

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

*University of London*

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

*For The Following Qualification:-*

**B.A.**

**History of the English Language since Chaucer**

**COURSE CODE : ENGLN26**

**DATE : 19-MAY-03**

**TIME : 10.00**

**TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours**

Candidates must not present substantially the same material in any two answers, whether on this paper or in other parts of the examination.

Answer three questions

1. One of the reasons for learning about the development of the English language is to understand the relationship between dialects and Standard English in present-day English.

(Dennis Freeborn)

Discuss.

2. Write an essay on attitudes to regional English as expressed by writers from Chaucer to the present day.
3. Outline some of the concerns voiced by Renaissance writers regarding foreign borrowings into English, and discuss their relevance in the history of English.
4. The most auncient English wordes are of one syllable, so that the more monasyllables that you use, the truer Englishman you shall seeme, and the lesse you shall smell of the Inkhorne.

(George Gascoigne, 1576)

Discuss the role of patriotism in the formation of attitudes to English at any time during the period covered by the paper.

5. The first editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*, James Murray, described the vocabulary of English as follows:

That vast aggregate of words and phrases which constitute the Vocabulary of English-speaking men presents, to the mind that endeavours to grasp it as a definite whole, the aspect of one of those nebulous masses familiar to the astronomer, in which a clear and unmistakable nucleus shades off on all sides, through zones of decreasing brightness, to a dim marginal film that seems to end nowhere, but lose itself imperceptibly in the surrounding darkness.

What are the implications of Murray's description for English lexicography?

6. Discuss the selection and uses of citations in English dictionaries from Johnson to the present day.

TURN OVER

7. 'Words are the Daughters of Earth, and ... Things are the Sons of Heaven.'

(Samuel Johnson)

In what ways does this comment illustrate eighteenth-century views of language?

8. Either: (a) Discuss the following comment in relation to current attitudes to English: 'The eighteenth-century grammars, and more importantly the views of language and class that underpinned them, continue to terrorize English speech.'

(Colin McCabe)

Or: (b) Write an essay on the doctrine of 'correctness' in eighteenth-century writings on the English language.

9. Either: (a) 'The spread of English may be viewed in terms of three concentric circles representing the types of spread, the patterns of acquisition and the functional domains in which English is used across cultures and languages.'

(Braj Kachru)

Write an essay on Kachru's 'three circles' model of the spread of English.

Or: (b) To what extent is the term 'world English' an accurate description of the status of English today?

10. Either: (a) 'The fundamental change in the development of English grammar has been in the direction of simplicity of form.'

(Geoffrey Hughes)

Discuss, using illustrative examples.

Or: (b) Outline some of the major syntactic changes that have taken place in English during the periods 1476-1776, or from 1776 to the present, or both.

11. Examine the impact of spelling reform campaigns on the spelling system of English.

12. Discuss some of the major changes that have taken place in English orthography or in English phonology during the period covered by the paper.

TURN OVER

13. Write an essay on the impact of censorship on the English language at any time during the period covered by the paper.

**END OF PAPER**