Advanced Foundations of Phonetics

Phonetics · Answer Key · 25 Questions

1. Which articulatory feature distinguishes a 'voiced' consonant from an 'unvoiced' one?

A) The position of the tongue
B) The vibration of the vocal folds
C) The place of articulation
D) The release of a burst of air

2. What is the primary acoustic parameter that distinguishes the vowel /i/ from the vowel /u/?

A) Fundamental frequency
B) First formant (F1)
C) Second formant (F2)
D) Amplitude

3. In the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), what does a diacritic placed under a symbol typically denote?

A) Nasalization
B) Retroflexion
C) Syllabicity
D) Voicing

4. Which phonological process describes the transition where a consonant is articulated at the same place as a following consonant?

A) Assibilation
B) Assimilation
C) Aspiration
D) Affrication

5. What is the term for speech sounds produced by obstructing the airflow in the vocal tract?

A) Sonorants
B) Obstruents
C) Approximants
D) Nasals

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6. Which of the following articulators is considered 'passive' in the production of speech?

A) The tongue
B) The lower lip
C) The alveolar ridge
D) The soft palate

7. What is the 'Voice Onset Time' (VOT) in the context of stop consonants?

A) The duration of the closure period
B) The interval between stop release and voicing onset
C) The total time of the burst
D) The amplitude of the preceding vowel

8. Which sound is classified as a 'labiodental fricative' in the IPA?

A) /f/
B) /p/
C) /m/
D) /s/

9. What is the phonetic term for the smallest contrastive unit in a language's sound system?

A) Phone
B) Allophone
C) Phoneme
D) Morpheme

10. Which vowel is described as 'close back rounded' in the IPA vowel chart?

A) /i/
B) /e/
C) /u/
D) /o/

11. What defines a 'pulmonic' consonant?

A) Produced with air from the lungs
B) Produced without tongue movement
C) Produced using only the lips
D) Produced using a velaric airstream

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12. The 'Place of Articulation' for the sound /k/ is classified as:

A) Alveolar
B) Palatal
C) Velar
D) Glottal

13. What is the function of the 'velopharyngeal port' during the production of nasal sounds?

A) It closes off the nasal cavity
B) It remains open to allow air into the nasal cavity
C) It vibrates to create sound
D) It controls the pitch of the voice

14. Which of these sounds is technically classified as an 'approximant'?

A) /t/
B) /s/
C) /j/
D) /m/

15. The term 'diphthong' refers to a vowel sound characterized by:

A) A single constant tongue position
B) A change in quality within a single syllable
C) The presence of two distinct syllables
D) The lack of vocal fold vibration

16. What do the numbers on the IPA vowel quadrilateral represent?

A) Vowel duration
B) The formant frequencies
C) The position of the tongue height and advancement
D) The loudness of the vowel

17. Which IPA symbol represents the 'voiced alveolar nasal'?

A) /n/
B) /m/
C) /n/
D) /n/

18. What is the primary difference between a 'glide' and a 'vowel'?

A) Glides have higher amplitude
B) Glides function as syllable margins
C) Vowels are produced with more constriction
D) Glides are always voiceless

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19. Which of the following is a 'sibilant' fricative?

A) /f/
B) /?/
C) /s/
D) /h/

20. What is the acoustic effect of increasing the length of a vocal tract?

A) Higher formant frequencies
B) Lower formant frequencies
C) No change in formants
D) Increased fundamental frequency

21. What does the term 'coarticulation' describe?

A) Two sounds produced simultaneously
B) The overlapping of speech gestures
C) The silencing of consonants
D) The movement of the jaw only

22. In phonetics, what is a 'glottal stop' (/?/)?

A) A vowel produced in the throat
B) A stop consonant produced at the glottis
C) A fricative sound
D) A nasal sound

23. Which feature is characteristic of 'lateral' consonants?

A) Air escapes over the center of the tongue
B) Air escapes over the sides of the tongue
C) The tongue touches the teeth
D) The soft palate is closed

24. The sound /r/ in most varieties of English is phonetically classified as:

A) A trill
B) A flap
C) A rhotic liquid
D) A nasal

25. What is the study of the physical properties of speech sounds, such as frequency and intensity, called?

A) Articulatory phonetics
B) Acoustic phonetics
C) Auditory phonetics
D) Phonology

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