

**EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS**

*For The Following Qualification:-*

*B.A.*

**German B211: The German Language: Its History and Development**

COURSE CODE : **GERMB211**

UNIT VALUE : **0.50**

DATE : **06-MAY-03**

TIME : **14.30**

TIME ALLOWED : **2 Hours**

**GERMB211**  
**THE GERMAN LANGUAGE: ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**(RESIT)**

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. Explain the importance of the concept of 'Indo-European'. To what extent is the concept problematic?
2. Discuss the effect of the First Consonant Shift, including Verner's Law, on the consonant system of Indo-European.
3. On what sources do we base our knowledge of Proto-Germanic?
4. 'The Second Consonant Shift served to mark off High German from other varieties of Germanic and led to divisions in the dialects of German.' Discuss, with examples.
5. To what extent can the Old High German period be seen as one of linguistic innovation?
6. EITHER (a) 'During the Middle High German period, the courtly ethos was important in determining the prized linguistic forms of the time. The aristocracy used the language they felt was appropriate to the attainment of courtly ideals.' Discuss, with examples.  
  
OR (b) In what ways were medieval German mystics restricted by the language and what linguistic means did they employ to overcome these restrictions?
7. 'During the Early New High German period, power and influence shifted from the aristocratic elite to the *Bürger*, the growing merchant and secular clerical classes of the ever-increasing towns and cities.' Discuss how changes in society affected the German language during this period.
8. What role did chancery languages play in the development of a standard language?
9. Describe how and why High German came to replace Low German in the early modern period. What is the situation in contemporary German?
10. Assess the role of printing in the standardisation of the German language.

-TURN OVER-

11. EITHER (a) Has Luther's contribution to the standardising process been exaggerated?
- OR (b) Consider Luther's aims and achievements as a Bible translator.
12. 'Foreign influences have enriched the German language and expanded its descriptive and expressive capabilities.' Discuss with reference to ONE OR MORE of the following languages: French, Italian and English.
13. Describe the efforts of German purists since 1600 and assess their impact on the German language.
14. 'Die literarische Sprache dient als Vorbild.' Outline the linguistic contribution of one or more writers in German.
15. With reference to one or more grammarians during the period 1500-1800, consider whether their attempts to codify the language were prescriptive, rather than descriptive, based on existing regional or social norms?
16. Outline the development of German lexicography during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, with reference to one or two lexicographers.
17. 'Language use in National Socialism was characterised not only by its creation of new vocabulary, but also by its manipulation of existing terms and expressions.' Discuss, with examples.
18. EITHER (a) 'The two Germanies had vastly different social and political systems, and in many ways underwent separate cultural developments. This was reflected in the language, which at the same time contributed to variations in people's consciousness.' Discuss, with examples.
- OR (b) 'It has frequently been observed that political unification has not yet turned the German people into a single united nation.' Is this reflected in the language use of people in the east and west, or has a linguistic convergence taken place?