



Høgskolen i Telemark

Fakultet for allmennvitenskapelige fag

MIDTEKSAMEN

I

2029 ENGLISH THROUGH THE AGES

17.10.11

Tid: 3 timer

Målform: Engelsk

Sidetal: 2 sider + vedlegg, totalt 5 sider

Hjelpemiddel: Engelsk-engelsk ordbok

Vedlegg: Tekster fra gammel- og middelengelsk

Denne eksamenen teller 40% av den endelige karakteren i kurs 2029.

Eksamensresultatene blir offentliggjort på nettet via Studentweb

The candidates should answer three questions in total; one from part 1, one from part 2 and the whole of part 3.

PART 1 (40%)

1. Give an outline of the main characteristic features of Old English (morphological and syntactic / word order). You should illustrate some of your points by referring to concrete textual features in Appendix 1 below (*Ohthere*)

OR

2. What are the most important changes that took place from Old English to Middle English, with respect to phonology, morphology and syntax? Use the two versions of *the Prodigal Son* in Appendix 2 to illustrate some of your points.

PART 2 (40%)

1. In what ways has contact with Scandinavian and French influenced the English language?

OR

2. Give an account of the rise of standard written English in the 15th century.

OR

3. What is understood by the term 'the Great Vowel Shift'? When did it take place, and what were the consequences for the relationship between English spelling and pronunciation? Illustrate with some examples.

PART 3 (20%)

1. Comment on the word order of **all** the following Old English and Present-Day English sentences from the point of view of the information principle and/or the principle of end weight.

a. *Æfter him ricsade Darius, se awende Asiriæ and Caldei eft to Persum*
After him reigned Darius, who brought Assyrians and Chaldeans back to Persians

NB! *Darius* has not been mentioned before, and constitutes new information.

b. *And ealle ða hwile he sceal seglian be lande*
And all the time he shall sail along land

c. It was surprising that food shops had to be closed by 6 pm.

d. At the end of the corridor was an oak door leading on to the landing.

APPENDIX 1: OHTHERE (extract)

early Old English, c. 900 CE

- 1 Ohtere sæde þæt sio scir hatte Halgoland þe he on bude. He cwæð
Ohtere said that the district was-called Halgoland which he in lived. He said
- 2 þæt nan man ne bude be norðan him. Ðonne is an port on suðewardum
that no man not lived to-the-north-of him. Then is a trading-town to-the-south-of
- 3 þæm lande, þone man hæet Sciringesheal. Ðyder he cwæð þæt man ne mihte
the land, which one calls Sciringesheal. Thither he said that one not might
- 4 geseglian on anum monðe, gyf man on niht wicode, and ælce dæge hæfde
sail in one month, if one at night camps, and every day had
- 5 ambyrne wind; and ealle ða hwile he sceal seglian be lande. And on þæt
favourable wind; and all the time he shall sail along land. And on that
- 6 steorbord him bið ærest Iraland, and þonne ða igland þe synd betux Iralande
starboard of-him is first Ireland, and then the island that is between Ireland
- 7 and þissum lande. Ðone is þis land oð he cymð to Sciringcesheale, and ealne
and this land. Then is this land until he comes to Sciringcesheale, and all-the
- 8 weg on þæt bæcbord Norðweg. Wið suðan þone Sciringesheal fylð swyðe
way on the port side Norway. To-the-south-of Sciringesheal flows very
- 9 mycel sæ up in on ðæt lond; seo is bradre þonne ænig man ofer seon mæge.
great sea into that land; it is broader than any man over see may.

