

DENB 2411

SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION

HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE 2004

COURSE II

PAPER B1 OLD ENGLISH PHILOLOGY

Tuesday, 18 May 2004, 9.30 am to 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 questions.

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 questions.

1. Write a linguistic commentary on TWO of the following passages.

(a)

For þām hit is on ūs eallum swutol and gesēne þæt wē ær þysan oftor
bræcan þonne wē bēttan, and þy is þysse þēode fela onsæge. Ne dohte
hit nū lange inne ne ūte, ac wæs here and hunger, bryne and blōdgyte on
gewelhwylcan ende oft and gelōme; and ūs stalu and cwalu, strīc and
steorfa, orfcwealm and uncobu, hōl and hete and rypera rēaflāc derede
swyþe þearle, and ungylda swyðe gedrehtan, and ūs unwedera foroft
wēoldan unwæstma; for þām on þysan earde wæs, swā hit þincan mæg,
nū fela gēara unrihta fela and tealte getrywða æghwær mid mannum. Ne
bearh nū foroft gesibban þē mā þe fremdan, ne fæder his bearne,
ne hwīlum bearn his āgenum fæder, ne brōþor ðīrum; ne ūre ænig his līf
fadode swā swā hē sceolde, ne gehādode regollīce, ne læwede lahlīce.
Ac worhtan lust ūs tō lage ealles tō gelōme, and naþor ne hēoldan ne
lāre ne lage Godes ne manna swā swā wē scoldan. Ne ænig wið ðīerne
getrywlīce þōhte swā rihte swā hē scolde, ac mæst ælc swicode and
ðīrum derede wordes and dæde; and hūru unrihtlīce mæst ælc ðīerne
æftan hēaweb mid sceandlican onscytan, dō māre, gif hē mæge.

(b)

Bihald, heofen, ond spreocu, ond gehēre eorðe word of mūðe mīnum.
Adtende caelum, et loquar, et audiat terra verba ex ore meo.
Sīe ābiden swē sw[ē] regn gesprec mīn, ond āstīgen swē swē
exspectetur sicut pluvia eloquium meum, et descendant sicut
dēaw word mīn, swē swē scūr ofer grēd, ond swē swē snāw ofer
ros verba mea, sicut imber super gramen, et sicut nix super
hēg; for ðon noma[n] Dryhtnes ic gecēgu; sellað micelnisse Gode
faenum quia nomen Domini invocabo, date magnitudinem Deo
5 ūrum. God, sōð werc his, ond alle wegas his dōmas. God getrēowe
nostro. Deus, vera opera ejus, et omnes viæ ejus judicia. Deus fidelis
ond nis unrehtwīsnis in him; rehtwīs ond hālig Dryhten. Syngadun
et non est iniquitas in eo; justus et sanctus Dominus. peccaverunt,
nales him bearn unwemmu, cnēoris ðweoru ond forcerredu; ðās Dryhten
non ei filii immaculati, natio prava et perversa; haec Domino
geedlēanades, swē folc dysig ond nales snottur. Ahne ðes ilca ðīn feder
retribuisti, sic plebs fatua et non sapiens. nonne hic ipse tuus pater
gesiteð ðec, dyde ðec, ond gescōp ðec? In mōde habbað dægas
possedit te, fecit te, et creavit te? in mente habete dies
10 weorulde: ongeotað gēr cnēorisce cnēorissa. Frign feder ðīnne ond
saeculi; intellegite annos nationis nationum. interroga patrem tuum et
segeð ðē; ældran ðīne, ond cweoðað ðē. Donne tōdāēleð se Hēa
adnuntiabit tibi; seniores tuos et dicent tibi. cum dividerit Excelsus
ðīode, tō ðæm gemete tōstrigdeð bearn Ādāmes, sette endas
gentes, quemadmodum dispersit filios Adae, statuit terminos
ðīeda efter rīme eng[l]a Godes.
gentium secundum numerum angelorum Dei.

