

A10569W1

SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION

HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

COURSE II

Paper 6(c) Old and Early Middle Irish Language and Literature

Trinity Term 2016

Monday, 23 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 Section B.

SECTION A

a) 'Marbhar ind ingen!' ol ind óic. 'Ni-thó!' ol Conchobor. 'Bérthair lim-sa ind ingen i mbárach,' ol Conchobor, 'ocus ailebthair dom réir féin ocus bid sí ben bías im farrad-sa.' Ocus nira-lámatar Ulaid a chocert immi. Do-gníther ón dano. Ro-alt la Conchobor co-mbo sí ingen as mó-r-állem ro-boí i n-Hérinn. Is i llis fo leith ro-alt connach-acced fer di Ultaib cosin n-úair no-foad la Conchobor ocus ni baí duine no-léicthe 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 loíg fothlai for snechtu i-mmaig issin gaimriuth dia funi di-ssi. Co-n-acca-si ní, in fiach oc ól inna fola forsin t-snechtu.

b) Boí rí amrae for Laignib, Mac Dathó a ainm. Boí cù occo. Im-dídched in cú Laigniu huili. Ailbe ainm in chon, ocus ba lán Hériu dia airdircus in chon. Do-eth ó Ailill ocus ó Meidb do chungid in chon. Immalle dano táncatar ocus techta Ulad ocus Conchobair do chungid in chon chétna. Ro-ferad fáilte friu huili, ocus ructha cuci-sium isin mbruidin. Is {s}í sin in chóiced bruden ro-boí i nHérinn isind aimsir sin, ocus bruden Da-Derg i crích Cúalann ocus bruden Forgaill Manaich ocus bruden Me[i]c Da-Réo i mBréfni ocus bruden Da-Choca i níarthur Midi. Secht ndorus isin bruidin ocus sechtligeda trethe ocus secht tellaige indi ocus secht cori. Dam ocus tinne in cach coiri. In fer no-t{h}éged iarsint sligi do-bered in n- aél isin coiri, ocus a-taibred din chétgabáil, iss ed no-ithed.

c) Ructha trá na techta ina imdai cuci-sium do airiuc thuile dóib ríasíu do-berthae a mbiad dóib. Ro-ráidset a n-athesca. 'Do chungid in chon do-dechammar-ni' ol techta Connacht 'i. ó Ailill ocus ó Meidb; ocus do-bértar tri fichit cét lilgach hi cétoir ocus carpat ocus da ech bas dech la Connachta, ocus a chommaín cinn bliadna cenmothá sin.' 'Dia chungid dano do-dechammar-ni ó Chonchobur' ol techta Ulad; 'ocus ni messa Conchobar do charait ocus dano do thabairt sét ocus indile, ocus a chomméit cétna a túaith, ocus biaid degcaratrad de.'

Ro-lá didiu i socht inní Mac Dathó; co-rrabe tri thráth cen dig cen biad, acht 'co immorchor ón taíb co araile. Is and dixit a ben: 'Is fota in troscud i-taí. Atá biad lat cenco-n-essara. Cid no-taí?'

SECTION B

a) A Derdriu, maindéra már,
Dia-msa cóem-ainech cloth-bán.
Césfaitit Ulaid rit ré,
A ingen fial Feidlimthe.
Biäid étach cid íar tain
Dot dáig, a bé for lassair.
Is it aimsir—cluinte se—
Longes tri mac n-Uislinne.
Is it aimsir gním dremuin
Géntar farum i n-Emuin.
Bid aithrech coll cid íar tain
Fo[r] foísam maic Roig rogmair.
Is triüt, a bé co mbail,
Longes Fergusa ó Ultaib,
Ocus gním ar-coínfed guil
Guin Fiachnai maic Conchobuir.

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

c) Is acher in gaíth in-nocht,
fu·fúasna fairggae findfholt;
ní·ágor réimm Mora Minn
dond láechraig lainn úa Lothlind.

2. What is the nature of the relationship between *Scéla Muicce Meic Dathó* and the Ulster Cycle more broadly?
3. “Ní:thó!” ol Conchobor.’ Discuss the presentation of kingly authority in any ONE or TWO texts you have studied.
4. Who wrote Early Irish ‘hermit’ poetry, and for what purpose?
5. How meaningful is it to posit a connection between the figure of Derdriu in *Longes mac n-Uislen* and the so-called ‘Sovereignty goddess’?
6. What kind of hero is Cú Chulainn?
7. ‘Early Irish literature depends on, and is even created by, an undergirding Christian vision.’ Discuss.
8. Discuss the historical development of the system of initial mutation in Old Irish.