

i Instructions

ENG2156 - History of the English Language
4 hours written exam

Answer BOTH Part I and Part II.

Answer any ONE of the questions in Part I, and any ONE of the questions in Part II. Part I weights 60% of the candidate's mark and Part II weights 40% of the candidate's mark. Candidates must receive a pass mark on both parts. Candidates are reminded that in linguistic commentary they are expected to use the standard conventions, including phonetic symbols where appropriate; should a symbol not be available in the editor, you may use alternatives such as 'long i' or 'thorn'. You may also copy/paste symbols using the external editor found at <http://ipa.typeit.org/full/>. (see instruction handout).

Candidates may use a monolingual English-English dictionary.

It is recommended that you divide your time equally between Parts I and II.

Appendix: 8 pages

The appendix contains four texts extracted from the course compendium. If you wish, you may draw on these texts for examples to illustrate your points.

¹ Part 1 (60%)

1. Einar Haugen (1966) isolates as crucial aspects of standardisation: (1) selection of norm; (2) codification of form; (3) elaboration of function; and (4) acceptance by the community. Write an essay discussing TWO of these aspects in relation to the history of the English language.

OR

2. Contact with Scandinavian and French have had a considerable impact on the historical development of English. Pick either Scandinavian or French, and write an essay discussing its impact in relation to at least THREE aspects of language, such as phonology, morphology, lexis, orthography, or onomastics (i.e. place-names). Your essay must include examples.

OR

3. The traditional definition of the Great Vowel Shift is one describing a series of changes in the pronunciation of long vowels. Write an essay accounting for these changes. Provide examples to illustrate your points. You may, if you wish, touch on problems in the delimitation of what phonetic changes constitute the Great Vowel Shift.

OR

4. Old English and Present-day English differ in how they express modality within the verb phrase. Write an essay explaining the differences, and give an account of how it came to be that Present-day English has modal verbs.

Skriv ditt svar her...

Maks poeng: 0

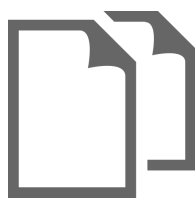
a. Explain the term 'paradigmatic levelling' and why it is an important term in relation to the history of the English language. Your answer must include examples.

b. Choose TWO of the terms 'i-mutation', 'verb-second', 'Grimm's Law/Verner's Law', 'of-genitive', and 'rhoticity'. For each of the two terms you have chosen, explain why it is an important term in relation to the history of the English language. Provide examples to illustrate your points.

3/3

Question 1

Attached



ENG2156

Text 1

THE BATTLE OF ASHDOWN

From the Parker MS of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

- 1 871. Hēr cuōm se here tō Rēadingum on Westseaxe, ond þæs ymb iii
2 niht ridon ii eorlas ūp. Þā gemētte hīe Æþelwulf aldorman on
3 Englafelda, ond him þær wiþ gefeaht, ond sige nam. Þæs ymb iiii niht
4 Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his brōþur þær micle fierd tō Rēadingum
5 gelæddon, ond wiþ þone here gefuhton; ond þær wæs micel wæl
6 geslægen on gehwæpre hond, ond Æþelwulf aldorman wearþ
7 ofslægen; ond þā Deniscan āhton wælstōwe gewald.
- 8 Ond þæs ymb iiii niht gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
9 brōþur wiþ alne þone here on Æscesdūne. Ond hīe wærun on twæm
10 gefylcum: on ōprum wæs Bāchsecg ond Halfdene, þā hāþnan
11 cyningas, ond on ōprum wæron þā eorlas. Ond þā gefeaht se cyning
12 Æþered wiþ þāra cyninga getruman, ond þær wearþ se cyning
13 Bāgsecg ofslægen; ond Ælfred his brōþur wiþ þāra eorla getruman,
14 ond þær wearþ Sidroc eorl ofslægen se alda, ond Sidroc eorl se
15 gioncga, ond Ōsbearn eorl, ond Fræna eorl, ond Hareld eorl; ond þā
16 hergas bēgen geflīemde, ond fela þūsenda ofslægenra, ond on
17 feohtende wæron oþ niht.

18 Ond þæs ymb xiiii niht gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
19 brōður wiþ þone here æt Basengum, ond þær þā Deniscan sige
20 nāmon.

21 Ond þæs ymb ii mōnaþ gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
22 brōþur wiþ þone here æt Meretūne, on hīe wærun on tuām gefylcium,
23 ond hīe bütū gefliēmdon, ond longe on dæg sige āhton; ond þær
24 wearþ micel wælsliht on gehwæþere hond; ond þā Deniscan āhton
25 wælstōwe gewald; ond þær wearþ Hēahmund bisceop¹ ofslāgen, ond
26 fela gōdra monna. Ond æfter þissum gefeohte cuōm micel sumorlida.

27 Ond þæs ofer Ēastron gefōr Æþered cyning, ond hē rīcsode v
28 gēar; ond his līc līþ æt Wīnburnan.

29 þā fēng Ælfred Æþelwulfing his brōþur tō Wesseaxna rīce.
30 Ond þæs ymb āne mōnaþ gefeaht Ælfred cyning wiþ alne þone here
31 lýtle werede æt Wiltūne, ond hine longe on dæg gefliēmd, ond þā
32 Deniscan āhton wælstōwe gewald.

33 Ond þæs gēares wurdon viiii folcgefeoht gefohten wiþ þone
34 here on þý cynerīce be sūþan Temese, ond bütan þām þe him Ælfred
35 þæs cyninges brōþur ond ānlīpig aldormon ond cyninges þegnas ofl
36 rāde on ridon þe mon nā ne rīmd; ond þæs gēares wærun ofslāgene
37 viiii eorlas ond ān cyning. Ond þý gēare nāmon Westseaxe friþ wiþ
38 þone here.

