

**DENB 2453  
DCLE 2453**

**SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION**

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**HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE COURSE II  
2008**

**HONOUR SCHOOL OF CLASSICS AND ENGLISH**

**B23 OLD AND EARLY MIDDLE IRISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

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**TRINITY TERM 2008**

**Tuesday, 27 May, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.**

**Time allowed - Three hours**

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**Answer Question 1 and two others. You should pay 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 question.**

1. Translate three of the following passages, choosing at least one from each section, and comment on any points of special interest in their subject-matter and their linguistic forms:

#### SECTION A

- (a) Teccat iarum maic Nechtan Scéne. ‘Cia fil sund?’ ol fer diib. ‘Mac becc do-chóid indiu ar esclu hi carpat,’ ol in t-arae. ‘Nípo do shóinmigi,’ ol in láech, ‘7 nírop do fhechtnaigi dó a chétgabáil gaiscid. Ná bíd innar thír 7 ná gelat ind eich and ní as móo, ol in láech. ‘Ataat a n-éssí im láim-se,’ ol in t-arae. ‘Nírbo lat-su tuillem ecráite,’ ol Ibar frísín láech, ‘7 atá dano in macc inna chothud. ‘Nída macc écin,’ ol Cú Chulainn, ‘acht is do chuinchid chomraic fri fer do-dechuid in macc fil and.’ ‘Is sain lim-sa ón,’ ol in láech. ‘Bid sain duit-siu indossa isind áth ucum,’ ol Cú Chulainn.
- (b) Tíagait iarum eich in chethrair i n-aigid in tshlóig 7 a fortcháit forderga forai. Inda leo ba cath boí ara ciunn isin áth. Do-tét buiden úadib do déicsin ind átha. Ní accatar ní and acht sliucht ind óencharpait, 7 in gabul cosnaib cethrib cennaib 7 ainm n-oguim íarna scrifbund inna tóeb. Ricc in sluag uile la sodain. ‘In diar muintir-ní na cenna ucum?’ ol Medb. ‘Is diar muintir-ní ón 7 is diar forglidib,’ ol Ailill. Ar-léga fer diib in n-ogom ro boí i tóeb na gablae, i. ‘Óenfher ro lá in gabul cona óen-láim, 7 ní téssid secce conda rala nech úaib cona óen-láim cenmi-thá Fergus.’
- (c) Íar sin at-racht sūas ocus no·mbertaigedar. ‘Bad maith dūn’ olse ‘ocus dona hōegedaib dod<o>n·āncatar.’ Anait sidi leis trí laa ocus tēora aidchi. Ocus tēit leo for leth (i. la techta Connacht prius). ‘Ro·bá-sa trá’ olse ‘i n-imshnīm mōr ocus cuntabairt móir co·nderglē i. do·ratus-<s>a in coin do Ailill ocus do Meidb. Ocus tecat ar chenn in chon co sochruid ocus co hūallach, ocus ros·bia lind ocus biad ocus ascada, ocus bērtait in coin, ocus is fochen dóib.’ Buidig sidi dano. Luid íar sin co techta Ulad. ‘Do·ratus-<s>a trá’ olse ‘asmo chuntabairt in coin do Chonchobur. Ocus bad ūallach tīastar ara chenn i. formna mathe Ulad. Bērtait ascada uili ocus ros·bia failte.
- I n-ōenló immurgu ro·dālsat-som etir aníar ocus anair. Niro·follaiged lēo-som dano. Táncatar dā cōiced Hērenn i n-ōenló co·mbátar i ndoruss bruidne Meic Dathó. Do·luid-seom fessin ara cenn ocus feraid fālti friu. ‘Ni<b>·farc<h>elsam, a ócu,’ olse; ‘ar apaide is mochen dūib. Taīt issin less!’
- (d) ‘Tecat don chomram a fecht-sa!’ ol Conall. Ni·fríth ón la Connachta láech a thairisme. Do·ratad immurgu damdabach dona boccótib immi im<m>a c<h>ūairt, ar ro·boí drochcostud is’taig do chloīndībircithib la drochdaīni. Luid íarum Conall do rainn na mmuccé. Ocus gebid dano cenn in tarra ina bēolo, co·tairnic dó rann na mmuccé. Ro·sūig in tairr i. ere ind nónbair cona·farcaib

bannai de.

