

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A.

English B8: Introduction to Old and Middle English

COURSE CODE : ENGLB008

UNIT VALUE : 1.00

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TIME : 10.00

TIME ALLOWED : 3 hours

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TURN OVER

Answer three questions, one from each section.

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

SECTION A

Translate the following two passages. In each passage, comment on the grammatical form of the words underlined, and on any points of linguistic and stylistic interest and of interpretation.

1. (a)

Eall ic wæs mid sorgum gedrēfed;
forht ic wæs for þære fægran gesyhðe; geseah ic þæt fūse
bēacen
wenden wādum and blēom: hwīlum hit wæs mid wætan
bestēmed,
beswyled mid swātes gange, hwīlum mid since gegyrwed.
Hwæðre ic þær licgende lange hwīle 5
behēold hrēowcearig Hælendes trēow,
oð ðæt ic gehy̅rde þæt hit hlēoðrode;
ongan þā word sprecan wudu sēlesta:
'þæt wæs geāra iū – ic þæt gȳta geman –
þæt ic wæs āhēawen holtes on ende, 10
āstyred of stefne mīnum. Genāman mē ðær strange fēondas,
geworhton him þær tō wāfersȳne, hēton mē heora wergas
hebban;
bæron mē þær beornas on eaxlum, oð ðæt hīe mē on beorg
āsetton;
gefæstnodon mē þær fēondas genōge. Geseah ic þā Frēan
mancynnes
efstan elne micle, þæt hē mē wolde on gestīgan. 15
þær ic þā ne dorste ofer Dryhtnes word
būgan oððe berstan, þā ic bifian geseah
eorðan scēatas. Ealle ic mihte
fēondas gefyllan, hwæðre ic fæste stōð.

TURN OVER

(b)

Forþon wāt se þe sceal his winedryhtnes
lēofes lārcwidum longe forþolian:
ðonne sorg ond slāp somod ætgædre
earmne ānhogan oft gebindað,
þinceð him on mōde þæt hē his mondryhten 5
clyppe ond cysse ond on cnēo lege
honda ond hēafod, swā hē hwīlum ær
in geārdagum giefstōlas brēac.
Ðonne onwæcneð eft winelēas guma,
gesihð him biforan fealwe wēgas, 10
baþian brimfuglas, brādan feþra,
hrēosan hrīm ond snāw hagle gemenged.
þonne bēoð þȳ hefigran heortan benne,
sāre æfter swāsne. Sorg bið genīwad.
þonne māga gemynd mōd geondhweorfeð, 15
grēteð glīwstafum, georne geondscēawað
secga geseldan; swimmað oft on weg.
Flēotendra ferð nō þær fela bringeð
cūðra cwidegiedda.

CONTINUED

SECTION B

Comment on the subject-matter and style of two of the following passages.

2. (a)

This carpenter to blessen hym bigan,
 And seyde, "Help us, Seinte Frydeswyde!
 A man woot litel what hym shal bityde.
 This man is falle, with his astromye,
 In some woodnesse or in som agonye. 5
 I thoghte ay wel how that it sholde be!
 Men sholde nat knowe of Goddes pryvetee.
 Ye, blessed be alwey a lewed man
 That noght but oonly his bileve kan!
 So ferde another clerk with astrōmye; 10
 He walked in the feeldēs for to pryē
 Upon the sterres, what ther sholde bifalle,
 Til he was in a marle-pit yfalle;
 He saugh nat that. But yet, by Seint Thomas,
 Me reweth soore of hende Nicholas. 15
 He shal be rated of his studiyng,
 If that I may, by Jhesus, hevēne kyng!
 Get me a staf, that I may underspore,
 Whil that thou, Robyn, hevest up the dore.
 He shal out of his studiyng, as I gesse." 20
 And to the chambre dore he gan hym dresse.
 His knave was a strong carl for the nones,
 And by the haspe he haaf it of atones;
 Into the floor the dore fil anon.
 This Nicholas sat ay as stille as stoon, 25
 And evere caped upward into the eir.
 This carpenter wende he were in despeir,
 And hente hym by the sholdres myghtily,
 And shook hym harde, and cride spitously,
 "What! Nicholay! What, how! What, looke 30
 adoun!
 Awak, and thenk on Cristes passioun!
 I crouche thee from elves and fro wightes."
 Therwith the nyght-spel seyde he anon-rightes
 On foure halves of the hous aboute,
 And on the thresshfold of the dore withoute: 35
 "Jhesu Crist and Seinte Benedight,
 Blessē this hous from every wikked wight,
 For nyghtes verye, the white *pater-noster!*
 Where wentestow, Seinte Petres soster?"

TURN OVER

(b)

Thagh Arther the hende kyng at hert hade wonder,
He let no semblaunt be sene, bot sayde ful hyghe
To the comlych quene, wyth cortays
speche:

'Dere dame, to-day demay yow never;
Wel bycommes such craft upon Cristmasse, 5
Laykyng of enterludes, to laghe and to syng,
Among thise kynde caroles of knyghtes and ladyes.
Never-the-lece to my mete I may me wel dres,
For I haf sen a selly, I may not forsake.'

He glent upon Sir Gawen and gaynly he 10
sayde:

'Now sir, heng up thyn ax, that has innoh
hewen.'

