

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 : 06–MAY–05

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. How do the following words, phrases or features help substantiate the Germanic origins of Scandinavian: runic *varu* 'were'; Old Norse *hǫfuð* 'head'; Icelandic *móðir* 'mother'; Norwegian *den gamle bilen*; Danish *synger, sang*; Swedish *kastar, kastade*; initial stress; nominative, accusative, genitive, dative?
2. How important, in your view, is runic writing for historians of the Scandinavian languages?
3. In the seventeenth century some claimed Swedish was the oldest language in the world. What arguments would you deploy to counter this view?
4. What were the outcomes of the linguistic changes that go under the heading of 'the syncope period'?
5. 'Scandinavian in the Viking Age was virtually dialect-free – hence the term "Common Scandinavian".' Discuss.
6. In what forms was the roman alphabet brought to different parts of the Scandinavian-speaking world, and what problems were encountered in adapting it for writing the Scandinavian vernaculars?

7. How accurate is the picture of the twelfth-century Icelandic vowel system presented by the First Grammarian?

SECTION B

8. Can any pattern or patterns be discerned in the changes that affected the vowel systems of the Scandinavian dialects in the period c. 1150-1550?
9. Discuss the origin and development of Tone (or Accent) 1 and 2 in Norwegian and Swedish and of the glottal catch in Danish.
10. Consider the influence of foreign languages on the development of Scandinavian vocabulary in the period c. 1000-1500.
11. 'The loss of inflexions that occurred in Mainland Scandinavian in the period between about 1100 and 1600 had a variety of causes.' Discuss.
12. Why has such importance been ascribed to the period c. 1450-1600 in the history of the Scandinavian languages?
13. Consider the role of individuals, institutions and the state in the development of ONE of the following: standard modern Danish; standard modern Swedish; Norwegian *bokmål*; Norwegian *nynorsk*.
14. Suggest a division of Danish OR Norwegian OR Swedish into historical periods and justify the criteria on which your division is based.
15. 'Icelandic is characterised by uniformity, Faroese by diversity.' Discuss.