - b. The most prominent stress in an intonation group
 - c. Stress placed on grammatical words
 - d. Secondary stress in compound words
- x. The difference in stress between 'absent' (noun) and 'absent' (verb) demonstrates:
- a. Stress shift for grammatical distinction
 - b. Phonological assimilation
 - c. Stress pairing
 - d. Morphological derivation

Part – B

2. What do you understand by IPA? Discuss its importance in the process of learning English pronunciation.
3. Explain the structure and functions of the articulatory system.
4. What are voiced and voiceless sounds? Explain giving examples
5. Explain the concept of stress in English. How does it affect meaning?
6. What are the common pronunciation problems faced by Indian learners of English?
7. Differentiate between *tone*, *tonality* and *tonicity*.
8. Differentiate between 'stress timed rhythm' and 'syllable timed rhythm'.
9. Mark the primary stress in the following words:
development, photographer, examination, relation, comfortable, biology

Part – C

10. Suggest some effective methods and techniques for teaching English pronunciation.
11. Describe all the English consonant sounds in terms of place and manner of articulation.
12. Analyse intonation patterns in English. How do they function in expressing attitude, emotion, and grammatical meaning?
13. How far do you agree that 'it is crucial for Indian students to be taught English Phonetics'? Provide rationale for your viewpoint.
14. Transcribe the following and also mark the stress
Language plays a vital role in human communication and social interaction. It allows individuals to express their thoughts, emotions, and ideas effectively. In today's globalized world, English has become an important medium of communication in education, business, and technology.
