

**BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION 2017**  
**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. Consider *The Wanderer* and *The Seafarer* as personal accounts of how and why the pagan Anglo-Saxons embraced the new religion of Christianity.
2. Trace the development of the concept of 'heroism' in Old English poetry from the celebration of courage and physical prowess in the secular poems to the glorification of active faith and what may seem to be passive endurance in the Christian poems.
3. Write briefly on any *two* of the following:
  - (a) *The Ruin*
  - (b) King Alfred's manifesto in his prose preface to the translation of *Cura Pastoralis*
  - (c) Monsters in Old English poetry

**Group B**  
**(Middle English)**

4. Do you think *The Harley Lyrics* succeed because of simplicity and spontaneity or do they display complexity and sophistication? Answer with examples from the poems studied.
5. How effectively does the author of *The Ancrene Riwe* use tropes from secular literature for religious purposes? Substantiate your answer with illustrative references.
6. Write briefly on any *two* of the following:
  - (a) The complex nature of the Green Knight as antagonist
  - (b) Whether it is valid to accuse the Prioress of being anti-Semitic
  - (c) God and Death in *Everyman*

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

7. Illustrate Shakespeare's skill in using language to individualize character with reference to any *three* characters from his plays.
8. Write briefly on any *two* of the following:
  - (a) The Great Vowel Shift
  - (b) Five characteristics of English as a language
  - (c) Slang.
9. Write brief notes on any *five* of the following:  
*pandemonium; babble; viking; Chester and -chester; derring-do; cattle; maudlin.*