¹ MS reads <bišc>.

Text 2

VOYAGES OF ÆHTHERE AND WULFSTÂN

This text is found in King Alfred's translation of *Orosius's History*, and is an original interpolation by King Alfred. The text survives in two MSS: (1) the *Lauderdale MS*, from the first half of the 10th century; (2) MS *Cotton Tiberius B.1* from the 11th century. The earlier *Lauderdale MS* has had eight leaves cut out, and so after the mark || (line 25), this transliteration follows the later *Cotton Tiberius* version.

- 1 Æhtere sǣde his hlāforde, Ælfrede cyninge, þæt hē ealra Norðmonna norþmest
2 būde. Hē cwæð þæt hē būde on þām lande norþweardum wiþ þā Westsǣ. Hē sǣde þēah
3 þæt þæt¹ land sīe swīpe lang norþ þonan; ac hit is eal wēste, būton on fēawum stōwum
4 styccemǣlum wīciað Finnas, on huntoðe on wintra, ond on sumera on fīscapē be þære sǣ.
5 Hē sǣde þæt hē æt sumum cirre wolde fandian hū longe þæt land norþryhte lǣge, oppe
6 hwæðer ænig mon be norðan þām wēstenne būde. Þā fōr hē norþryhte be þām lande: lēt
7 him ealne weg þæt wēste land on ðæt stēorbord, ond þā wīdsǣ on ðæt bæcbord þrīe dagas.
8 Þā wæs hē swā feor norþ swā þā hwælhuntan firrest farap. Þā fōr hē þāgīet norþryhte swā
9 feor swā hē meahte on þām oþrum þrim dagum gesiglan. Þā bēag þæt land þær ēastryhte,
10 oppe sēo sǣ in on ðæt lond, hē nysse hwæðer, būton hē wisse ðæt hē ðær bād
11 westanwindes ond hwōn norþan, ond siglde ðā² east be lande swā swā hē meahte on
12 fēower dagum gesiglan. Þā sceolde hē ðær bīdan ryhtnorþanwindes, for ðām þæt land
13 bēag þær sūþryhte, oppe sēo sǣ in on ðæt land, he nysse hwæþer. Þā siglde hē þonan
14 sūðryhte be lande swā swā hē mehte on fīf dagum gesiglan. Ðā læg þær ān micel ēa ūp in
15 on þæt land. Þā cirdon hīe ūp in on ðā ēa, for þām hīe ne dorston forþ bī þære ēa siglan for
16 unfriþe; for þām ðæt land wæs eall gebūn on oþre healfe þære ēas. Ne mētte hē ær nān
17 gebūn land, siþþan hē from his āgnum hām fōr; ac him wæs ealne weg wēste land on þæt
18 stēorbord, būtan fīscerum ond fugelerum ond huntum, ond þæt wæron eall Finnas; ond
19 him wæs ā wīdsǣ on ðæt bæcbord. Þā Beormas hæfdon swīpe wel gebūd³ hira land: ac hīe
20 ne dorston þær on cuman. Ac þāra Terfinna land wæs eal wēste, būton ðær huntan
21 gewīcodon, oppe fīsceras, oppe fugeleras.
22 Fela spella him sǣdon þā Beormas ægþer ge of hiera āgnum lande ge of þām
23 landum þe ymb hīe ūtan wæron; ac hē nyste hwæt þæs sōþes wæs, for þām hē hit self ne

¹ One <þæt> is not found in the *Lauderdale MS*.

² The *Cotton Tiberius MS* reads <þanon>.

³ The *Cotton Tiberius MS* has <gebūn>.

24 geseah. þā Finnas, him þūhte, ond þā Beormas spræcon nēah ān geþēode. Swīpost hē fōr
25 ðider, tōēacan þæs landes scēawunge, for þām horshwælum⁴, for ðām hīe habbað swīpe
26 æpele bān on hiora tōþum (þā tēð hīe brōhton sume þām cyninge); ond hiora hȳd⁵ || bið
27 swīðe gōd tō sciprāpum. Sē hwæl bið micle læssa þonne ððre hwalas: ne bið hē lengra
28 ðonne syfan elna lang; ac on his āgnum lande is se betsta hwælhuntað; þā bēoð eahta and
29 fēowertiges elna lange, and þā mæstan fiftiges elna lange; þāra hē sæde þæt hē syxa sum
30 ofslōge syxtig on twām dagum.

31 Hē wæs swyðe spēdig man on þām æhtum þe heora spēda on bēoð, þæt is, on
32 wildrum. Hē hæfde þāgyt, ðā hē þone cyninge sōhte, tamra dēora unbebohtra syx hund. þā
33 dēor hī hātað 'hrānas'; þāra wæron syx stælrānas; ðā bēoð swyðe dȳre mid Finnum, for
34 ðām hȳ fōð þā wildan hrānas mid. Hē wæs mid þām fyrstum mannum on þām lande:
35 næfde hē þeah mā ðonne twentig hrȳðera, and twentig scēapa, and twentig swȳna; and þæt
36 lȳtle þæt hē erede, hē erede mid horsan. Ac hyra ār is mæst on þām gafole þe ðā Finnas
37 him gylðað. Þæt gafol bið on dēora fellum, and on fugela feðerum, and hwalcs bāne, and
38 on þām sciprāpum, þe bēoð of hwæles hȳde geworht, and of sēoles. Æghwīlc gylt be hys
39 gebyrdum. Se byrdesta sceall gyldan fiftȳne mearðes fell, and fīf hrānes, and ān beran fel,
40 and tȳn ambra feðra, and berenne kyrtel oððe yterenne, and twēgen sciprāpas; ægþer sȳ
41 syxtig elna lang, oþer sȳ of hwæles hȳde geworht, oþer of sēoles.

42 Hē sæde ðæt Norðmanna land wære swyðe lang and swyðe smæl. Eal þæt his man
43 āþer oððe ettan oððe erian mæg, þæt līð wið ðā sǣ; and þæt is þeah on sumum stōwum
44 swyðe clūdig; and licgað wilde mōras wið ēastan and wið uppon emnlange þām bȳnum
45 lande. On þām mōrum eardiað Finnas. And þæt bȳne land is ēasteward brādost, and
46 symle swā norðor swā smælre. Ēastewerd hit mæg bīon syxtig mīla brād, oþþe hwēne
47 brādre⁶, and middeward þrētig oððe brādre; and norðeward hē cwæð, þær hit smalost
48 wære, þæt hit mihte bēon þrēora mīla brād tō þām mōre; and se mōr syðþan, on sumum
49 stōwum swā brād swā man mæg on twām wucum oferfēran; and on sumum stōwum swā
50 brād swā man mæg on syx dagum oferfēran.

⁴ The *Lauderdale* MS has <horschwælum>.

⁵ This is where the *Lauderdale* MS ends.

⁶ <brādre> would be the expected form.

51 Donne is tōemnes þāem lande sūðewardum, on ððre healfe þæs mōres, Swēoland,
52 op þæt land norðeward; and tōemnes þāem lande norðewardum, Cwēna land. Þā Cwēnas
53 hergiað hwīlum on ðā Norðmen ofer ðone mōr, hwīlum þā Norðmen on hȳ. And þær sint
54 swīðe micle meras fersce geond þā mōras; and berað þā Cwēnas hyra scypu ofer land on
55 ðā meras, and þanon hergiað on ðā Norðmen; hȳ habbað swȳðe lȳtle scypa and swȳðe
56 lēohte.

57 Ōnthere sāde þæt sīo scīr hātte Hālgoland þe hē on būde. Hē cwæð þæt nān man
58 ne būde be norðan him. Þonne is ān port on sūðewardum þāem lande, þone⁷ man hāt
59 Scīringes hēal. Þyder hē cwæð þæt man ne mihte geseglian on ānum mōnðe, gyf man on
60 niht wīcode, and ælce dæge hæfde ambyrne wind; and ealle ðā hwīle hē sceal seglian be
61 lande. And on þæt stēorbord him bið ārest Īraland, and þonne ðā īgland þe synd betux
62 Īralande and þissum lande. Þonne is þis land oð hē cymð to Scīringes hēale, and ealne
63 weg on þæt bæcbord Norðweg. Wið sūðan þone Scīringes hēal fylð swȳðe mycel sē ūp in
64 on ðæt land; sēo is brādre þonne ænig man ofer sēon mæge. And is Gotland on ððre healfe
65 ongēan, and siððan⁸ Sillende. Sēo sē līð mænig hund mīla ūp in on þæt land.

66 And of Scīringeshēale hē cwæð þæt hē seglode on fīf dagan tō þāem porte þe mon
67 hāt æt Hāþum; sē stent betuh Winedum, and Seaxum, and Angle, and hȳrð in on Dene.
68 Ðā hē þiderweard seglode fram Scīringeshēale, þā wæs him on þæt bæcbord Denamearc
69 and on þæt stēorbord wīdsā þrȳ dagas; and þā, twēgen dagas ær hē tō Hāþum cōme, him
70 wæs on þæt stēorbord Gotland, and Sillende, and īglanda fela. On þāem landum eardodon
71 Engle, ær hī hider on land cōman. And hym wæs ðā twēgen dagas on ðæt bæcbord þā
72 īgland þe in [on]⁹ Denemearce hȳrað.

⁷ The form <þonne> would be expected.

⁸ <siðða> would be the expected form.

⁹ The preposition is omitted in the MS.

Text 3

THE ORRMULUM (extract); MS Junius 1.

Dedication

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Nū, brōþerr Wallterr, brōþerr mīn | 42 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess, |
| 2 affterr þe flæshess kīnde; | 43 all þurh mē sellfenn, manīȝ wōrd |
| 3 7 ¹ brōþerr mīn ī Crisstenndōm | 44 þe rīme swā tō fillenn; |
| 4 þurh fulluhht 7 þurh trowwþe; | 45 acc þū shallt findenn þatt mīn wōrd, |
| 5 7 brōþerr mīn ī Godess hūs, | 46 e33whær þær itt iss ēkedd, |
| 6 zét ō þe þridde wīse, | 47 ma33 hellpenn þā þatt rēdenn itt |
| 7 þurh þatt witt hafenn tākenn bā | 48 tō sēn 7 t'unnderrstanndenn |
| 8 ān rezhellbōc tō follzhenn, | 49 all þess te bettere, hū þe33m birrþ |
| 9 unnderr kanunnkess hād 7 līf, | 50 þe Goddspell unnderrstanndenn; |
| 10 swā-summ Sannt Awwstīn sette; | 51 7 forr-þī trowwe icc þat tē birrþ |
| 11 icc hafe dōn swā-summ þū badd, | 52 wēl þolenn mīne wōrdess, |
| 12 7 fōrþedd tē þīn wille, | 53 e33whær þær þū shallt findenn hemm |
| 13 icc hafe wennd inntill Ennglissh | 54 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess. |
| 14 goddspelless hallȝhe lāre, | 55 forr whā-se mót tō lāwedd folle |
| 15 affterr þatt little witt þatt mē | 56 lārspell off Goddspell tellenn, |
| 16 mīn Drihhtīn hafeþþ lēnedd. | 57 hē mot wēl ēkenn manīȝ wōrd |
| 17 þū þohhtesst tatt itt mihhte wēl | 58 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess. |
| 18 till mikell frame turnenn, | 59 7 icc ne mihhte nohht mīn ferrs |
| 19 ȝiff Ennglissh folle, forr lufe off Crīst, | 60 a33 wiþþ Goddspelless wōrdess |
| 20 itt wollde ȝērne lērnenn, | 61 wēl fillenn all, 7 all forr-þī |
| 21 7 follzhenn itt, 7 fillenn itt | 62 sholde icc well offte nēde |
| 22 wiþþ þohht, wiþþ wōrd, wiþþ dēde. | 63 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess dōn |
| 23 7 forr-þī ȝerndesst tū þatt icc | 64 mīn wōrd, mīn ferrs tō fillenn. |
| 24 þiss werre þē sholde wirrkenn; | |
| 25 7 icc itt hafe fōrþedd tē, | |
| 26 acc all þurh Crīstess hellpe; | |
| 27 7 unnc birrþ bāþe þannkenn Crīst | |
| 28 þatt itt iss brohht till ēnde. | |
| 29 icc hafe sammnedd ō þiss bōc | |
| 30 þā Goddspelless nēh alle, | |
| 31 þatt sinndenn ō þe messebōc | |
| 32 inn all þe ȝēr att messe. | |
| 33 7 a33 affterr þe Goddspell stannt | |
| 34 þatt tatt te Goddspell mēneþþ, | |
| 35 þatt mann birrþ spellenn tō þe folle | |
| 36 off þe33re sāwle nēde; | |
| 37 7 zét tær tēkenn māre inōh | |
| 38 þū shallt tæronne findenn, | |
| 39 off þatt tatt Crīstess hallȝhe pēd | |
| 40 birrþ trowwenn wēl 7 follzhenn. | |
| 41 Icc hafe sett hēr ō þiss bōc | |

¹ = annd 'and'

Text 4

Geoffrey Chaucer (ca. 1340-1400)

The Canterbury Tales (1380s); extract from *The Wife of Bath's Tale*, Ellesmere MS.

1083 Greet was the wo / the knyght hadde in his thoght
1084 Whan he was with his wyf abedde ybrought /
1085 He walweth / and he turneth to and fro
1086 His olde wyf / lay smylyng euermo
1087 And seyde / o deere housbonde benedicitee
1088 Fareth euery knyght / thus w^t his wyf / as ye ?
1089 Is this the lawe / of kyng / Arthures hous ?
1090 Is euery knyght of his so dangerous ?
1091 I am youre owene loue / and your wyf /
1092 I am she / which þ^t saued hath youre lyf
1093 And certes / yet ne dide I yow neuere vnright /
1094 Why fare ye thus with me / this firste nyght /
1095 ye faren lyk a man / had lost his wit /
1096 What is my gilt / ? for goddes loue tel it
1097 And it shal been amended / if I may
1098 Amended quod this knyght / ? allas nay / nay /
1099 It wol nat been amended neuere mo
1100 Thou art so loothly / and so oold also
1101 And ther to comen / of so lough a kynde
1102 That litel wonder is / thogh I walwe and wynde
1103 So wolde god / myn herte wolde breste
1104 Is this quod she / the cause of youre vnreste ?
1105 Ye certainly quod he / no wonder is
1106 Now sire quod she / I koude amende al this
1107 If that me liste / er it were dayes thre
1108 So wel ye myght / bere yow vn-to me
1109 Bvt for ye speken / of swich gentillesse
1110 As is descended / out of old richesse
1111 That therfore / sholden yc be gentil men
1112 Swich arrogance / is nat worth an hen
1113 Looke who that is / moost vertuous alway
1114 Pryuce and apert / and moost entendeth ay
1115 To do / the gentil dedes that he kan
1116 Taak hym / for the grettest gentil man
1117 Christ wole / we clayme of hym oure gentillesse
1118 Nat of oure eldres / for hire old richesse
1119 For thogh they ycue vs / al hir heritage
1120 For which we clayme / to been of heigh parage
1121 Yet may they nat biquethe / for no thyng /
1122 To noon of vs / hir vertuous lyuyng /
1123 That made hem / gentil men ycalled be
1124 And bad vs / folwen hem in swich degree

* * *

1219 Chese now quod she / oon of thise thynges tweye
1220 To han me foul and old / til that I deye
1221 And be to yow / a trewe humble wyf /
1222 And neuere yow displese / in al my lyf /
1223 Or elles / ye wol han me yong and fair
1224 And take youre auenture / of the repair
1225 That shal be to youre hous / by cause of me
1226 Or in som oother place / may wel be
1227 Now chese your seluen / wheither þⁱ yow liketh
1228 This knyght auyseth hym and sore siketh
1229 But atte laste / he seyde in this manere
1230 My lady and my loue / and wyf so deere
1231 I put me / in youre wise gouernance
1232 Cheseth your self / which may be moost plesance
1233 And moost honour / to yow and me also
1234 I do no fors / the wheither / of the two
1235 For as yow liketh / it suffiseth me
1236 Thanne haue I gete of yow / maistric quod she
1237 Syn I may chese / and gouerne as me lest /
1238 Ye certes wyf quod he / I holde it best /
1239 Kys me quod she / we be no lenger wrothe
1240 For by my trouthe / I wol be to yow bothe
1241 This is to sayn / ye bothe fair and good
1242 I prey to god / þⁱ I moote steruen wood
1243 But I to yow / be also good and trewe
1244 As euere was wyf / syn þⁱ the world was newe
1245 And but I be tomorn / as fair to seene
1246 As any lady / Emperice or queene
1247 That is bitwixe the Est / and eke the west
1248 dooth wⁱ my lyf / and deth / right / as yow lest /
1249 Cast vp the curtyn / looke how that it is
1250 And whan the knyght / saugh verrailly al this
1251 That she so fair was / and so yong ther to
1252 For ioie / he hente hir / in hise armes two
1253 His herte bathed / in a bath of blisse
1254 A thousand tyme arewe / he gan hir kisse
1255 And she obeyed hym in euery thing /
1256 That myghte doon hym plesance or likyng/
1257 And thus they lyue / vn-to hir lyues ende
1258 In perfit ioie / and Iesu crist vs sende
1259 Housbondes meeke / yonge / and fresshe a-bedde
1260 And grace / touerbyde hem þⁱ we wedde
1261 And eek / I pray Iesu shorte hir lyues
1262 That nat wol be gouerned by hir wyues
1263 And olde and angry nygardes of dispence
1264 God sende hem soone / verray pestilence.

Heere endeth / the Wyues tale of Bathe

Question 2

Attached



ENG2156

Text 1

THE BATTLE OF ASHDOWN

From the Parker MS of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

- 1 871. Hēr cuōm se here tō Rēadingum on Westseaxe, ond þæs ymb iii
2 niht ridon ii eorlas ūp. Þā gemētte hīe Æþelwulf aldorman on
3 Englafelda, ond him þær wiþ gefeaht, ond sige nam. Þæs ymb iiii niht
4 Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his brōþur þær micle fierd tō Rēadingum
5 gelæddon, ond wiþ þone here gefuhton; ond þær wæs micel wæl
6 geslægen on gehwæpre hond, ond Æþelwulf aldorman wearþ
7 ofslægen; ond þā Deniscan āhton wælstōwe gewald.
- 8 Ond þæs ymb iiii niht gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
9 brōþur wiþ alne þone here on Æscesdūne. Ond hīe wærun on twæm
10 gefylcum: on ōprum wæs Bāchsecg ond Halfdene, þā hāþnan
11 cyningas, ond on ōprum wæron þā eorlas. Ond þā gefeaht se cyning
12 Æþered wiþ þāra cyninga getruman, ond þær wearþ se cyning
13 Bāgsecg ofslægen; ond Ælfred his brōþur wiþ þāra eorla getruman,
14 ond þær wearþ Sidroc eorl ofslægen se alda, ond Sidroc eorl se
15 gioncga, ond Ōsbearn eorl, ond Fræna eorl, ond Hareld eorl; ond þā
16 hergas bēgen geflīemde, ond fela þūsenda ofslægenra, ond on
17 feohtende wæron oþ niht.

18 Ond þæs ymb xiiii niht gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
19 brōður wiþ þone here æt Basengum, ond þær þā Deniscan sige
20 nāmon.

21 Ond þæs ymb ii mōnaþ gefeaht Æþered cyning ond Ælfred his
22 brōþur wiþ þone here æt Meretūne, on hīe wærun on tuām gefylcium,
23 ond hīe bütū gefliēmdon, ond longe on dæg sige āhton; ond þær
24 wearþ micel wælsliht on gehwæþere hond; ond þā Deniscan āhton
25 wælstōwe gewald; ond þær wearþ Hēahmund bisceop¹ ofslāgen, ond
26 fela gōdra monna. Ond æfter þissum gefeohte cuōm micel sumorlida.

27 Ond þæs ofer Ēastron gefōr Æþered cyning, ond hē rīcsode v
28 gēar; ond his līc līþ æt Wīnburnan.

29 þā fēng Ælfred Æþelwulfinġ his brōþur tō Wesseaxna rīce.
30 Ond þæs ymb ānne mōnaþ gefeaht Ælfred cyning wiþ alne þone here
31 lýtle werede æt Wiltūne, ond hine longe on dæg gefliēmdo, ond þā
32 Deniscan āhton wælstōwe gewald.

33 Ond þæs gēares wurdon viiii folcgefeoht gefohten wiþ þone
34 here on þý cynerīce be sūþan Temese, ond būtan þām þe him Ælfred
35 þæs cyninges brōþur ond ānlīpig aldormon ond cyninges þegnas of
36 rāde on ridon þe mon nā ne rīmdo; ond þæs gēares wærun ofslāgene
37 viiii eorlas ond ān cyning. Ond þý gēare nāmon Westseaxe friþ wiþ
38 þone here.

¹ MS reads <bišc>.

Text 2

VOYAGES OF ÆHTHERE AND WULFSTÂN

This text is found in King Alfred's translation of *Orosius's History*, and is an original interpolation by King Alfred. The text survives in two MSS: (1) the *Lauderdale MS*, from the first half of the 10th century; (2) *MS Cotton Tiberius B.1* from the 11th century. The earlier *Lauderdale MS* has had eight leaves cut out, and so after the mark || (line 25), this transliteration follows the later *Cotton Tiberius* version.

- 1 Æhtere sǣde his hlāforde, Ælfrede cyninge, þæt hē ealra Norðmonna norþmest
2 būde. Hē cwæð þæt hē būde on þām lande norþweardum wiþ þā Westsǣ. Hē sǣde þēah
3 þæt þæt¹ land sīe swīpe lang norþ þonan; ac hit is eal wēste, būton on fēawum stōwum
4 styccemǣlum wīciað Finnas, on huntoðe on wintra, ond on sumera on fīscapē be þære sǣ.
5 Hē sǣde þæt hē æt sumum cirre wolde fandian hū longe þæt land norþryhte lǣge, oppe
6 hwæðer ænig mon be norðan þām wēstenne būde. Þā fōr hē norþryhte be þām lande: lēt
7 him ealne weg þæt wēste land on ðæt stēorbord, ond þā wīdsǣ on ðæt bæcbord þrīe dagas.
8 Þā wæs hē swā feor norþ swā þā hwælhuntan firrest farap. Þā fōr hē þāgīet norþryhte swā
9 feor swā hē meahte on þām oþrum þrim dagum gesiglan. Þā bēag þæt land þær ēastryhte,
10 oppe sēo sǣ in on ðæt lond, hē nysse hwæðer, būton hē wisse ðæt hē ðær bād
11 westanwindes ond hwōn norþan, ond siglde ðā² east be lande swā swā hē meahte on
12 fēower dagum gesiglan. Þā sceolde hē ðær bīdan ryhtnorþanwindes, for ðām þæt land
13 bēag þær sūþryhte, oppe sēo sǣ in on ðæt land, he nysse hwæþer. Þā siglde hē þonan
14 sūðryhte be lande swā swā hē mehte on fīf dagum gesiglan. Ðā læg þær ān micel ēa ūp in
15 on þæt land. Þā cirdon hīe ūp in on ðā ēa, for þām hīe ne dorston forþ bī þære ēa siglan for
16 unfriþe; for þām ðæt land wæs eall gebūn on oþre healfe þære ēas. Ne mētte hē ær nān
17 gebūn land, siþþan hē from his āgnum hām fōr; ac him wæs ealne weg wēste land on þæt
18 stēorbord, būtan fīscerum ond fugelerum ond huntum, ond þæt wæron eall Finnas; ond
19 him wæs ā wīdsǣ on ðæt bæcbord. Þā Beormas hæfdon swīpe wel gebūd³ hira land: ac hīe
20 ne dorston þær on cuman. Ac þāra Terfinna land wæs eal wēste, būton ðær huntan
21 gewīcodon, oppe fīsceras, oppe fugeleras.
22 Fela spella him sǣdon þā Beormas ægþer ge of hiera āgnum lande ge of þām
23 landum þe ymb hīe ūtan wæron; ac hē nyste hwæt þæs sōþes wæs, for þām hē hit self ne

¹ One <þæt> is not found in the *Lauderdale MS*.

² The *Cotton Tiberius MS* reads <þanon>.

³ The *Cotton Tiberius MS* has <gebūn>.

24 geseah. þā Finnas, him þūhte, ond þā Beormas spræcon nēah ān geþēode. Swīpost hē fōr
25 ðider, tōēacan þæs landes scēawunge, for þām horshwælum⁴, for ðām hīe habbað swīpe
26 æpele bān on hiora tōpum (þā tēð hīe brōhton sume þām cyninge); ond hiora hȳd⁵ || bið
27 swīðe gōd tō sciprāpum. Sē hwæl bið micle læssa þonne ððre hwalas: ne bið hē lengra
28 ðonne syfan elna lang; ac on his āgnum lande is se betsta hwælhuntað; þā bēoð eahta and
29 fēowertiges elna lange, and þā mæstan fiftiges elna lange; þāra hē sæde þæt hē syxa sum
30 ofslōge syxtig on twām dagum.

31 Hē wæs swyðe spēdig man on þām æhtum þe heora spēda on bēoð, þæt is, on
32 wildrum. Hē hæfde þāgyt, ðā hē þone cyninge sōhte, tamra dēora unbebohtra syx hund. þā
33 dēor hī hātað ‘hrānas’; þāra wæron syx stælrānas; ðā bēoð swyðe dȳre mid Finnum, for
34 ðām hȳ fōð þā wildan hrānas mid. Hē wæs mid þām fyrstum mannum on þām lande:
35 næfde hē þeah mā ðonne twentig hrȳðera, and twentig scēapa, and twentig swȳna; and þæt
36 lȳtle þæt hē erede, hē erede mid horsan. Ac hyra ār is mæst on þām gafole þe ðā Finnas
37 him gylðað. Þæt gafol bið on dēora fellum, and on fugela feðerum, and hwalcs bāne, and
38 on þām sciprāpum, þe bēoð of hwæles hȳde geworht, and of sēoles. Æghwīlc gylt be hys
39 gebyrdum. Se byrdesta sceall gyldan fiftȳne mearðes fell, and fīf hrānes, and ān beran fel,
40 and tȳn ambra feðra, and berenne kyrtel oððe yterenne, and twēgen sciprāpas; ægþer sȳ
41 syxtig elna lang, oþer sȳ of hwæles hȳde geworht, oþer of sēoles.

42 Hē sæde ðæt Norðmanna land wære swȳpe lang and swyðe smæl. Eal þæt his man
43 āþer oððe ettan oððe erian mæg, þæt līð wið ðā sǣ; and þæt is þeah on sumum stōwum
44 swyðe clūdig; and licgað wilde mōras wið ēastan and wið uppon emnlange þām bȳnum
45 lande. On þām mōrum eardiað Finnas. And þæt bȳne land is ēasteward brādost, and
46 symle swā norðor swā smælre. Ēastewerd hit mæg bīon syxtig mīla brād, oþþe hwēne
47 brādre⁶, and middeward þrētig oððe brādre; and norðeward hē cwæð, þær hit smalost
48 wære, þæt hit mihte bēon þrēora mīla brād tō þām mōre; and se mōr syðþan, on sumum
49 stōwum swā brād swā man mæg on twām wucum oferfēran; and on sumum stōwum swā
50 brād swā man mæg on syx dagum oferfēran.

⁴ The *Lauderdale* MS has <horschwælum>.

⁵ This is where the *Lauderdale* MS ends.

⁶ <brādre> would be the expected form.

51 Donne is tōemnes þāem lande sūðewearðum, on ððre healfe þæs mōres, Swēoland,
52 op þæt land norðewearð; and tōemnes þāem lande norðewearðum, Cwēna land. Þā Cwēnas
53 hergiað hwīlum on ðā Norðmen ofer ðone mōr, hwīlum þā Norðmen on hȳ. And þær sint
54 swīðe micle meras fersce geond þā mōras; and berað þā Cwēnas hyra scypu ofer land on
55 ðā meras, and þanon hergiað on ðā Norðmen; hȳ habbað swȳðe lȳtle scypa and swȳðe
56 lēohte.

57 Ōnthere sāde þæt sīo scīr hātte Hālgoland þe hē on būde. Hē cwæð þæt nān man
58 ne būde be norðan him. Þonne is ān port on sūðewearðum þāem lande, þone⁷ man hāt
59 Scīringes hēal. Þyder hē cwæð þæt man ne mihte geseglian on ānum mōnðe, gyf man on
60 niht wīcode, and ælce dæge hæfde ambyrne wind; and ealle ðā hwīle hē sceal seglian be
61 lande. And on þæt stēorbord him bið ārest Īraland, and þonne ðā ĭgland þe synd betux
62 Īralande and þissum lande. Þonne is þis land oð hē cymð to Scīringes hēale, and ealne
63 weg on þæt bæcbord Norðweg. Wið sūðan þone Scīringes hēal fylð swȳðe mycel sē ūp in
64 on ðæt land; sēo is brādre þonne ænig man ofer sēon mæge. And is Gotland on ððre healfe
65 ongēan, and siððan⁸ Sillende. Sēo sē līð mænig hund mīla ūp in on þæt land.

66 And of Scīringeshēale hē cwæð þæt hē seglode on fīf dagan tō þāem porte þe mon
67 hāt æt Hāþum; sē stent betuh Winedum, and Seaxum, and Angle, and hȳrð in on Dene.
68 Ðā hē þiderweard seglode fram Scīringeshēale, þā wæs him on þæt bæcbord Denamearc
69 and on þæt stēorbord wīdsā þrȳ dagas; and þā, twēgen dagas ær hē tō Hāþum cōme, him
70 wæs on þæt stēorbord Gotland, and Sillende, and ĭglanda fela. On þāem landum eardodon
71 Engle, ær hī hider on land cōman. And hym wæs ðā twēgen dagas on ðæt bæcbord þā
72 ĭgland þe in [on]⁹ Denemearce hȳrað.

⁷ The form <þonne> would be expected.

⁸ <siðða> would be the expected form.

⁹ The preposition is omitted in the MS.

Text 3

THE ORRMULUM (extract); MS Junius 1.

Dedication

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Nū, brōþerr Wallterr, brōþerr mīn | 42 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess, |
| 2 affterr þe flæshess kīnde; | 43 all þurh mē sellfenn, manīȝ wōrd |
| 3 7 ¹ brōþerr mīn ī Crisstenndōm | 44 þe rīme swā tō fillenn; |
| 4 þurh fulluhht 7 þurh trowwþe; | 45 acc þū shallt findenn þatt mīn wōrd, |
| 5 7 brōþerr mīn ī Godess hūs, | 46 e33whær þær itt iss ēkedd, |
| 6 zét ō þe þridde wīse, | 47 ma33 hellpenn þā þatt rēdenn itt |
| 7 þurh þatt witt hafenn tākenn bā | 48 tō sēn 7 t'unnderrstanndenn |
| 8 ān rezhellbōc tō follzhenn, | 49 all þess te bettere, hū þe33m birrþ |
| 9 unnderr kanunnkess hād 7 līf, | 50 þe Goddspell unnderrstanndenn; |
| 10 swā-summ Sannt Awwstīn sette; | 51 7 forr-þī trowwe icc þat tē birrþ |
| 11 icc hafe dōn swā-summ þū badd, | 52 wēl þolenn mīne wōrdess, |
| 12 7 fōrþedd tē þīn wille, | 53 e33whær þær þū shallt findenn hemm |
| 13 icc hafe wennd inntill Ennglissh | 54 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess. |
| 14 goddspelless hallȝhe lāre, | 55 forr whā-se mót tō lāwedd folle |
| 15 affterr þatt little witt þatt mē | 56 lārspell off Goddspell tellenn, |
| 16 mīn Drihhtīn hafeþþ lēnedd. | 57 hē mot wēl ēkenn manīȝ wōrd |
| 17 þū þohhtesst tatt itt mihhte wēl | 58 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess. |
| 18 till mikell frame turnenn, | 59 7 icc ne mihhte nohht mīn ferrs |
| 19 ȝiff Ennglissh folle, forr lufe off Crīst, | 60 a33 wiþþ Goddspelless wōrdess |
| 20 itt wollde ȝērne lērnenn, | 61 wēl fillenn all, 7 all forr-þī |
| 21 7 follzhenn itt, 7 fillenn itt | 62 sholde icc well offte nēde |
| 22 wiþþ þohht, wiþþ wōrd, wiþþ dēde. | 63 amāng Goddspelless wōrdess dōn |
| 23 7 forr-þī ȝerndesst tū þatt icc | 64 mīn wōrd, mīn ferrs tō fillenn. |
| 24 þiss werre þē sholde wirrkenn; | |
| 25 7 icc itt hafe fōrþedd tē, | |
| 26 acc all þurh Crīstess hellpe; | |
| 27 7 unnc birrþ bāþe þannkenn Crīst | |
| 28 þatt itt iss brohht till ēnde. | |
| 29 icc hafe sammnedd ō þiss bōc | |
| 30 þā Goddspelless nēh alle, | |
| 31 þatt sinndenn ō þe messebōc | |
| 32 inn all þe ȝēr att messe. | |
| 33 7 a33 affterr þe Goddspell stannt | |
| 34 þatt tatt te Goddspell mēneþþ, | |
| 35 þatt mann birrþ spellenn tō þe folle | |
| 36 off þe33re sāwle nēde; | |
| 37 7 zét tær tēkenn māre inōh | |
| 38 þū shallt tæronne findenn, | |
| 39 off þatt tatt Crīstess hallȝhe pēd | |
| 40 birrþ trowwenn wēl 7 follzhenn. | |
| 41 Icc hafe sett hēr ō þiss bōc | |

¹ = annd 'and'

Text 4

Geoffrey Chaucer (ca. 1340-1400)

The Canterbury Tales (1380s); extract from *The Wife of Bath's Tale*, Ellesmere MS.

1083 Greet was the wo / the knyght hadde in his thoght
1084 Whan he was with his wyf abedde ybrought /
1085 He walweth / and he turneth to and fro
1086 His olde wyf / lay smylyng euermo
1087 And seyde / o deere housbonde benedicitee
1088 Fareth euery knyght / thus w^t his wyf / as ye ?
1089 Is this the lawe / of kyng / Arthures hous ?
1090 Is euery knyght of his so dangerous ?
1091 I am youre owene loue / and your wyf /
1092 I am she / which þ^t saued hath youre lyf
1093 And certes / yet ne dide I yow neuere vnright /
1094 Why fare ye thus with me / this firste nyght /
1095 ye faren lyk a man / had lost his wit /
1096 What is my gilt / ? for goddes loue tel it
1097 And it shal been amended / if I may
1098 Amended quod this knyght / ? allas nay / nay /
1099 It wol nat been amended neuere mo
1100 Thou art so loothly / and so oold also
1101 And ther to comen / of so lough a kynde
1102 That litel wonder is / thogh I walwe and wynde
1103 So wolde god / myn herte wolde breste
1104 Is this quod she / the cause of youre vnreste ?
1105 Ye certainly quod he / no wonder is
1106 Now sire quod she / I koude amende al this
1107 If that me liste / er it were dayes thre
1108 So wel ye myght / bere yow vn-to me
1109 Bvt for ye speken / of swich gentillesse
1110 As is descended / out of old richesse
1111 That therfore / sholden yc be gentil men
1112 Swich arrogance / is nat worth an hen
1113 Looke who that is / moost vertuous alway
1114 Pryuce and apert / and moost entendeth ay
1115 To do / the gentil dedes that he kan
1116 Taak hym / for the grettest gentil man
1117 Christ wole / we clayme of hym oure gentillesse
1118 Nat of oure eldres / for hire old richesse
1119 For thogh they ycue vs / al hir heritage
1120 For which we clayme / to been of heigh parage
1121 Yet may they nat biquethe / for no thyng /
1122 To noon of vs / hir vertuous lyuyng /
1123 That made hem / gentil men ycalled be
1124 And bad vs / folwen hem in swich degree

* * *

1219 Chese now quod she / oon of thise thynges tweye
1220 To han me foul and old / til that I deye
1221 And be to yow / a trewe humble wyf /
1222 And neuere yow displese / in al my lyf /
1223 Or elles / ye wol han me yong and fair
1224 And take youre auenture / of the repair
1225 That shal be to youre hous / by cause of me
1226 Or in som oother place / may wel be
1227 Now chese your seluen / wheither þⁱ yow liketh
1228 This knyght auyseth hym and sore siketh
1229 But atte laste / he seyde in this manere
1230 My lady and my loue / and wyf so deere
1231 I put me / in youre wise gouernance
1232 Cheseth your self / which may be moost plesance
1233 And moost honour / to yow and me also
1234 I do no fors / the wheither / of the two
1235 For as yow liketh / it suffiseth me
1236 Thanne haue I gete of yow / maistric quod she
1237 Syn I may chese / and gouerne as me lest /
1238 Ye certes wyf quod he / I holde it best /
1239 Kys me quod she / we be no lenger wrothe
1240 For by my trouthe / I wol be to yow bothe
1241 This is to sayn / ye bothe fair and good
1242 I prey to god / þⁱ I moote steruen wood
1243 But I to yow / be also good and trewe
1244 As euere was wyf / syn þⁱ the world was newe
1245 And but I be tomorn / as fair to seene
1246 As any lady / Emperice or queene
1247 That is bitwixe the Est / and eke the west
1248 dooth wⁱ my lyf / and deth / right / as yow lest /
1249 Cast vp the curtyn / looke how that it is
1250 And whan the knyght / saugh verrailly al this
1251 That she so fair was / and so yong ther to
1252 For ioie / he hente hir / in hise armes two
1253 His herte bathed / in a bath of blisse
1254 A thousand tyme arewe / he gan hir kisse
1255 And she obeyed hym in euery thing /
1256 That myghte doon hym plesance or likyng/
1257 And thus they lyue / vn-to hir lyues ende
1258 In perfit ioie / and Iesu crist vs sende
1259 Housbondes meeke / yonge / and fresshe a-bedde
1260 And grace / touerbyde hem þⁱ we wedde
1261 And eek / I pray Iesu shorte hir lyues
1262 That nat wol be gouerned by hir wyues
1263 And olde and angry nygardes of dispence
1264 God sende hem soone / verray pestilence.

Heere endeth / the Wyues tale of Bathe