

Section A [30 marks]

1. For many English speakers (especially in Britain), *r* is a silent letter in some situations. For example, the word *word* is pronounced without the *r*-sound heard in the word *run*. The following are some words spelled with *r*. A box is printed around the letter *r* where a certain speaker, Amy, did not pronounce an *r*-sound when she read out the words one by one. (All examples of the letter *r* are printed in bold, to draw your attention to them.)

apron  
red  
beard  
aggravate  
green  
clever

elder  
scare  
start  
pear  
orange  
word

pretty  
early  
area  
person  
clear  
are

Give a rule or rules to predict when Amy will pronounce an *r* in reading out words one at a time, and when she will not.

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The following is an example of something Amy said when speaking naturally (not just reading out a list of words). A box is again printed around instances of the letter *r* where Amy did not pronounce an *r*-sound:

The early bird catches the worm, but the even earlier fish just goes for a swim in the clear morning water. A clever adder sleeps rather later than a rather early bird or a rather earlier fish. An early adder is not very clever. It's too cold for an adder in the clear air of morning. It's different for a hare.

Give a rule or rules to predict when Amy will pronounce an *r*-sound in speaking naturally.

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Assume that Amy always follows the same rules. In the following passage, put a circle around the letter *r* where you would not expect Amy to pronounce an *r*-sound when speaking naturally:

*Never ask your neighbour during lessons what's underneath the floor.*

*Always wait for break. Then ask her if you dare.*