

A10569W1

SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION

HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

OLD AND EARLY MIDDLE IRISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Trinity Term 2015

Monday, 25 May, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Time allowed – Three hours

Answer Question 1 and *two* others.

Do not turn over until told that you may do so.

1. Translate into modern English and write a commentary on THREE of the following passages. Commentaries should point out features of both literary and linguistic interest. At least one passage must be taken from each of the two sections.

SECTION A

a)

I n-oenló immurgu ro-dálsat-som etir aníar ocus anair. Niro·follaiged léo-som dano.
Táncatar dá cóiced Hérenn i n-óenló co·mbátar i ndoruss bruidne Meic Dathó. Do·luid-seom
fessin ara cenn ocus feraid fáilti friu. ‘Ni[b]·fare[h]elsam, a ócu’, olse; ‘ar apaide is mochen duib.
Taít issin less!’

Lotar farum uili isin mbruidin, leth in tige dano la Connachta ocus in leth aile la hUltó. Nibo bec
in tech dano, secht ndoruiss ind ocus coica imdad itir cech dá dorus.

Niptar aighthi carat im fhleid immurgu bátar isin taig.

b)

‘Altae-som ém’ ol Fergus, ‘la máthair 7 la athair ocond Airgdig i mMaig Muirthemni. Adfessa dó
airscélae na macraide i nEmain. Ar bítrí cóeacait macc and’, ol Fergus, ‘oca cluichiu. Is samlaid
do·meil Conchobor a fhlaith: trian ind laí oc déicsin na macraide, a trian n-aill oc imbirt
fhidchille, a trian n-aill oc óul chormae, conid gaib cotlud de. Cia bemmi-ni for longais riam, ní
fil i nÉre óclaig bas amru’, ol Fergus.

‘Guidid Cú Chulainn dia máthair didiu a léiciud dochum na macraide. ‘Ní regae’, ol a máthair,
‘condit roib cóimthecht di ánrothaib Ulad.’

c)

Ricfaither a les do gille innocht, a Chonbchobuir’, ol Senláech Arad a Crúachnaib Con-Alad
aníar; ‘ba menic rota Lúachra Dedad lim-sa foa tóin, menic ag méith díb d’f[h]acbáil acum-sa.’
‘Ba méthiu a n-ag fo·rácbais-[s]iu ocainni’ ol Muinremur mac Gerrginn, ‘.i. do bráthair fadéin .i.
Cruaichniu mac Rúadluim a Crúachnaib Con-Alad.’

‘Nibo fherr side’, ol Lugaid mac Con Ruí, ‘oldás Inloth Mór mac Fergusa meic Léti fo·rácbad la
Echbél mac nDedad hi Temair Lóchra.’

‘Cindas fir lib’, ol Celtchair mac Uithec[h]air, ‘Conganchness mac Dedad do marbad dam-sa
ocus a chenn do béim de?’

SECTION B

a)

Dom-fharcaí fidbaide fál
fom-chain loíd luin, lúad nád cél;
húas mo lebrán, ind línech,
fom-chain trírech inna n-én.

Fomm-chain coí men, medair mass,
hi mbrot glass de dingnaib doss.
Debrath! nom-Choimmdiú-coíma:
caín-scríbaimm fo roída ross.

b)

Int én bec
ro léic feit
do rinn guip
glanbuidi:

fo-ceird faíd
ós Loch Laíg,
lon do chraíb
charnbuidi.

c)

Adram in Coimdid
cusnaib aicdib amraib,
nem gelmár co n-ainglib,
ler tonnbán for talmain.

2. Discuss the use of imagery in *Longes mac n-Uisleann*.
 3. Is *Scéla Muicce Meic Dathó* simply a parody of the Ulster Cycle?
 4. To what extent is it true that medieval Irish literature is essentially misogynistic?
 5. ‘In one legendary story, Irish men of learning swapped the sole surviving copy of the *Táin* for the *Etymologies* of Isidore of Seville.’ Why should anyone outside Ireland, in any period, be interested in the *Táin*?
 6. ‘Trite’ (Ó CORRÁIN). How should we assess the representation of nature in Irish ‘hermit poetry’?
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7. Why did the authors of early Irish sagas invest so much energy in imagining a pre-Christian world?
 8. Discuss the history and development of the orthography used for Old Irish.