



UNIVERSITETET I OSLO

Institutt for litteratur, områdestudier og europeiske språk

WRITTEN EXAMINATION AUTUMN 2014 3 pages

ENG4154 – Old English, an introduction

4 hours

5 December

Candidates may use one English–English dictionary.

Questions must be answered in English; answers must be written on copy-sheets.

Candidates must receive a pass mark on both parts of the exam.

Answer Part I, and ONE of the numbered questions from Part II. Candidates are reminded that in linguistic commentary they are expected to use standard conventions, including phonetic symbols, where appropriate.

Part I (60%)

1. First, identify the work from which the following extract is taken, and state what is known about its authorship and probable date of composition. Second, translate it into idiomatic present-day English (you may, if you wish, give a literal translation first). Third, answer questions (a)–(f) immediately following this text. Numbers in parentheses refer to the line numbers of the printed text.

1 Hit gelamp þā æt nīehstan þæt þā Deniscan lēode fērdon mid
2 scip-here, hergiende and slēande wīde geond land, swā swā
3 hiera gewuna is. On þæm flotan wæron þā fyrmestan
4 hēafodmenn Hinguar and Hubba, geānlæhte þurh dēofol, and
5 hīe on Norþhymbralande gelendon mid æscum, and ā-wēston
6 þæt land, and þā lēode ofslōgon. Þā gewende Hinguar ēast
7 mid his scipum, and Hubba belāf on Norþhymbralande,
8 gewunnenum sige mid wæl-hrēownesse. [...] Se ærendraca
9 cōm þā tō Ēadmunde cyninge, and Hinguares ærende him
10 arodlice ā-bēad: ‘Hinguar, ūre cyning, cēne and sigefæst on
11 sæ and lande, hæfþ fela lēoda gewald, and cōm nū mid fierde

12 færlīce hēr tō lande, þæt hē hēr winter-setl mid his werode
13 hæbbe. Nū hætt hē þē dælan þine dīeglan gold-hordas and
14 þīnra ieldrena gestrēon arodlice wiþ hine, and þū bēo his
15 under-cyning, gif þū cwic bēon wilt, for þæm þe þū næfst þā
16 miht þæt þū mæge him wiþ-standan.’ [...]
17 Þā cwæþ Æadmund cyning, swā swā hē full cēne wæs: [...]
18 ‘Næs mē nāfre gewunelic þæt ic worhte flēames, ac ic wolde
19 swīþor sweltan, gif ic þorfte, for mīnum āgnum earde, and se
20 ælmihtiga God wāt þæt ic nylle ā-būgan fram his bī-gengum
21 āfre, ne fram his sōþan lufe, swelte ic, libbe ic.’

- (a) Give a syntactic analysis of the clause *hē hēr winter-setl mid his werode hæbbe* (12-13).
- (b) Explain the grammar and meaning of *fela lēoda gewald* (11). What syntactic function does it serve?
- (c) What parts of what verbs are *slēande* (2), *ofslōgon* (6), and *wāt* (20)? What are the subjects of *ā-wēston* (5) and *ā-bēad* (10)?
- (d) In what mood is *hæbbe* (13) and *mæge* (16)? Why is this mood used here?
- (e) What adjective declension is used in *fyrmostan* (3), *cēne* (10), and *dīeglan* (13), and why?
- (f) What are the gender, number and case of *gewuna* (3), *miht* (16), and *God* (20), and how do you know? What syntactic functions do *Hinguares ærend* and *him* (9) serve?

Part II (40%)

EITHER

2. Write an essay on the uses of the subjunctive mood in Old English, taking care to include both formal and semantic aspects.

OR

3. What is to be understood by 'case'? How far do case-inflexions rather than word-order establish the meanings of Old English sentences? Illustrate your account with examples from the text extract supplied in Part I above.

OR

4. The table below presents the principal parts of various Old English verbs. (i) Supply the numbered forms missing from the table; (ii) then explain, with appropriate examples, what is meant by AT LEAST THREE of the following terms: (a) syncope and assimilation, (b) *i*-mutation, (c) Verner's Law, (d) breaking, (e) contraction and compensatory lengthening, (f) paradigm suppletion.

(1)	gæþ	ēode	ēodon	ge-gān, gangen
cuman	(2)	cōm	cōmon	cumen
weorþan	wierþ	(3)	wurdon	worden
(4)	bīett	bēad	budon	boden
cweþan	cwiþþ	cwæþ	(5)	cweden
slēan	sliehþ	slōg	slōgon	(6)
bīdan	(7)	bād	bidon	biden
helpan	hilþþ	healp	hulpon	(8)
cēosan	cīest	(9)	curon	coren
fōn	fēhþ	fēng	(10)	fangen

The marks will be published approximately 3 weeks after the exam date in Studentweb. You will receive an e-mail when the results are ready.

For an explanation of the mark obtained, please contact the the teacher responsible for the course within one week after the exam results have been published. Remember to include your name and candidate number. The examiner will decide whether to give a written or oral explanation.