

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

University of London

EXAMINATION FOR INTERNAL STUDENTS

For The Following Qualification:-

B.A.

Scand. Studs. SC5310: Aspects of Scandinavian Language History

COURSE CODE : SCAN5310

UNIT VALUE : 0.50

DATE : 19-MAY-03

TIME : 14.30

TIME ALLOWED : 3 Hours



A candidate may not in any answer cover the same ground as in an assessed or extended essay.

Answer TWO questions, ONE from EACH Section. Both questions carry equal marks.

SECTION A

1. 'The Scandinavian languages belong to the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family.' Discuss.
2. How far can the runic alphabet be seen as an independent Germanic creation?
3. What kind of Germanic do we find in the language of the older runic inscriptions (A.D. c. 175-550)?
4. What is meant by 'the syncope period', and why is it considered of particular importance in the history of the Scandinavian languages?
5. Give an account of the sources of information on the Scandinavian languages in the period c. 600-1150, and assess their relative importance.
6. When and how was the roman alphabet introduced into the North, and what problems were encountered by the medieval scribes who used it to write the Scandinavian vernaculars?
7. What were the aims of the First Grammarian and how far may he be said to have achieved them?

SECTION B

8. Describe the principal vowel changes that took place in the Scandinavian languages in the period *c.* 1150-1550, and consider how far they conform to a particular pattern or patterns.
9. 'The distinction between accent or tone 1 and 2 in Norwegian and Swedish and *stød* and non-*stød* in Danish cannot have originated later than about A.D. 1000, but may be considerably older.' Discuss.
10. What elements of the Common Scandinavian inflexional system were lost from the mainland Scandinavian languages in the period *c.* 1100-1500, and why might this loss have occurred?
11. Consider the influence of foreign languages on the development of Scandinavian vocabulary in the period *c.* 1000-1500.
12. 'The Reformation effectively determined the direction in which the Scandinavian languages developed for the next three hundred years.' Discuss.
13. What are the principal stages of development that have led to the present-day written and spoken standards of EITHER Danish OR Swedish?
14. What factors led to the establishment of *landsmaal* as a second written form of Norwegian, and how far do these or other factors justify the continued existence of *nynorsk* today?
15. 'Throughout its history Icelandic has been a dialect-free language.' Discuss.