

A10111W1

**FIRST PUBLIC EXAMINATION**

**Preliminary Examination in English Language and Literature: Paper 2**  
**Preliminary Examination in English and Modern Languages, Part 2: Paper 2 (a)**  
**Preliminary Examination in History and English: Paper 4 (a)**

**EARLY MEDIEVAL LITERATURE c. 650 – 1350**

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**TRINITY TERM 2015**

**Wednesday, 17 June, 14.30pm – 17.30pm,**

**Time allowed – 3 hours**

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**Answer QUESTION 1 and any TWO others. Candidates are reminded that they must show substantial knowledge of at least THREE texts in the two essays.**

**Candidates are reminded that at the start of each essay they should identify clearly which question they are attempting, and, where appropriate, which option within that question, identifying it through a letter, where these are given (e.g. Q5(a)), and / or a key word or phrase.**

**Please do NOT turn over until told that you may do so.**

## SECTION A

**1 Write a critical commentary on ONE of the following passages, placing it in context and analyzing significant points of content and style.**

(a) Wat se þe cunnað,  
hu slīpen bið sorg to geferan,  
þam þe him lyt hafað leofra geholena.  
Warað hine wræclast, nales wunden gold,  
ferðloca freorig, nalæs foldan blæd. 5  
Gemon he selesecgas ond sincþege,  
hu hine on geoguðe his goldwine  
wenede to wiste. Wyn eal gedreas!  
Forþon wat se þe sceal his winedryhtnes  
leofes larcwidum longe forþolian, 10  
ðonne sorg ond slæp somod ætgædre  
earnne anhogan oft gebindað.  
þinceð him on mode þæt he his mondryhten  
clyppe ond cysse, ond on cneo lecge  
honda ond heafod, swa he hwilum ær 15  
in geardagum giefstolas breac.  
ðonne onwæcneð eft wineleas guma,  
gesihð him bīforan fealwe wegas,  
bāþian brimfuglas, brædan fēþra,  
hreosan hrim ond snaw, hagle gemenged. 20  
þonne beoð þy hefigran heortan benne,  
sare æfter swæsne. Sorg bið geniwad,  
þonne maga gemynd mod geondhweorfeð;  
greteð gliwstafum, georne geondsceawað  
secga geseldan. 25

(b) "Gehyrst þu, sælida, hwæt þis folc segeð?  
Hi willað eow to gafole garas syllan,  
ættrynne ord and ealde swurd,  
þa heregeatu þe eow æt hilde ne deah. 5  
Brimmanna boda, abeod eft ongean,  
sege þinum leodum miccle lāpre spell,  
þæt her stynt unforcuð eorl mid his werode,  
þe wile gealgean eþel þysne,  
æþelredes eard, ealdres mines, 10  
folc and foldan. Feallan sceolon  
hæþene æt hilde. To heanlic me þinceð  
þæt ge mid urum sceattum to scype gangon  
unbefohtene, nu ge þus feor hider  
on urne eard in becomon.  
Ne sceole ge swa softe sinc gegangan; 15

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us sceal ord and ecg    ær geseman,  
 grim guðplega,        ær we gofol syllon."  
 Het þa bord beran,    beornas gangan,  
 þæt hi on þam easteðe        ealle stodon.  
 Ne mihte þær for wætere        werod to þam oðrum;        20  
 þær com flowende    flod æfter ebban,  
 lucon lagustreamas.    To lang hit him þuhte,  
 hwænne hi togædere    garas beron.

- (c)    Havelok, þat haveðe spired wel  
       Of here fare, everil del,  
       With all his ferd cam hem ageyn.  
       Forþar he noþer knith ne sweyn:  
       Þe firste knith þat he þer mette        5  
       With þe swerd so he him grette,  
       Forþ his heved of he plette -  
       Wolde he nouth for sinne lette.  
       Roberd saw þat dint so hende -  
       Wolde he nevere þeþen wende,        10  
       Til þat he haveðe anoþer slawen  
       With þe swerd he held ut drawen.  
       Willam Wendut his swerd ut drow,  
       And þe þredde so sore he slow  
       Þat he made upon þe feld        15  
       His lift arm fleye with þe swerd.  
       Huwe Raven ne forgat nouth  
       Þe swerd he haveðe þider brouth.  
       He kipte it up, and smot ful sore  
       An erl þat he saw priken þore        20  
       Ful noblelike upon a stede,  
       Þat with him wolde al quic weðe.  
       He smot him on þe heved so  
       Þat he þe heved clef a-two.  
       And þat bi þe shudre-blade        25  
       Þe sharpe swerd let wade  
       Þoru þe brest unto þe herte;  
       Þe dint bigan ful sore to smerte,  
       Þat þe erl fel dun anon  
       Al so ded so ani ston.        30

