

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 : **28-APR-04**

TIME : **10.00**

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. Show why the Scandinavian languages are classed as belonging to the Germanic branch of Indo-European.
2. Consider the relationship between the 24-character *futhork* and the phonological system that is presumed to underlie the Scandinavian runic inscriptions of the period AD c. 200-550.
3. 'It is during the Syncope Period that a truly Scandinavian form of language first emerges.' Discuss.
4. Consider the reasons for the changes that affect the runic alphabet and runic writing in seventh-century Scandinavia.
5. Describe the principal sources of information about the Scandinavian languages or dialects in the period c. 700-1150, and evaluate their relative importance.
6. Discuss the linguistic consequences of the introduction of Christianity into the Scandinavian-speaking countries.

7. What does the First Grammarian teach us about twelfth-century Icelandic phonology?

SECTION B

8. Outline the principal changes that affected the vowel system of the Scandinavian languages in the period *c.* 1200-1550, and consider how far they conform to a particular pattern or patterns.
9. How extensive was the influence of Middle Low German on the Scandinavian languages?
10. Give an outline account of the decay of the Common Scandinavian inflexional system, and discuss possible reasons for this development.
11. Why was the period *c.* 1400-1600 of particular importance in the history of the Scandinavian languages?
12. What forces shaped linguistic development in Denmark OR Norway OR Sweden in the period *c.* 1600-1900?
13. In what major ways does Icelandic differ from Danish, Norwegian and Swedish, and how did these differences arise?
14. Give a historical explanation of the orthography of ANY ONE present-day standard Scandinavian language.