



**MASENO UNIVERSITY**  
**UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2016/2017**

**THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION FOR DEGREE  
OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LANGUAGE AND  
COMMUNICATION WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

**MAIN CAMPUS**

**AEN 305: ENGLISH PHONOLOGY**

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

Time: 3.30 - 6.30pm

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**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Question ONE and any other TWO.



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- Q.1. a) Illustrate how any five features of the Chomsky and Halle Distinctive Feature System are used to classify the consonants of English into natural classes. (20 marks)
- b) Describe any three features of suprasegmental phonology with examples from English (10 marks)
- Q.2. Generate data to illustrate the allophones associated with the following notions in English and write formal phonological rules to summarize the processes involved:
- a) the English negative prefix in- (6 marks)
- b) the English past tense morpheme (7 marks)
- c) the English plural morpheme (7 marks)
- Q.3. Discuss any two approaches to defining the term phoneme and evaluate the merits and demerits of each (20 marks)

Q.4. Explain and illustrate the following concepts as used in the study of phonology:

- a) juncture (4 marks)
- b) epenthesis (4 marks)
- c) apocope (4 marks)
- d) defective distribution (4 marks)
- e) syncope (4 marks)

Q.5. Using English examples, illustrate the formative processes and output of the following in phonology

- a) strengthening (4 marks)
- b) weakening (4 marks)
- c) gemination (4 marks)
- d) labialization (4 marks)
- e) palatalization (4 marks)