 Institutt for litteratur, områdestudier og europeiske språk

**SKOLEEKSAMEN**

**2011/HØST**

**4 (fire) sider**

**ENG2155/4155: Aspects of Chaucerian Language and Literature**

**4 timer Fredag 9. desember 2011**

**Tillatte hjelpemidler: Godkjent engelsk-engelsk ordbok**

# *Answer ALL questions in Part I, and ONE question from Part II*

**PART I (50 %)**

 1. ‘The Nun’s Priest’s Tale’, lines 2824-2846.

2824         This wydwe, of which I telle yow my tale,  
2825         Syn thilke day that she was last a wyf  
2826         In pacience ladde a ful symple lyf,  
2827         For litel was hir catel and hir rente.  
2828         By housbondrie of swich as God hire sente  
2829         She foond hirself and eek hir doghtren two.  
2830         Thre large sowes hadde she, and namo,  
2831         Three keen, and eek a sheep that highte Malle.  
2832         Ful sooty was hire bour and eek hir halle,  
2833         In which she eet ful many a sklendre meel.  
2834         Of poynaunt sauce hir neded never a deel.  
2835         No deyntee morsel passed thurgh hir throte;   
2836         Hir diete was accordant to hir cote.  
2837         Repleccioun ne made hire nevere sik;   
2838         Attempree diete was al hir phisik,  
2839         And exercise, and hertes suffisaunce.  
2840         The goute lette hire nothyng for to daunce,  
2841         N' apoplexie shente nat hir heed.  
2842         No wyn ne drank she, neither whit ne reed;   
2843         Hir bord was served moost with whit and blak --  
2844         Milk and broun breed, in which she foond no lak,  
2845         Seynd bacoun, and somtyme an ey or tweye,  
2846         For she was, as it were, a maner deye.

a) Translate this passage into idiomatic present-day English. If you prefer, you may first provide a literal translation.

1. Transcribe lines 2824-2834 phonemically in such a way as to indicate Chaucer’s probable pronunciation.

**PART II (50 %)**

1. First give an account of the differences between the inventory of consonant phonemes in Chaucerian English and in present-day English (RP); then give an account of the main differences in the distribution of consonant phonemes in these two stages of the language. You should include examples for illustration.

OR

2. Give an account of the morphology of nouns in Chaucerian English. You should include examples for illustration.

OR

3. ‘*The Knight, whom one might expect to be portrayed as the well-to-do secular country gentleman, is in fact an ascetic who has devoted his life to the service of Christianity. The Monk, who follows shortly afterwards, and whom one might expect to be portrayed as an ascetic who had devoted his life to the service of Christianity, is in fact portrayed much more as a well-to-do country gentleman*’.

Helen Cooper

With reference to the texts provided (lines 43-78 and 165-207 of the ‘General Prologue’) discuss Helen Cooper’s view, giving your own reasons for agreeing or disagreeing.

OR

4. One critic has said of Alisoun in ‘The Miller’s Tale’ that ‘her function in the story is mainly passive’. Discuss this claim, giving your own reasons for agreeing or disagreeing.

**Texts Provided for Question 3**:

a) Lines 43-78 from ‘The General Prologue’ to the *Canterbury Tales*

43: A KNYGHT ther was, and that a worthy man,   
44: That fro the tyme that he first bigan   
45: To riden out, he loved chivalrie,   
46: Trouthe and honour, fredom and curteisie.   
47: Ful worthy was he in his lordes werre,   
48: And therto hadde he riden, no man ferre,   
49: As wel in cristendom as in hethenesse,   
50: And evere honoured for his worthynesse.   
51: At Alisaundre he was whan it was wonne.   
52: Ful ofte tyme he hadde the bord bigonne   
53: Aboven alle nacions in Pruce;   
54: In Lettow hadde he reysed and in Ruce,   
55: No Cristen man so ofte of his degree.   
56: In Gernade at the seege eek hadde he be   
57: Of Algezir, and riden in Belmarye.   
58: At Lyeys was he and at Satalye,   
59: Whan they were wonne; and in the grete see   
60: At many a noble armee hadde he be.   
61: At mortal batailles hadde he been fiftene,   
62: And foughten for oure feith at Tramyssene   
63: In lystes thries, and ay slayn his foo.   
64: This ilke worthy knyght hadde been also   
65: Somtyme with the lord of Palatye   
66: Agayn another hethen in Turkye;

67: And everemoore he hadde a sovereyn prys

68: And though that he were worthy, he was wys,   
69: And of his port as meeke as is a mayde.   
70: He nevere yet no vileynye ne sayde   
71: In al his lyf unto no maner wight.   
72: He was a verray, parfit gentil knyght.   
73: But, for to tellen yow of his array,   
74: His hors were goode, but he was nat gay.   
75: Of fustian he wered a gypon   
76: Al bismotered with his habergeon,   
77: For he was late ycome from his viage,   
78: And wente for to doon his pilgrymage.

b) Lines 165-207 from ‘The General Prologue’ to the *Canterbury Tales*:

165: A MONK ther was, a fair for the maistrie,  
166: An outridere, that lovede venerie,  
167: A manly man, to been an abbot able.  
168: Ful many a deyntee hors hadde he in stable,  
169: And whan he rood, men myghte his brydel heere  
170: Gynglen in a whistlynge wynd als cleere  
171: And eek as loude as dooth the chapel belle  
172: Ther as this lord was kepere of the celle.  
173: The reule of Seint Maure or of Seint Beneit --  
174: By cause that it was old and somdel streit  
175: This ilke Monk leet olde thynges pace,  
176: And heeld after the newe world the space. **(text continued on next page)**  
177: He yaf nat of that text a pulled hen,  
178: That seith that hunters ben nat hooly men,  
179: Ne that a monk, whan he is recchelees,  
180: Is likned til a fissh that is waterlees --  
181: This is to seyn, a monk out of his cloystre.  
182: But thilke text heeld he nat worth an oystre;  
183: And I seyde his opinion was good.  
184: What sholde he studie and make hymselven wood,  
185: Upon a book in cloystre alwey to poure,  
186: Or swynken with his handes, and laboure,  
187: As Austyn bit? How shal the world be served?  
188: Lat Austyn have his swynk to hym reserved!  
189: Therfore he was a prikasour aright:  
190: Grehoundes he hadde as swift as fowel in flight;  
191: Of prikyng and of huntyng for the hare  
192: Was al his lust, for no cost wolde he spare.  
193: I seigh his sleves purfiled at the hond  
194: With grys, and that the fyneste of a lond;  
195: And for to festne his hood under his chyn,  
196: He hadde of gold ywroght a ful curious pyn;  
197: A love-knotte in the gretter ende ther was.  
198: His heed was balled, that shoon as any glas,  
199: And eek his face, as he hadde been enoynt.  
200: He was a lord ful fat and in good poynt;  
201: His eyen stepe, and rollynge in his heed,  
202. That stemed as a forneys of a leed;  
203: His bootes souple, his hors in greet estaat.  
204: Now certeinly he was a fair prelaat;  
205: He was nat pale as a forpyned goost.  
206: A fat swan loved he best of any roost.  
207: His palfrey was as broun as is a berye.