Grading Rubric for a Phonological Analysis within a Classical Generative Framework

Identification of the alternations

*Good:* all of the alternations are identified.

*Mediocre:* some of the alternations are identified.

*Bad:* none of the alternations are identified.

(Note that it is impossible to get full credit on any of the remaining grading criteria unless all of the alternations are correctly identified.)

Identification of the underlying forms

*Good:* Each of the alternating phones or morphemes are represented as a unitary underlying representation (phoneme or morpheme) and the allophones or allomorphs of each are stated (e.g., the phoneme /X/ has two allophones [Y] and [Z].)

*Mediocre:* Some of the alternating phones or morphemes are represented as a unitary underlying representation and/or not all of the allomorphs or allophones of each underlying representation is specified.

*Bad:* None of the alternating phones or morphemes are represented as a unitary underlying representation, nor are the allophones or allomorphs specified.

(Note that it is impossible to get full credit on any of the remaining grading criteria unless all of the underlying forms are correctly identified.)

Statement of the rule(s) in prose (e.g., /X/ becomes [Y] in context A, but becomes [Z] in context B.)

As far as the context of the rule is concerned, a good analysis:

1-states the context that conditions the alternation using solely phonological/phonetic terms such as phones, syllable positions, word boundaries, stress, etc. (e.g., /X/ becomes [Y] syllable finally). Morphological terminology such as stem, affix, part of speech, declension, tense, mood, etc. is not used (e.g., /X/ becomes [Y] before the dative suffix).

2-uses conditioning factors that are closer to the alternation (e.g., /X/ becomes [Y] after a high vowel), even though extremely creative people may find more distant ones (e.g., /X/ becomes [Y] in words beginning with /t/, /h/, or /m/).

3-is carried out by assuming that all morphemes are preassembled before rule application begins, and that phonological rules do not add or remove morphemes.
As far as the application of the rule(s) is concerned, a good analysis:

1-has rules that convert all of the underlying representations into their correct surface forms.

2-has rules that never apply to forms without the alternation.

3-formulates rules that describe common phonological processes such as palatalization, assimilation, vowel raising, deletion, etc., rather than unusual processes (e.g., /X/ becomes [Y] in bisyllabic words containing /v/).

4-subsumes all related alternations into the one rule, rather than positing several different rules (Bad example: /d/ becomes [t] word finally, /g/ becomes [k] word finally, and /b/ becomes [p] word finally. Good example: voiced stops devoice word finally).

5-states the order (if any) in which the rules must apply.

6-has the fewest and simplest rules possible.

Exemplification of Rules with Sample Derivations

A good sample derivation:

1-puts sample underlying forms as column headers and rules as row headers.

2-uses sample underling forms that undergo and do not undergo each rule.

3-shows the intermediate outcome of the application of each rule.

4-demonstrates whether rule ordering is necessary or not.