

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For the following qualifications :-

B.A.

German B211: The German Language: Its History and Development

COURSE CODE : **GERMB211**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **14-MAY-02**

TIME : **14.30**

TIME ALLOWED : **2 hours**

02-C0600-3-30

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TURN OVER

GERMB211

THE GERMAN LANGUAGE: ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

Time allowed: TWO hours.

Answer THREE questions.

All questions carry equal marks.

Do not use the same material as the basis for more than one answer.

Do not answer on substantially the same topic as that of your assessed essay for this course.

1. What is the importance of Indo-European and what kinds of evidence do we have for its existence?
2. Discuss the evidence we have for the existence of Proto-Germanic?
3. 'The Second Sound Shift is not fully represented in all High German dialects.' Discuss.
4. 'The surviving Old High German texts belong to an age when literacy was the monopoly of the Church, both for secular and ecclesiastical administration.' Discuss.
5. EITHER (a) How far do you agree with the description of the language of Middle High German as 'ein begrenzter, erlebter Soziolekt'?
- OR (b) Outline the characteristic lexical features in Middle High German literature.
6. 'Die Mystiker stoßen in ihrer Gottsuche an die Grenzen der Sprache.' How accurately does this quotation depict the language of the medieval mystics?
7. Outline the effect of social developments in the Early New High German period (1350 - 1650) on the functions and use of the language.

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8. Discuss the role of the chanceries in the standardisation of the German language.
9. 'Eine Verdrängung des Niederdeutschen durch das Hochdeutsche.' How far is this an accurate description of the changing status of Low German from the 16th century onwards?
10. To what extent can printing be seen as a positive influence in the formation of a standard German language?
11. EITHER (a) 'Schöpfer oder Nachzügler'? With reference to this, evaluate Luther's contribution to the standard German language.
OR (b) Assess Martin Luther's significance as a Bible translator.
12. Outline the forms and functions of borrowing from French, Italian, Latin and English from 1500 onwards. You may, if you wish, confine your answer to one language and/or period.
13. Characterise the goals and activities of language purists from the 17th to the 19th century. You may, if you wish, confine your answer to a specific period.
14. Evaluate the influence of literature on the German language with reference to ONE or MORE German writers from any period.
15. Assess the contribution of grammarians to the evolution of a standard German language.
16. Characterise the principles and methods applied by lexicographers to produce dictionaries of the German language.
17. 'The National Socialists failed to develop a consistent ideological language and borrowed from a hodgepodge of sources.' How accurate is this assessment of the National Socialists' use of language?
18. 'The two Germanies had vastly different social and political systems, and this was reflected in the language.' How far do you agree with this statement?