(c)

- + Dis sindan geðinga Ealhburge and Ēadwaldes et ðēm lande et Burnan, hwet man ēlce gēre ob ðēm lande tō Crīstes cirican ðēm hīwum āgiaban scel, for Ealhburge and for Ealdred and fore Ēadweald and Ealawynne:
5 XL ambra mealtes and XL and CC hlāba, I wēge cēsa, I wēge species, I eald hrīðer, IIII weðras, X gōēs, XX henfugla, IIII fōðra weada. And ic Ealhburg bebiade Ēadwealde mīnem mēge an Godes naman and an ealra his hāligra ðet hē ðis wel healde his dei and siððan forð bebēode his erbum to healdenne ðā hwīle ðe hit crīsten sē. + And suelc mon sē ðet
10 lond hebbe ēghwylce Sunnandege XX gesuflra hlāfa tō ðāre cirican for Ealdredes sāule and for Ealhburge.
+ Dis is sīa elmesse ðe Ealhhere bebēad Ealawynne his dōēhter et Dengleshām, et III sulungum: ēlce gēre C peñ tō Crīstes cirican ðēm hīgum. And suelc man sē ðisses landes brūce, āgebe ðis fiah an Godes gewitnesse and an ealra his hāligra, and suilc man suē hit āwēge, ðonne sē hit on his sāwale, nas on ðes ðe hit dōn hēt.

(d)

- nellas gē se^alla hālig hundum ne sendas gē meregrotta īurre before
nolite dare sanctum canibus, neque mittatis margaritas vestras ante
berg. ðy læs hīa getrede ðā ilco mið fōtum hiora & gewoendo vel
gecerdo
porcos; ne forte conculcent eas pedibus suis, et conversi
tōslitas īuh giwⁱas vel gebiddas gē & gesald bið īuh sōēcað gē & gē
disrumpant vos. petite, et dabitur vobis; quōrite, et
infindes vel gē begeattas cnysað vel cnyllas gē & untyned bið īuh
5 ēghuelc
invenietis; pulsate, et aperietur vobis. omnis
forðon sē ðe giuæð vel biddes onfōēð & sē ðe sōēcas infindes & ðæm
enim qui petit, accipit: et qui quōrit, invenit; et
cnysende vel cnyllende untūned bið vel huā is from īuh monn ðene gif
pulsanti aperietur. aut quis est ex vobis homo quem si
hē giuias sunu his hlāf cuidestū done stān rāēceð vel seles him vel
petierit filius suus panem numquid lapidem porriget ei? aut
gif ðone fisc wilniað vel giuias cuiðestū ðā nēdræ ræces him gif ðonne īuh
si piscem petet numquid serpentem porriget ei? si ergo vos
10 mið ðy gē aron yflo wutas gē gōðo gesealla sunum īurum māra wōēn is
cum sitis mali nostis bona dare filiis vestris, quanto magis
fader īuer sē ðe in heofnum is geselleð gōðo biddendum vel giuendum
pater vester qui in caelis est dabit bona petentibus
hine se!

2. Are there any “dialectal variations” in Old English that can be satisfactorily explained as the result of variations in pre-Old English stages of Germanic ?
3. Discuss the usefulness of the notion of ‘dialect mixture’ in explaining the characteristics of the language of **any one** Old English text or group of texts.
4. “Our accounts of Old English ‘phonology’ are really not much more than classifications of spellings, and any attempts to apply general phonetic or phonological principles to the subject are of little help.” Discuss, with reference to some specific issues in “Old English ‘phonology’”.
5. What models other than that of “sound change” do you find of value as means of explaining linguistic developments in Old English ? Discuss some specific such developments.
6. Examine ways in which our knowledge of Middle English helps in our efforts to establish any features of Old English.
7. Can we trace any processes of morphological change within the Old English period ?
8. Discuss the extent of our knowledge and understanding of **one** of the following:
 - (a) word order patterns in Old English;
 - (b) uses of the subjunctive in Old English.
9. “It is in the area of lexis that Old English historical linguistics made the most noteworthy advances in the second half of the 20th century.” Give an account of (and discuss the significance of) any such advances.
10. Of what importance are runic texts for our knowledge of **any one or more** aspects of Old English ? Include in your answer a discussion of any particular problems of interpretation they present
11. Assess the arguments for the association of the language of the *Vespasian Psalter* gloss with a particular Old English dialect area.
12. How far (and by what means) can we establish the characteristic features of a “Kentish” dialect at any point(s) in the Anglo-Saxon period ?