

Master's programmes in the Department of Phonetics and Linguistics MA PHONETICS: EVALUATION AND MARKING CRITERIA

The evaluation for the MA Phonetics consists of five components:

- Three 3-hour written exams in each of
 1. General Phonetics & Phonology (Paper1)
 2. Experimental Phonetics (Paper 2)
 3. Phonetics and Phonology of English (Paper 3)

Marks allocated for these three examined components included a weighted contribution from relevant practical tests as follows:

- a) A practical and oral test in general phonetics
 - b) Practical assessment in laboratory work (normally by lab reports submitted as coursework)
 - c) Listening and transcription tests in English phonetics
- Assessment in the Option (Paper 4), normally by a portfolio of coursework
 - One dissertation

The pass mark for all components of the programme is 50%. To be awarded the Master's degree, candidates must achieve an average mark of 50% or higher. The Board of Examiners may allow the possibility of a single condoned pass at Diploma level (at least 40%) in any one of Papers 1 to 4, but not in the dissertation.

To be awarded the MA Phonetics with distinction, a student must normally achieve a mark of 70% in the examination overall. This is calculated by taking the mean of

- i. the average mark for Papers 1-4, and
- ii. the mark for the dissertation

with the further requirement that neither (i) nor (ii) must normally be below 65%.

The attention of candidates is drawn to the following:

- In all components, answers must be clear and relevant
- In the examinations, it is essential to follow the instructions in the rubric and particularly to answer the number of questions specified
- In examined components, candidates will not be penalised for minor errors of style, punctuation, grammar, or spelling, provided the intention is clear

To obtain a distinction (70% or more):

In the **examinations**, answers must demonstrate a full understanding of the issues raised and of relevant technical terms and symbols. Arguments and discussion must be logical, succinct and coherent, and show critical awareness. Proper use should be made of diagrams where appropriate.

Essays and the **dissertation** must again show full understanding both of the issues involved and of the relevant literature, and must also show evidence of originality: *either* by the presentation and appropriate analysis of new data, *or* by the demonstration of critical ability, *or* by the synthesis of material from a number of different sources. A critical review of the literature is by itself unlikely to qualify for a distinction.

To obtain a pass (50% or more):

In the **examinations**, answers must demonstrate good understanding of the issues raised and sufficient mastery of the relevant terminology and symbols.

Essays and the **dissertation** must show good understanding of the issues involved and of the relevant literature. A good critical review of the literature is a sufficient basis for passable work, but the examiners will always attach weight to new data or independent analysis.

To obtain a condonable fail (40% or more)

In the **examinations**, answers will demonstrate sufficient understanding of the issues raised, and such knowledge of the relevant technical terminology and symbols to indicate some idea of the problem.

Essays will show some basic understanding both of the issues involved and of the relevant literature pertaining to the topic