



MASENO UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS 2013/2014

**THIRD YEAR FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS FOR THE
DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (ARTS) WITH
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(MAIN CAMPUS)**

AEN 305: ENGLISH PHONOLOGY

Date: 20th November, 2013

Time: 8.30 - 10.30 a.m.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **Answer ANY THREE questions.**

AEN 305: ENGLISH PHONOLOGY

(REGULAR)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Answer **THREE** questions.

Question **ONE** is **COMPULSORY**

- Q.1. (a) Describe five binary distinctive features proposed by Chomsky and Halle and illustrate how they are used to classify English consonants into natural classes. (20 marks)
- (b) Explain the three main criteria used to distinguish the vowels of English (10 marks)
- Q.2. Explain how the fields of phonetics and phonology contribute to our understanding of the nature and form of the phoneme. (20 marks)
- Q.3. (a) Explain the conditioning environments for the following phonological processes:
- (i) Voice assimilation
 - (ii) Aspiration
 - (iii) Palatalization
 - (iv) Labialization
- (10 marks)

(b) Formulate well annotated phonological rules to illustrate any five phonological processes. (10 marks)

Q.4. Describe and illustrate the following concepts as used in phonological theory and analysis:

(i) The minimal pair test

(ii) Allophone

(iii) Free variation

(iv) Coarticulation

(v) Suprasegmental features (20 marks)

Q.5. With illustrations, discuss two approaches to defining the concept of the phoneme noting the strengths and weaknesses of each. (20 marks)