Ní tarat *immurgu* do Chonnachtaib acht dā c<h>ois na-mmucce foa brágít. Ba becc *dano* la Connachta a cuit. At·ragat sidi, at·ragat *dano* Ulaid, co·rracht cách araile. Ro·boí trā buille dar áo i suidiu, combo comard ra sliss in tige in carnáil ro·boí for a lár, co mbátar na strotha din chrú forna doirsiu. Maidith *dano* in sluag forna doirsiu co·rralsat soïmöl for lár ind liss .i. cäch oc trūastad a chēli. Is and gabais Fergus dōib daur mór ro·boí for lár ind liss assa frēnaib. Maidit immach *dano* assind liss. Do·berar in cath i ndorus ind liss.

## SECTION B

- (a) ‘Marbhar ind ingen!’ ol ind óic.  
‘Ni·thó!’ ol Conchobor, ‘Bērthair lim-sa ind ingen i mbārach,’ ol Conchobor, ‘ocus ailebhair dom réir feín ocus bid sí ben bías im fharrad-sa.’  
Ocus nira lāmatar Ulaid a chocert immi. Do·gníther ón *dano*: ro·alt la  
5 Conchobor co·mbo sí ingen as mór-állem ro·boí i n-Hērinn. Is i llis fo leith ro·alt connach·accéder fer di Ultaib cosin n-úair no·foad la Conchobor ocus ni·baī duine no·lēicthe issin les sin acht a haite-si ocus a mumme ocus *dano* Lebarcham, ar ní·éta gabáil di ssidi ar ba ban-cháinte.  
Fecht n-and *didiu* baí a haite na ingine oc fennad loīg fhothlai for  
10 snechtu i-mmaig issin gaimriuth dia fhuni di-ssi. Co·n-acca-si ní, in fiach oc ól inna fola forsin t-shnechtu. Is and as·bert-si fri Lebarchaim:  
‘Ro·pad inmain öen-fher forsa·mbetis na tri dath ucut .i. in folt amal in fiach ocus in grúad amal in fuil ocus in corp amal in snechta.’  
‘Orddan ocus tocad duit!’ ar in Lebarcham. ‘Ni cían úait. Atá is’taig it  
15 arrad .i. Noísi mac Usnig.’  
‘Ni·pam slán-sa ám,’ ol·si, ‘conid·n-accur-saide.’
- (b) Ónd úair ro·scáich dóib fiadach in t-shlébe, do·elsat for cethra fer n-Alban do thabairt chucu. Do·chótar side dia ndīlgjund i n-öen-ló co·ndeochatar dochum ríg Alban conda·rragaib ina munteras ocus coro·gabsat amsaini acca ocus  
5 ro·suidigsitar a tige issind fhaithchi. Im déigin ina ingine do·rónta na tige conna·haced nech leo hí ar dáig naro·marbtais impe.  
Fecht n-and *didiu* luid in rechtaire matain moch co·rralai cor imma tech-som. Co·n-accae in lānamain inna cotluth. Do·chūaid īar sin coro·dúsig in ríg.  
‘Ni·fūaramar-ni,’ or·se, ‘mnaī do dingbāla-so cosin diu. Atá i fail  
10 Noísen maic Uislen ben dingbāla ríg farthair domuin. Marbhar fo chét-óir Noísi ocus foath in ben lat-so,’ ol in rechtaire.  
‘Acc,’ ol in rí, ‘acht eirg-siu dia guidi dam-sa cech lāa fo chlith.’  
Do·gníther ón. A n-at·bered *immurgu* in rechtaire frie-si chaidchi, ad·féded-si dia cēliu in n-aidchi sin fo chét-óir.

TURN OVER

- (c) Cia beimmi a-min nach ré  
nī derban cách a chēle:  
maith la cechta nár a dán;  
subaigthius a óenurán.
- Hē fesin as choimsid dáu  
in muid du-ngní cach ōenláu;  
du thabairt doraid du glé  
for mu mud cēin am messe.

- (d) Int én bec  
ro léic feit  
do rinn guip  
glanbuidi:  
fo-ceird faíd  
ós Loch Laíg  
lon do chraíb  
charnbuidi.

