

A10569W1

SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION

HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

COURSE II

OLD AND EARLY MIDDLE IRISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

TRINITY TERM 2018

Wednesday, 16 May, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Time allowed – Three hours

Answer Question 1 and two others. You should pay attention in your answers to the precise terms of the question.

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

1. Translate THREE of the following passages into English and comment on any points of literary and linguistic interest therein. You must choose at least ONE passage from Section A and at least ONE from Section B.

SECTION A

- (a) Íar sin at-racht súas ocus no-mbertaigedar. ‘Bad maith dún’ olse ‘ocus dona hóegedaib dodon-áncatar.’ Anait sidi leis trí laa ocus téora aidchi. Ocus téit leo for leth (.i. la techta Connacht prius).
 ‘Ro-bá-sa trá’ olse ‘i n-imsním móir ocus cuntabairt móir co-nderglé .i. do-ratus-sa in coin do Ailill ocus do Meidb. Ocus tecat ar chenn in chon co sochruid ocus co húallach, ocus ros-bía lind ocus biad ocus ascada, ocus bértait in coin, ocus is fochen dóib.’ Buidig sidi dano. Luid íar sin co techta Ulad. Do-ratus-sa trá’ olse ‘asmo chuntabairt in coin do Chonchobur. Ocus bad uallach tíastar ara chenn .i. formna mathe Ulad. Bértait ascada uili ocus ros-bia fáilte. 10
- (b) ‘Ructha trá na techta inba imdai cuci-sium do airiuc thuile dóib ríasiu 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 Connactha, ocus a chommaín cinn bliadna cenmothá sin.’ ‘Dia chungid dano do dechammar-ni ó Chochobur,’ ol techta Ulad; ‘ucus 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 immarchor ón taíb co araile. 10
- (c) 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. Is and as-bert-si fri Lebarchaim: ‘Ro-pad inmain óen-fer forsa-mbetis na tri dath ucut .i. in folt amal in fiach ocus in grúad amal in ful ocus in corp amal in snechta.’
 ‘Orddan ocus tocad duit!’ ar in Lebarcham. ‘Ni cían úait. Atá is'taig it arrad .i. Noísi mac Usnig.’ ‘Ni-pam slán-sa ám,’ ol-si, ‘conid-n-accur-saide.’
 Fecht n-and didiu baí-seom int-í Noísi a óenur for dóe inna rrátha .i. ina Emna, oc andord. Ba bind immurgu a n-andord mac n-Usnig. Cech bó ocus cech míl ro-chluined, no-mbligtis dá trian blechta d’immarcraíd úadib. Cech duine rod-chluined, ba lór síthchaire ocus airfitiud dóib. Ba maith a ngaisced dano. 10

A10569W1

SECTION B

- (a) Dom-fharcai fidbaide fál,
fom-chain loíd luin – luád nad-cél –
húas mo lebrán ind línech
fom-chain trírech inna n-én.

Fomm-chain coí menn – medair mass –
hi mbrot glass de dindgnaib doss.
Débrad, nom-choimmdiú coíma,
caín-scríbaimm fo roída ross.

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- (b) M'airiuclán hi Túaim Inbir,
ni lán techdais bes sēstu:
cona rētglannaib a réir,
cona gréin, cona ēscu.

Gobbān du-rigni in sin –
co n-ēccestar dūib a stoir –
mu chridecán, dīa du nim,
is hé tugatōir rod-toig.

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- (c) Is acher in gaíth in-nocht,
fu-fúasna fairggae findfholt;
ní-ágór réimm Mora Minn
dond láechraíd lainn úa Lothlind.

* * * *

Teicht do Róim:
mó� saído, becc torbai!
in rí chon-daigi hi foss,
mani mbera latt ní fogbai.

A10569W1

TURN OVER

2. Discuss the representation of kingship in *Togail Bruidne Da Derga*.
3. Are we right to speak of early Irish ‘nature poetry’?
4. Is Deirdriu the most important character in *Longes mac n-Uislenn*?
5. How are the past and the present related in *Acallam na Senórach*?
6. Most of *Scéla Muicce Meic Dathó* is set in Leinster. In what sense, then, is it an Ulster Cycle tale?
7. Discuss the role of the Túatha Dé Danann AND/OR the Otherworld in any one or more medieval Irish texts of your choice.
8. What are the grounds for thinking *Echtrae Chonnlai* to be a Christian allegory?
9. Describe the Old Irish pronominal system in detail.