

Tarbet-Telfer Language & Accent Benchmarks

RP Sounds and Symbols

WRITTEN EXAMINATION (sample paper).

Time allowed for Questions 1 and 2: fifteen minutes.

QUESTION 1 - Terminology.

Tick the statements that are true (there is one in each group):-

- 1a. The symbol **V** denotes a nasal sound.
 1b. The symbol **V** denotes an alveolar sound.
 1c. The symbol **V** denotes a labio-dental sound.
- 2a. 'plosive' is a term that refers to the position of the tongue when making a consonant.
 2b. 'plosive' is a term that refers to the manner in which a consonant is made.
 2c. 'plosive' is a term that tells you whether a consonant is voiced or not.
- 3a. 'unrounded' is a term that refers to consonants.
 3b. 'unrounded' is a term that refers to vowels.
- 4a. The symbol **Λ** denotes a consonant.
 4b. The symbol **Λ** denotes a vowel.
- 5a. The symbol **ə** denotes a consonant.
 5b. The symbol **ə** denotes a vowel.
- 6a. A 'voiced' sound is one where the vocal chords don't vibrate.
 6b. A 'voiced' sound is one where the vocal chords vibrate.
- 7a. The term 'back' means that the tense part of the tongue is positioned near the back of the mouth.
 7b. The term 'back' means that the lips are drawn back.
- 8a. The symbol **Z** denotes a fricative.
 8b. The symbol **Z** denotes a plosive.
 8c. The symbol **Z** denotes an approximant.
- 9a. A 'bilabial' sound is produced using the tongue and the lower lip.
 9b. A 'bilabial' sound is produced using both lips.
 9c. A 'bilabial' sound is produced with the tongue pressed against the teeth.
- 10a. 'front' is a term that refers to the position of the tongue when a vowel is being produced.
 10b. 'front' is a term that refers to the position of the tongue when a consonant is being produced.

QUESTION 2 - *Transcription from orthography.*

Transcribe these words and phrases into IPA as they would be said in a standard RP accent:-

(Words:) rope, hammer, nail, cape, photon, pitch, fraction, class, evade, nonsense, figure, leeway, fashion.

(Phrases:) it's not my choice; I'll just have the cornflakes; they came last year.

QUESTION 3 - *Transcription from speech.*

Transcribe the material spoken by the examiner (or on a recording) into IPA. The material consists of 6 syllables (which may be words or nonsense), then 6 separate words, and then 2 phrases. *Return to main page to hear a sample test.*