And hit was don abof the dece, on doser to henge,
Ther alle men for mervayl myght on hit loke,
And bi trwe tytel therof to telle the wonder.

Thenne thay bowed to a borde thise burnes 15
togeder,

The kyng and the gode knyght, and kene men hem
served

Of alle dayntyes double, as derrest myght falle,

Wyth alle maner of mete and mynstralcie

bothe.

Wyth wele walt thay that day, til worthed an ende 20
in londe.

Now think wel, Sir Gawen,
For wothe that thou ne wonde
This aventure for to frayn,
That thou has tan on honde.

(c)

For, lyke as wynter rasure dothe allway arace and deface grene sum-
mer, so faryth hit by unstable love in man and woman, for in many
persones there ys no stabylité: for [w]e may se all day, for a lytyll
blaste of wyntres rasure, anone we shall deface and lay aparte trew
love, for lytyll or nowght, that coste muche thyng. Thys ys no wyse- 5
dome nother no stabylité, but hit ys fyeblenes of nature and grete
disworshyp, whosom ever usyth thys.

Therefore, lyke as May moneth flowryth and floryshyth in every
mannes gardyne, so in lyke wyse lat every man of worshyp florysh hys
herte in thys worlde: firste unto God, and nexte unto the joy of them 10
that he promysed hys feythe unto; for there was never worshypfull
man nor worshypfull woman but they loved one bettir than anothir;
and worshyp in armys may never be foyled. But firste reserve the hon-
oure to God, and secundely thy quarell muste com of thy lady. And
such love I calle vertuouse love. 15

But nowadayes men can nat love sevenyght but they muste have all
their desyres. That love may nat endure by reson, for where they bethe
sone accorded and hasty, heete sone keelyth. And ryght so faryth the
love nowadayes, sone hote sone colde. Thys ys no stabylité. But the 20
olde love was nat so. For men and women coude love togydir seven
yerys, and no lycoures lustis was betwyxte them, and than was love
trouthe and faythefulnes. And so in lyke wyse was used such love in
kyng Arthurs dayes.

Wherefore I lykken love nowadayes unto sommer and wynter: for,
lyke as the tone ys colde and the othir ys hote, so faryth love nowa- 25
dayes. And therefore all ye that be lovers, calle unto youre remem-
braunce the monethe of May, lyke as ded quene Gwenyver, for whom
I make here a lytyll mencion, that whyle she lyved she was a trew lover,
and therefor she had a good ende.

CONTINUED

(d)

Wife. Out, thieves, from my bairn! Nigh him
not there.

Mak. Wist ye how she had farn, your hearts would
be sore.

Ye do wrong, I you warn, that thus come before
To a woman that has farn; but I say no more.

Wife. Ah, my middle!

I pray to God so mild,
If ever I you beguiled,
That I eat this child
That lies in this cradle.

5

Mak. Peace, woman, for God's pain, and cry not so! 10
Thou spillest thy brain, and makest me full woe.

2 Shep. I trow our sheep be slain. What find ye
two?

3 Shep. All work we in vain; as well may we go.

But hatters!
I can find no flesh,
Hard nor nesh,
Salt nor fresh,
But two tome platters.

15

Quick cattle but this, tame nor wild,
None, as have I bliss, as loud as he smelled.

20

Wife. No, so God me bless, and give me joy of my
child!

1 Shep. We have marked amiss; I hold us beguiled.

2 Shep. Sir, don.

Sir—our Lady him save!—
Is your child a knave?

25

Mak. Any lord might him have,
This child, to his son.

When he wakens he kips, that joy is to see.

3 Shep. In good time to his hips, and in sely.
But who were his gossips so soon ready?

30

Mak. So fair fall their lips!

1 Shep. [*Aside*] Hark now, a lie!

Mak. So God them thank,
Parkin, and Gibbon Waller, I say,
And gentle John Horne, in good fay—
He made all the garray—
With the great shank.

35

TURN OVER

SECTION C

3. Discuss Beowulf's relationship with Hrothgar in Heaney's *Beowulf*.
4. Examine the role of treasure in Heaney's *Beowulf*.
5. What do you find dreamlike about *The Dream of the Rood*?
6. Robert Bjork describes the *anhaga* in *The Wanderer* as being in a state of 'voluntary exile'. What is your view?
7. Chaucer's development of the characters in the story serves as a relentless preparation for the comedy of what happens to them.

(Thomas D. Cooke)

Do you agree with this assessment of *The Miller's Tale*?

8. According to Ad Putter, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* 'exemplifies the principle that the peripheral shall become central and integral'. What evidence for this statement do you find in the poem?
9. Where, in your opinion, does Malory lay the blame for the destruction of the Round Table in Books 7 and 8 of *Le Morte Darthur*?
10. The main theme of *The Wakefield Second Shepherds' Pageant* is the movement from a world at odds with God to one reconciled to him through the birth of Christ.

(Peter Meredith)

Examine the play in the light of this idea.

11. Comment on the portrayal of pagans in any Old English work or works you have read.
12. Write an essay on the role of deception in two or three of the Middle English works you have studied.
13. Write on flawed kings in any work or works you have read in either Old English, or Middle English, or both.
14. Discuss the representation of shame in two or three of the Old or Middle English works you have read. You may, if you wish, include both Old and Middle English works in your discussion.

END OF PAPER