2. Translate three of the following passages and comment on words or phrases printed in italics in the three passages chosen:

- (a) Teccat di shuidiu co Slíab Fúait. Fo-reccat Conall Cernach and. Do Chonall dano do-rala imdegail in chóicid a lláa sin. Fo bíth no mbíid cach láth gaile di Ultaib a láa i Sléib Fúait fri snádud neich *do-d-issed* co n-airchetul nó do chomiruc fri fer, combad and sin *con-rístae* friss, arná téised nech *dochum nEmna* cen rathugud. ‘Do shóinmigi sin trá,’ ol Conall, ‘rob do búaid 7 choscur.’ ‘*Eirg-siu* trá, a Chonaill, don dún, 7 nom léic-se oc forairi sund colléic,’ ol Cú Chulainn.
- (b) *Co n-accae* Fergus in carpat sechae 7 in n-óenfher and. Tintáí Fergus do debuid fri Coin Culainn. ‘Olc duit, a shiriti,’ ol sé, ‘*mo díguin*. Is garait mo lorg latt,’ ol sé. ‘Nába lond frimm, á phopa Fhergus,’ ol Cú Chulainn. D-álléci inna shlechtan co ndechuid carpat Fergusa tarais co fo thrí. ‘Íarfaig dia araid in mé fo-t-rúar.’ ‘*Náthú écin*,’ ol a arae-som.
- (c) ‘In comram beus!’ ol Cet. ‘*Rot-bia sōn*’ ol Cúsraíd Mend Macha mac Conchobair. ‘Cuich so?’ ol Cet. ‘Cúsraíd’ ol cách; ‘*is adbar ríg ar deilb*.’ ‘Ní buide frit’ ol in gilla. ‘Maith’ ol Cet. ‘Cucainni ceta·tudchad-so *do chétgaisciud*, a gillai. Imma·tarraid dún issin chocrích. Fo·rācbais trian do

muintire, ocus is <s>amlaid do-cūadaiss ocus gaī triāt brāgit connā-ētai focul fort chenn i córai; ar ro-loitt in gaī féthi do brāgat. Conid Cúscraid Mend atot-chomnaic ḍond ūair-sin.'

- (d) Oc Áth Chinn Chon i mBiliu, is and ro-lá cenn in chon asin charput. Oc techt īar fraīchrud Midi síar, is and *do-n-ārlaic* Fer Loga isin fraīch .i. ara Ailella, ocus ro-ling isin carpat īar cūl Conchobair co-rragab a chenn dara aiss. 'Emde, a Chonchobair!' olse. 'T'ōgrīar!' ol Conchobar. 'Niba mór,' ol Fer Loga, '.i. mo brith latt co Emain Macha ocus mná ðentama Ulad ocus a n-ingena macdacht *do gabāil chepóce* cecha nóna immum co-n-ērbrat: "Fer Loga mo lennān-sa".'
- (e) Bátar Ulaid oc ól i taig Fheidlimthe maic Daill, scēlaigi Conchobuir. Baī dano ben ind Fheidlimthe oc airiuc don t-slúag ðsa cinn *is sí thorrach*. Tairmchell corn ocus chuibreann ocus ro-lásat gáir mesca. *A mbátar do leptlugud*, do-lluid in ben dia lepaid. Oc dul dī dar lár in taige, ro-gréch in lenab inna broinn co-closs fon less uile. At-raig cach fer di alailiu is'tig lasin scréich í-sin *co-mbátar cinn ar chinn* isin tig.
- (f) Dom-fharcai *fidbaide fál*,  
fom-chain loíd luin, lúad nād céil;  
hūas mo lebrán, ind línech,  
fom-chain trírech inna n-én.  
  
Fomm-chain coí menn, medair mass,  
hi mbrot glass de dingnaib doss.  
Debrath! *nom-Choimmdiú-coíma*;  
caín-scríbaimm *fo roída ross*.

3. How was aspect expressed in Old Irish?
4. How did early Irish narrative use comic episodes?
5. Is Fergus an authoritative voice in *Táin Bó Cúailnge*?
6. What was the significance of the bulls in *Táin Bó Cúailnge*?
7. Does explaining *Scéla Mucce Meic Dathó* depend on defining its relationship with other Ulster Cycle tales?
8. Did the Ulsterman have a good case in condemning Derdriu as 'an evil woman'?

TURN OVER

9. What are the implications of Cathbad's prophecies for our understanding of *Longes Mac nUisleann*?
10. What should we make of the persona of the eremitical scribe?

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