

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2019
Second Year Third Semester
ENGLISH (HONOURS)
History of the English Language and Old and Middle English Literature

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer *three* questions in all, choosing *one* from *each Group*. All questions carry equal marks.

Group A
(Old English)

1. Do you think the label 'elegies' is appropriate for the Old English poems which are so called? Give reasons for your answer with close reference to the poems.
2. Compare Alfred's use of rhetorical figures in his prose preface to his translation of Pope Gregory's *Cura Pastoralis* with Ælfric's use of rhythm in his prose 'Life of King Edmund'. Which text do you find more aesthetically satisfying, and why?
3. Write briefly on any *two* of the following:
 - (a) The alleged 'pessimism' in Old English secular poems;
 - (b) The 'persona' of himself that Cynewulf projects in his poems;
 - (c) Wulfstan's effectiveness as a homilist.

Group B
(Middle English)

4. What does the Prioress's prologue and tale add to her character as portrayed in the 'General Prologue' to *The Canterbury Tales*?
5. Write on the various ways in which animals are used, both literally and symbolically, in the Middle English texts you have studied.
6. Write briefly on any *two* of the following:
 - (a) Christ as the Lover of the Human Soul in *The Ancrene Riwe*;
 - (b) The conflict aroused in Gawain by Lady Bertilak;
 - (c) Satirical portraits of members of the clergy in Middle English literature.

Group C
(History of the English Language)

7. Compare and contrast the use of and contributions to the English language by Shakespeare and Milton, with examples from their works.
8. Write briefly on any *two* of the following:
 - (a) The importance of Semantics to the student of literature;
 - (b) Words borrowed into English from outside Europe;
 - (c) The Great Vowel Shift.
9. Write notes on any *five* of the following:
church; Easter; forlorn hope; gospel; handbook; nitwit; Viking; whiskey.