

SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION

HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE 2003

COURSE II

B1 Old English Philology

Tuesday, 20 May 2003, 9.30 am – 12.30 pm

Time allowed - Three hours

Answer Question 1 and *two* others. You should pay careful attention in your answers to the precise terms of the question.

Do not turn over until told that you may do so

Answer Question 1 and *two* others. You should pay careful attention in your answers to the precise terms of the question.

1. Write a linguistic commentary on **two** of the following passages:

(a)

- Ðā ic ðā ðīs eall gemunde, ðā gemunde ic ēac hū ic geseah, ær ðæm
ðe hit eall forhergod wære ond forbærned, hū ðā ciricean giond eall
Angelcynn stōdon māðma ond bōca gefyldæ, ond ēac micel mengeo Godes
ðīowa; ond ðā swiðe lýtle fiforme ðāra bōca wiston, for ðæm ðe hīe hiora
5 nānwuhnt ongiotan ne meahton, for ðæm ðe hīe nāron on hiora āgen geðīode
āwritene. Swelce hīe cwæden: ‘Ure ieldran, ðā ðe ðās stōwa ær hīoldon, hīe
lufodon wīsdōm, ond ðurh ðone hīe begēaton welan ond ūs lāfdon. Hēr mon
mæg gīet gesiōn hiora swæð, ac wē him ne cunnon æfter spyrigean. For
10 ðæm wē habbað nū ægðer forlāten ge ðone welan ge ðone wīsdōm, for ðæm
ðe wē noldon tō ðæm spore mid ūre mōde onlūtan’
Ðā ic ðā ðīs eall gemunde, ðā wundrade ic swiðe swiðe ðāra gōdena wiotena
ðe giū wāron giond Angelcynn, ond ðā bēc be fullan eallæ geliornod
hæfdon, ðæt hīe hiora ðā nānne dāl noldon on hiora āgen geðīode wendan.

(b)

- Mec se uēta uong, uundrum frēorig,
ob his innaðae ærest cæn[d]æ.
[Ni] uaat ic mec biuorhitæ uullan flūsum,
hērum ðerh hēhcraeft hygiðonc[um mīn].
5 Uundnae mē ni bīað ueflæ, ni ic uarp hafæ,
ni ðerh ðrēatun giðraec ðrēt mē hlummith.
Ne mē hrūtendu hrīsil scelfath,
ne mec ðuana aam sceal cnyssa.
Uyrmas mec ni āuēfun uyrði craeftum,
10 ðā ðī geolu godueb geatum fraetuath.
Uil mec huethrae suā ðēh uīdæ ofaer eorðu
hātan mith hēliðum hyhtlic giuāde.
Nī ancēgnu ic mē aerigfaerae egsan brōgum,
ðēh ðī n[ume]n sīæ nīudlīcae ob cocrum.

(c)

- Gebledsad Dryhten God Israēl, for ðon nēasede ond dyde ālēsnisse folces his, ond ārehte horn hālu ūs in hüse Dāuiðes cnehtes his, swē spreocende wes ðorh mūð hāligra his wītgena, ðā from weorulde sind. Ond gefrēade ūsic from fiondum ūrum, ond of honda alra ðā ūsic fiodun; tō dōnne
- 5 5 mildheortnisse mid fedrum ūrum, ond gemunan cȳðnisse his hāligre ðone swergandan ãð ðone hē swōr tō Abrahāme feder ūrum, sellende hine ūs; ðet būtan ege of hondum fionda ūra gefrēade wē ðīwgen him in hālignisse ond rehtwīsnisse bīforan him allum dægum ūrum. Ond ðū cneht, wītga ðes hēstan ðū bist gecēd; foregāst sōðlīce bīforan onsīene Dryhtnes gearwian
- 10 10 wegas his, tō sellenne wīsdōm hālu folce his in forlētnisse synna heara ðorh innoðas mildheortnisse Godes ūres, in ðām nēasade ūsic ufancumende of hēanisse, inlīhtan ðissum ðā in ðēostrum ond in scede dēaðes sittað, tō gereccenne fōt ūre in weg sibbe.

(d)

- Ic Ōsuulf aldormonn mid Godes gæfe ond Beornōryð mīn gemecca sellað tō Cantuarabyrg, tō Crīstes cirican, ðæt lond æt Stānhāmstede, XX swuluncga, Gode allmehtgum ond ðere hālgon gesomnuncgæ, fore hyhte and fore aedlēane ðæs æcan ond ðaes tōwardon līfes, ond fore uncerra sāula
- 5 5 hēla ond uncerra bearna. Ond mid micelre ēaðmōdnisse biddað ðæt wit mōten bīon on ðēm gemānon ðe ðær Godes ðīowas siondan, ond ðā menn ðā ðær hlāfordas wāron, ond ðāra monna ðe hiora lond to ðære cirican saldon; ond ðættæ mon unce tīde ymb tuelf mōnað mon geuueorðiae on godcundum gōdum ond æc on aelmessan suā mon hiora dōð.
- 10 10 Ic ðonne Uulfred mid Godes gaefe *arc epis* ðās forecuaedenan uuord fulliae, ond bebēode ðæt mon ymb tuelf mōnað hiora tīd bōega ðus geuueorðiae to ānes daeges tō Ōsuulfes tīde ge mid godcundum gōdum ge mid aelmessan ge æc mid hīgna suēsendum

2. ‘It must first be emphasized that the dialectal names are in this book used practically without claim to territorial significance’ (Alistair Campbell, *Old English Grammar*). Characterise the meaning of the term ‘dialect’ in the study of Old English dialects.
3. Make a case either for or against the uniformity of the language of the peoples involved in the *adventus Saxonum vel Anglorum*.
4. Chart the major chronological changes in any one Old English dialect in the period covered by the surviving texts.
5. Write on the influence of any one dialect of Old English on any other(s).

- 6 What, in your opinion, is the proper chronological order either of second fronting and *i*-mutation or of back mutation and smoothing? Give evidence and reasons
- 7 Assess the value of any one type of evidence for the study of the Old English dialects.
- 8 ‘The English gloss, or interlinear translation, of the [*Vespasian*] *Psalter* and hymns is the most extensive (and probably the purest) text in the Mercian dialect’ (S.M. Kuhn). In what ways does the language of the *Vespasian Psalter* gloss differ from that of other Old English texts commonly regarded as Mercian?
- 9 Either (a) Investigate the proposition that the Kentish dialect enjoyed a special relationship with Old Frisian and the languages of the Low Countries.
Or (b) Is it possible to outline a lexis associated with the ecclesiastical centre of Canterbury?
- 10 Give an account of features of morphological interest in the language of the *Lindisfarne Gospel* glosses.
11. In what principal ways does either the phonology or the lexis or the word order of Old English poetry differ from that of the surviving prose?
12. How phonetic is Old English orthography?
13. What developments are there in syntax in the Old English period?