Initial Survey

Please answer as many of the following questions as possible. Remember: this is a survey, not a test, so the questions are genuine questions, i.e. I don't know the answers. You can send me your reply via any electronic means that are convenient (e.g., convert and/or edit the PDF file; or print it out, fill it in by hand, then scan or photograph the completed sheets; etc.). My email is:
`r.spence@mx.uni-saarland.de`

1. What is your name?

2. In English, we usually use first names in university courses. You can call me Rob, or Robert, or even Bob (but only in French, and only because my French professor in 1975 wrongly assumed that all Roberts are called Bob in English)... so... how should I address you?

3. What are your pronouns? (I am a gay man and my preferred pronouns are either *he/him* or *they/them*—let's reclaim the gender-neutral singular pronoun! If my alter-ego Susan conducts one of the classes, then you should use *she/her*.)

4. I am very bad at putting names to faces. How will I recognize you? What is your most characteristic feature?

5. Tell me one really boring thing about yourself:

6. Have you taken the Phonetics lecture course yet? (Or are you taking it concurrently with my course?) Or have you already taken a lecture course in Phonetics somewhere else?

7. Where did you learn English? (Which country? If in Germany, which *Bundesland*?)

8. Did your teachers use IPA symbols (symbols like θ ð ʃ ʒ ə æ ɜː) to show the pronunciation of words? If not, how did they show the correct pronunciation?

9. Did you ever have to write IPA symbols?

10. Do you feel you are able to read IPA symbols without difficulty?

11. Do you feel you are able to use IPA symbols to record the pronunciation of English accurately?

12. (We'll go into this in more detail the first time I hear you speaking English; and I'll give you feedback on your pronunciation and advice about what to concentrate on, but for the time being:) Which aspects of your English pronunciation do you feel you most need to work on?

13. Do you speak more British English (as will be taught in this course) or more American English?

14. Is there a native English speaker (maybe an actor or singer) whose pronunciation you admire and try to copy? Who is it?

15. Have you spent time in an English-speaking country? Which one? And which city? How long? Doing what? How long ago?

16. What is your native language? What other languages do you speak besides your native language and English, and how well do you speak them?

17. How easy is it for you to work online? (Think of download speed, data limits, etc.; there will be videoconferences, and there will be pre-recorded videos you can download or stream, plus some large-ish PDF files and audio files.)

18. Which would you prefer—purely online? hybrid (face-to-face with live streaming on the internet)? face-to-face teaching on campus in Saarbrücken?

19. Which do you prefer: Microsoft Teams or Zoom? Why?

20. Do you have any health or disability or other issues? (Some examples from previous semesters: allergies to old building materials; impaired vision; anxiety about tests or examinations or interacting with other people; problems arranging childcare; part-time jobs that consume most of your time.)

21. You can write any further comments or questions to me here: