

## **i Information**

**University of Oslo**  
**Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages**  
**Spring 2020**  
**ENG2156 – History of the English Language**

4-hour written exam without supervision, 20 May at 9:00 AM.

### **Practical information about the examination**

This exam consists of **three** questions. Answer **all three** questions.

Write a minimum of 500 words for question 3. Questions 1 and 2 consist of several subquestions. Write a minimum of two sentences per subquestion. Always write in grammatically complete sentences. Single-word answers will not be accepted.

Inspira will automatically save your answer every 15 seconds. Your answers will be automatically submitted in Inspira when the examination time is up. After starting the exam, you will see your remaining time in the upper left corner.

If you want to withdraw from the examination, please click on the icon in the right corner, and then choose “withdraw”.

### **Sources and referencing**

It is important that you familiarize yourself with the rules for sources and referencing: <https://www.hf.uio.no/english/studies/sources-referencing/index.html>

It is not mandatory to include a bibliography (reference list) if it is a short take-home examination (2-6 hours). Using other people’s material without declaring it properly may be considered as cheating or attempted cheating. The consequences of cheating or attempted cheating may be severe for you as a student, please follow the link for more information: <https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/>

### **Contact information**

If you are experiencing technical difficulties during your examination or have further questions, please call 22 84 10 70 or 22 85 91 73.

# 1 Question I

1. The table below lists a number of Old English (OE) words and their Present-Day English (PDE) reflexes. For each pair of words, what has changed between OE and PDE?

	OE	PDE
<b>a</b>	cwēn	queen
<b>b</b>	dēofol	devil
<b>c</b>	lang, lenger, lengest	long, longer, longest
<b>d</b>	hwīle	while
<b>e</b>	wīf	wife
<b>f</b>	drincan	drink
<b>g</b>	rihte	rightly, correctly, justly
<b>h</b>	singende	singing

For Old English 'thorn', write T (capital 't'); for Old English 'edh', write D (capital 'd'); for Old English 'yogh', write G (capital 'g'). For long vowels, use the acute accent (AltGr+^).

**Fill in your answer here**

Maks poeng: 0

## 2 Question II

Sentences i-iii) below are written in Early Modern English (EModE). For each sentence, write what it would be in Present-Day English (PDE) and elaborate on what it is that has changed between the EModE and PDE versions.

i) "I feele me much to blame" (source: William Shakespeare, *Henry 4*)

ii) "Haste thee quick away" (source: William Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*)

iii) “They shaked their heads” (source: *King James Bible*, Psalm 109)

For Old English 'thorn', write T (capital 't'); for Old English 'edh', write D (capital 'd'); for Old English 'yogh', write G (capital 'g'). For long vowels, use the acute accent (AltGr+^).

**Fill in your answer here**

Maks poeng: 0

### 3 Question III

Pick ONE of the below topics.

a) The 16th century was “a time in which English was just emerging from its debasement as a ‘rude’ and ‘barbarous’ tongue” according to English professor Anne Curzan (2000, 561–62). Explain what Curzan means, and give examples of the reasons why Curzan’s statement is more true of the 16th century than it is of other centuries.

b) Robert of Gloucester, a chronicler, famously remarked in the late thirteenth-century that “Bote a man conne Frens, me telþ of him lute” (‘unless a man knows French, people think little of him’). Describe the distribution of functions between English, French, and Latin in the Middle English period, considering also any changes to the distribution during the period.

c) Acceptance, selection, codification, elaboration (of function), maintenance, prescription, and diffusion are seven aspects of standardisation. Pick any two of these seven aspects. Provide a summary of the history of the English language in relation to those two aspects.

d) Standardisation, dialect levelling, and innovation are three processes characteristic of twentieth-century British English. Define and exemplify the three processes.

You are under no obligation to use either or both of the prompts below but you may find them useful:

\* The Survey of English Dialects [SED] was interested primarily in speakers who met four criteria: they had to be non-mobile, old, rural, and male. “What the SED provides us with, therefore, is a snapshot of a relatively stable, agriculturally based male community whose members were born around the beginning of the twentieth century” (Hogg 2006, 374). The SED data were collected in the 1950s.

\* “dialects are not merely a matter of geography” (Hogg 2006, 352)

e) Comment on the nature of the contact situation between English and Scandinavian in Old English times. Give examples of Scandinavian, or possibly Scandinavian, features taken from at least two levels of language, such as morphology, phonology, syntax, or lexicon.

-----

For Old English 'thorn', write T (capital 't'); for Old English 'edh', write D (capital 'd'); for Old English 'yogh', write G (capital 'g'). For long vowels, use the acute accent (AltGr+).

**Fill in your answer here**

Maks poeng: 0