



# **MAASAI MARA UNIVERSITY**

**REGULAR UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS  
2018/2019 ACADEMIC YEAR  
SECOND YEAR FIRST SEMESTER**

**SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
BACHELOR OF ARTS**

**COURSE CODE: LAC 2106**

**COURSE TITLE: ENGLISH PHONETICS**

**DATE: 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2018**

**TIME: 1100 - 1300 HRS**

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Question **ONE** is compulsory
- Answer any other **TWO** questions

*This paper consists of 3 printed pages. Please turn over.*

Q1) a). Phonetically describe the following speech sounds:

I). /m/ (5mks)

II). /v/ (5mks)

III). /p/ (5mks)

IV). /ʃ/ (5mks)

V). /g/ (5mks)

b). Explain the following aspects in phonetics:

I). Phonotactics (2mks)

II). Minimal pairs (2mks)

III). Phoneme (2mks)

IV). Phone (2mks)

V). Allophones (2mks)

Q2) a). Explain the four qualities used in describing vowels in English. (8mks)

b). Identify the underlined vowels in the following words and describe them using the right parameters:

I). Man (4mks)

II). egg (4mks)

III). Pool (4mks)

Q3) a). Phonetically transcribe the following words or phrases:

I). Singing (4mks)

II). Neat (3mks)

III). These boys (4mks)

b). Using the above words as your point of reference, phonetically describe the underlined sounds. (9mks)

Q4) a). With relevant examples, explain the following vowel sounds in English:

- I). Rounded vowels (2mks)
- II). Diphthongs (2mks)
- III). Back vowels (2mks)
- IV). High vowels (2mks)
- V). Front vowels (2mks)

b). Provide the phonetic symbol and articulatory description for the first and last sounds of the following words:

- I). Cheap
- II). Think
- III). On

(10mks)

Q5) a). Why is the study of phonetics relevant to you as a language student? (3mks)

b). Explain the importance of the International Phonetic Alphabet Chart. (5mks)

c). Describe the following vowels using the features given: /e/, /o/, /u/, /i/.

- I). Tongue height
- II). Tongue position
- III). Lip shape.

(12mks)

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