- (d)    'Þah Ich cuðe', he seið, 'monne ledene ant englene, þah Ich  
       dude o mi bodi alle pine ant passiun þet bodi mahte þolien,  
       þah Ich zeue poure al þet Ich hefde, 3ef Ich nefde luue þerwið,  
       to Godd ant to alle men, in him ant for him, al were ispillet'. For  
       as þe hali abbat Moyses seide, al þet wa ant al þet heard þet we        5

polieð o flesch, ant al þet god þet we eauer doð, alle swucche þinges  
 ne beoð nawt bute as lomen to tilie wið þe heorte. 3ef þe axe ne kurue,  
 ne spitelsteaf ne dulue, ne þe sulh ne erede, hwa kepte ham to halden?  
 Alswa as na mon ne luueð lomen for hamseolf, ah deð for þe þinges  
 þet me wurchað wið ham, alswa na flesches derf nis to luuien bute forþi 10  
 þet Godd to readere þiderward loki mid his grace ant makeð þe  
 heorte schir ant of briht sihðe, þet nan ne mei habben wið monglunge  
 of unþeawes, ne wið eorðlich luue of wortliche þinges, for þis mong  
 woreð swa þe ehnen of þe heorte þet ha ne mei cnawen Godd, ne  
 gleadien of his sihðe. Schir heorte, as Seint Bernard seið, makieð 15  
 twa þinges: þet tu al þet tu dest, do hit oðer for luue ane of Godd,  
 oðer for opres god ant for his biheue. Haue in al þat tu dest an of  
 þes twa ententes, oðer ba togederes, for þe leatere falleð in to þe  
 earre. Haue eauer schir heorte þus, ant do al þet tu wult. Haue wori  
 heorte, al þe sit uuele. 20

## SECTION B

**Unless otherwise specified, you may answer any of these questions with reference to one or more texts from throughout the period c. 650-1350.**

1. 'All of the significant battles are waged within the self' (SHELDON KOPP).
2. 'Of this, I can make no sense' (BENJAMIN THORPE on *Wulf and Eadwacer*).
3. '[H]e is perfect to whom the entire world is as a foreign land' (HUGH OF ST. VICTOR).
4. 'Comfort's in heaven; and we are on the earth' (SHAKESPEARE, *Richard II*).

5.      nearon nu cyningas      ne caseras  
          ne goldgiefan          swylce iu waeron  
          þonne hi maest mid him      maerþa gefremedon  
          ond on dryhtlicestum          dome lifdon.

'Now there are neither kings nor emperors, nor goldgivers as there once were, when they performed amongst themselves so many glorious deeds, and lived in the most lordly renown' (*The Seafarer*).

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6.      bancofan onband,    breostlocan onwand,  
           leoðucraeft onleac    þæs ic lustum breac,  
           willum in worlde ...

‘[T]he bone-coffer unbound, the breast-lock unwound, verse-skill unlocked, which I have enjoyed joyfully and willingly in this world’ (Cynewulf, *Elene*).

Discuss ‘verse-skill’ AND/OR any other aspects of the role of the poet.

7.      Næs hearpan wyn,    gomen gleobeames,  
           ne god hafoc    geond sæl swingeð,  
           ne se swifta mearh    burhstede beateð.

‘No harp's delight, no glee-wood's gladness! No good hawk now flies through the hall! Nor horses fleet stamp in the burgstead!’ (*Beowulf*).

Discuss any aspect(s) of this quotation.

8. ‘History is a commentary on the various and continuing incapacities of men. What is history? History is women following behind with the bucket.’ (ALAN BENNETT, *The History Boys*). Discuss any aspect(s) of this quotation.

9. ‘For centuries the title, like the name of the author, had no site reserved for it’ (GERARD GENETTE).

10. ‘[A]iþer aʒen oþer swal’ (‘each raged against the other’, *The Owl and the Nightingale*). Discuss dialogue(s) or any other form of verbal confrontation.

11. ‘The word committed to the flesh of the parchment takes on a body, and the material conditions of the book embodying the text are integral parts of its historicity and its meaning’ (KATHERINE O’BRIEN O’KEEFFE).

12.                      Ne wearð wæl mare  
           on þis eiglande ...  
                           þæs þe us secgað bec,  
           ealde uðwitan,      sibþan eastan hider  
           Engle and Seaxe      up becoman,  
           ofer brad brimu      Brytene sohtan ...

‘Never was there more slaughter on this island ... according to those who tell us from books, old wise men, since from the east Angles and Saxons came up over the broad sea. Britain they sought ...’ (BATTLE OF BRUNANBURH).

Discuss any aspect(s) of this quotation.

13.                               fela wære  
    gæst-haligra,   þær hi Godes willan  
    on misclicum   monna gebihþum  
    æfter stede-wonga   stowum fremedon ...

‘[T]here has been a great number of those saintly of spirit where, in various foundations of men throughout the dwelling-places of earth’s plains, they have done God’s will’ (GUTHLAC B).

14. ‘Few lyrics of love are in a woman’s voice’ (ROSEMARY GREENTREE). Discuss in relation to religious AND/OR non-religious writing.

15. ‘Aelfred mec heht gewyrcaþ’ (‘Alfred ordered me to be made’: inscription on the Alfred Jewel). Discuss voice AND/OR the significance of objects.

16. ‘[T]he English – that of genuine feeling, the French – of conventional courtesy, the Latin – of epigrammatic terseness’ (LEO SPITZER). Discuss any of the aspects AND/OR consequences of multilingual culture in the period.

17. ‘[T]he *Dream of the Rood* reveals a mystery by means of a theological riddle ... We have evidence that, by the end of the Anglo-Saxon period, its unique narrative could be felt as disturbing and unacceptable’ (ÉAMONN Ó CARRAGÁIN). Discuss any aspect of this quotation in relation to pre- AND/OR post-Conquest literature.