

## AmE Pronunciation Varieties MOCK TEST

## Answer Sheet

A/2pts each

1a The author of *Accents of English*, 1982: **J.C. Wells**

1b The author of *Accents and Dialects for Stage and Screen*, 2010: **Paul Meier**

1c The author of *The Social Stratification of /r/ in NYC Dept. Stores*, 1966: **William Labov**

2 Match phonetic terms and their definitions:

A assimilation, B palatalization, C approximant, D glottis, E dialect, F devoicing.

**C.** A consonant in which the vocal tract is narrowed, but not enough to cause turbulent air flow.

**F.** The occurrence of a normally voiced consonant losing some or all of its voicing as happens in Dutch and German to final voiced consonants.

**A.** The fusion of two consonants into one.

**E.** A regional variant of a language distinguished by pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar from the standard form.

**D.** The space between the vocal folds.

**B.** The active upper position of tongue blade as occurs while pronouncing the semi-vowel /j/.

3 Transcribe the American pronunciations of the terms *futile*: ['fju:ɹɪ] or ['fju:ɹdɪ]

*aluminum*: [ə'lʌ:mnəm] *harrassment*: [hə'ræsmənt] *hostile*: ['hɒstɪ]

4 Which variety of AmE does the abbreviation AAVE stand for? What 2 other expressions are used for labeling it?

**African American Vernacular English, Ebonics, Jive**

5 The name of a British actor who has made a great success in a U.S. series about an unconventional sociopathic physician. **Hugh Laurie (House, M.D.)**

6 What are the three most typical indicators of accents of the American South?

**Slower tempo and drawl, monophthongizations, nasality, non-rhoticity in states such as Alabama.**

7 What can you say about rhoticity in the Boston area? **erratic**

8 What can you say about rhoticity in New York City? **variable**

9 Which are the three overseas varieties based on AmE, two in Asia and one in the Pacific?

**Singapore, the Philippines, Hawaii.**

10 Explain the difference between *pidgin* and *creole* and give examples.

**A pidgin (orig. from the Chinese pronunciation of *business*) is a simplified mix, a convenience to facilitate communication between two or more linguistic groups. It has no written form nor native speakers. It can in time be creolized to a language in its own right, such as Jamaican Patois.**

**B/ 2pts each** Match the origins of speakers reading “Please call Stella” prompted on the right with the numbers of their recordings.

**1 Fairfax, Virginia, U.S.A.**

**2 Brooklyn, NYC, U.S.A.**

**3 Fresno, California, U.S.A.**

**4 Pine Bluff, Arkansas, U.S.A.**

**5 Westmoreland, Jamaica**

**C/ 20pts** You will hear 5 celebrities talking about the legacy of Nelson Mandela. In the table, they appear in alphabetical order. Complete the order they appear in on the recording, their first names and nationalities. In the box “linguistic information” complete the data required. You will hear the 2.5-minute recording twice.

<b>Order</b> <i>1pt each</i>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b> <i>1pt each</i>	<b>Nationality</b> <i>1pt each</i>	<b>Linguistic information</b>
<b>5</b>	Bruni	<b>Carla</b>	<b>It/Fr</b>	<b>French rather than Italian accent</b>
<b>1</b>	Hopkins	<b>Anthony</b>	<b>English</b>	
<b>4</b>	Jackman	<b>Hugh</b>	<b>Aus</b>	<i>3pts:</i> What is the correct form of the word describing Mandela’s [mæg'næmɪtɪ] (full form, transcription, meaning:)? <b>magnanimity</b> <b>[.mægnə'nɪmətɪ] generosity</b>

<b>3</b>	Mirren	<b>Helen</b>	<b>English (of Russian origin)</b>	<p><i>1 pt:</i> What is her pronunciation of “status“?  <b>[ˈstɜrtəs]</b></p> <p><i>1 pt:</i>What is the Am. pronunciation of “status“?  <b>[ˈstærəs]</b></p>
<b>2</b>	Pitt	<b>Brad</b>	<b>American</b>	