

Ex/Eng/UG/2.1.1/21/2018

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2018

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 find *Beowulf* episodic and lacking in a central plan to integrate the main narrative? Justify your answer with close reference to the poem.
2. Contrast Christ and Satan as hero and anti-hero in Old English poetry, with illustrative references to relevant poems.
3. Write briefly on any *two* of the following:
 - (a) *Cædmon's Hymn*;
 - (b) Miraculous incidents and their significance in *Ælfric's Life of King Edmund*;
 - (c) Rhythm in the prose of *Ælfric* and *Wulfstan*.

**Group B
(Middle English)**

4. How does *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* both use and subvert the motifs normally associated with medieval romance?
5. How successfully does the Wakefield Master combine devotion with irreverence in the Second Shepherd's Pageant?
6. Write briefly on any *two* of the following:
 - (a) Portrayal of the Seven Deadly Sins and their offspring in *The Ancrene Riwe*;
 - (b) Contradictions in the character of the Prioress;
 - (c) The Owl and the Nightingale as debaters.

**Group C
(History of the Language)**

7. Which language has given English the widest range of loan-words in terms of meaning and register of usage? Give examples from various non-English languages to substantiate your answer.
8. Write briefly on any *two* of the following:
 - (a) The system of fixed stress and the two-tense verb in the Germanic languages;
 - (b) Five types of rhyme;
 - (c) Rhetoric and oratory.
9. Write notes on any *five* of the following:
boycott; cushy; ghost; hustings; incarnadine; marmalade; not-to-be-thought-uponable; their.