

2411

SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION

HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

COURSE II

PAPER B1 OLD ENGLISH PHILOLOGY

TRINITY TERM 2012

Monday, 21 May, 9.30am – 12.30pm

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.

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

(i)

Sēo ylce rōd siððan ðe Oswold þær ārāerde on wurðmynte
þær stōd. And wurdon fela gehālde untrumra manna and ēac
swilce nýtena þurh ðā ylcan rōde, swā swā ūs rehte Bēda. Sum
man fēoll on īse, þæt his earm tōbærst, and læg þā on bedde
gebrocod forðearle, oð þæt man him fette of ðære foresēdan
rōde sumne dæl þas mēoses þe hēo mid beweaxen wæs, and
se ādliga sōna on slēpe wearð gehāled on ðære ylcan nihte
þurh Ōswoldes geearnungum³.

Sēo stōw is gehāten 'Heofonfeld' on Englisc, wið ðone langan
weall þe þā Rōmāniscan worhtan, þær þær Ōswold oferwann
þone wælhrēowan cynincg. And þær wearð siþþan ārāred swiðe
mære cyrce Gode tō wurðmynte, þe wunað ā on ēcnysesse.

Hwæt ðā, Ōswold ongann embe Godes willan tō smēagenne,
sōna swā hē rices gewēold, and wolde gebīgan his lēoda⁴ tō
gelēfan and tō þām lifigandan Gode.

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(ii)

Nū scylun hergan¹ hefaenīcaes Uard,
Metudæs maecti end his mōdgidanc,
uerc Uuldurfadur, suē hē uundra gihuæs,
ēci Dryctin, ōr āstelidæ.
Hē āerist scōp ælda barnum
heben til hrōfe, hāleg Scepen.
Thā middungeard moncynnæs Uard,

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ēci Dryctin, æfter tiadæ
firum foldu¹, Frēa allmectig.
Primo cantauit Cædmon istud carmen.

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(iii)

HIC PSALMUS PROPRIE SCRIBTUS DAVID EXTRA
NUMERUM CUM PUGNAVIT CUM GOLIA

Ljytel ic wes betwih brōður mīne, ond iu[n]gra in |
Pusillus eram inter fratres¹ meos, et adolescentior in
hūse feadur mīnes. Ic foēdde scēp feadur mīnes. Honda mīne
domo patris mei. pascebam oves patris mei. manus meæ
dydun organan; fingras mīne wȳsctun hearpan. Ond
fecerunt organum; digitæ mei aptaverunt psalterium. et
hwelc segde Dryhtne² mīnum? Hē Dryhten, hē
quis adnuntiavit Domino meo? ipse Dominus, ipse
allra gehārde mec; hē sende engel his, ond nōm nec
omnium exaudivit me; ipse mīsit angelum suum, et tulit me
of scēpum feadur mīnes, ond smirede nec in mildheartnisse
de ovibus patris mei, et unxit me in misericordia
smirenisse his. Brōður mīne gōde ond micle, ond ne wes
unctionis suæ fratres mei boni et magni, et non fuit
welgilicad in him Dryhtne. Ic útēode ongegn fremðes
beneplacitum in eis Domino. exivi obviam alieni-

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cynnes men, ond wergcweodelade nec in hergum he[a]ra; ic
genae, et maledixit me in simulacris suis; ego
sōðlice gebrogdnum from him his āgnum swoerde ic ācearf
autem evaginato ab eo ipsius gladio amputavi
hēafud his, ond on weg āfirde edwīt of bearnum Israēla.
caput ejus, et abstuli obprobrium de filiis Israhel.

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(iv)

+ Ic Œsuulf aldormonn mid Godes gæfe ond Beornþryð mīn
gēmecca sellað tō Cantuarabyrg, tō Cr̄istes cirican, ðæt lond
æt Stānhāmstede, xx swuluncga, Gode allmehtgum ond ðēre
hālgon gesomnuncgæ, fore hyhte and fore aedlēane ðæs æcan
ond ðæs tōwardon līfes, ond fore uncerra sāula hēla ond
uncerra bearna. Ond mid micelre ēaðmōdnisse biddað ðæt wit
mōten bion on ðēm gemānon ðe ðæter Godes ðiowas siondan,
ond ðā menn ðā ðæter hlāfordas wāron, ond ðāra monna ðe
hiora lond to ðætere cirican saldon; ond ðættæ mon unce tide
ymb tuælf mōnað mon geuuorðiae on godcundum gōdum ond
æc on aelmessan suā mon hiora dōeð.

Ic ðonne Ulfred mid Godes gæfe aðc eþis ðæs forecuaedenan
uord fulliae, ond bebēode ðæt mon ymb tuælf mōnað hiora
tid böega ðus geuuorðiae tō ānes daeges tō Œsuulfe's tide ge
mid godcundum gōdum ge mid aelmessan ge æc mid higna
suēsendum.

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2. ‘The writing of English [in the Old English period] was not so well established that we should assume conventionalised or normalised spellings practices, such as those which currently all but mask differences in pronunciation among the speakers of standard written English’ (THOMAS TOON).

3. ‘The settlement of the various Germanic peoples in different regions of the country was an important factor in the linguistic diversity which characterized Old English’ (SUSAN IRVINE).

4. ‘The interpretation of the spellings <ea, eo, ie> is one of the most controversial problems in OE philology’ (JEREMY SMITH).

5. ‘i-Mutation is perhaps the most morphophonologically important of the prehistoric Old English sound changes’.

6. ‘The process of comparative reconstruction is fraught with dangers’ (RICHARD HOGG).
How useful is comparative reconstruction as a means of analysing Germanic languages?
What are the dangers?

7. ‘Whereas Modern English is clearly a VO-language, Old English was an OV language’ (ALFRED BAMMESBERGER).

8. ‘One of the most striking features of the OE lexicon is the extensive involvement in Word Formation, not only of transparent affixation, compounding, and conversion, but of other devices of varying ages: ancient ones like ablaut, and newer ones like *i*-umlaut’ (ROGER LASS).

9. ‘For a contemporary audience, poetry must have immediately announced itself as a distinct kind of linguistic experience, quite apart from its differences of rhythm and utterance’ (MALCOLM GODDEN). Comment on the differences between the language of Old English poetry and the language of Old English prose.

10. ‘Many changes in the English vocabulary are due to massive borrowings from the languages with which English came into contact in the course of its history’ (DIETER KASTOVSKY). How does this apply to Old English lexicon?

11. ‘Most of the Old English texts which survive from the Anglo-Saxon period were written in Late West Saxon, which seems, through being copied outside its area of origin, to have achieved the status of a written standard language in the late tenth and eleventh centuries’ (JEREMY SMITH).

12. Describe morphological effects of reduction in Old English, focusing on changes to inflectional paradigms and to Indo-European three-part word structure.

13. Give examples of the most significant innovations in Common Germanic phonology, morphology and vocabulary compared to Indo-European.