APPENDIX 2: THE PRODIGAL SON (extracts)

Old English version (c. 1000 CE)

- 1 Ða he hy hæfde ealle amyrrede, þa wearð micel hunger on þam rice and he
When he them had all spent, then became big hunger in the country and he
- 2 wearð wædla. Ða ferde he and folgode anum burhsittendum men þæs rices;
became poor. Then went he and followed one city-dwelling man of-the country;
- 3 ða sende he hine to his tune þæt he heolde his swin. Ða gewilnode he his
then sent he him to his farm so-that he kept his pigs. Then wanted he his
- 4 wambe gefyllan of þam beancoddum þe ða swin æton, and him mon ne sealde.
stomach fill with the bean-pods that the pigs ate, and him one not gave.
- 5 Ða beþohte he hine and cwæð, Eala hu fela yrðlinga on mines fæder huse
Then considered he himself and said, Alas how many hired men in my father's house
- 6 hlaf genohne habbað, and ic her on hunger forwurðe! And he aras þa and com to
food enough have, and I here in hunger perish! And he arose then and came to
- 7 his fæder. And þa gyt þa he wæs feorr his fæder, he hine geseah and wearð
his father. And still when he was far from his father, he him saw and became
- 8 mid mildheortnesse astyred and ongean hine arn and hine beclypte and cyste
with pity moved and towards him ran and him embraced and kissed
- 9 hine. Ða cwæð his sunu, Fæder, ic syngode on heofon and beforan ðe. Nu ic ne
him. Then said his son, father, I sinned in heaven and before you. Now I not
- 10 eom wyrpe þæt ic þin sunu beo genemned; Ða cwæð se fæder to his þeowum,
am worthy that I your son be called; Then said the father to his servants,
- 11 Bringað hræðe þone selestan gegyrelan and scrydað hine, and syllað him hring
Bring quickly the best garment and dress him, and give him ring
- 12 on his hand and gescy to his fotum. And bringað an fætt styric and ofsleað,
on his hand and shoes on his feet. And bring one fat calf and slay,
- 13 and uton etan and gewistfullian. For þam þes min sunu wæs dead, and he
and let-us eat and feast. Because my son was dead, and he
- 14 geedcucode; he forwearð, and he is gemet.
came to life; he perished, and he is found.

Middle English version (c. 1380 CE)

- 1 And aftir þat he hadde endid alle þingis, a strong hungre was maad in þat
And after that he had spent all things, a strong hunger occurred in that
- 2 cuntre, and he bigan to haue nede. And he wente, and drouz hym to oon of þe
country, and he began to have need. And he went, and went him to one of the
- 3 citeseyns of that cuntre. And he sente hym in to his toun, to fede swyn. And he
inhabitants of that country. And he sent him in to his farm, to feed pigs. And he
- 4 coueitide to fille his wombe of þe coddis þat the hoggis eeten, and no man
coveted to fill his stomach with the bean-pods that the pigs ate, and no man
- 5 ʒaf hym. And he turnede aʒen to hym silf, and seyde, 'Hou many hirid men in
gave him. And he turned again to him self, and said, 'How many hired men in
- 6 my fadir hous han plente of looues; and I perische here thorouʒ hungir.' And he
my father's house have plenty of bread; and I perish here through hunger.' And he
- 7 roos vp, and cam to his fadir. And whanne he was ʒit afer, his fadir saiʒ hym,
rose up, and came to his father. And when he was yet afar, his father saw him,
- 8 and he was stirrid bi mercy. And he ran, and fel on his necke, and kisside hym.
and he was stirred with mercy. And he ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him
- 9 And þe sone seide to hym, 'Fadir, I haue synned in to heuene, and bifore þee; and
And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned in to heaven, and before you; and
- 10 now I am not worþi to be clepid þi sone.' And þe fadir seide to his seruauntis,
now I am not worthy to be called your son. And the father said to his servants
- 11 'Swiþe brynge ʒe forþ þe firste stoole, and clothe ʒe hym, and ʒyue ʒe a ryng in
'Quickly bring you forth the best robe, and clothe you him, and give you a ring in
- 12 his hoond, and schoon on hise feet; and brynge ʒe a fat calf, and sle ʒe, and ete
his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring you a fat calf, and slew you, and eat
- 13 we and make we feeste. For þis my sone was deed, and hap lyued aʒen;
we and make we feast. For this my son was dead, and has lived again
- 14 he perischid, and is founden.'
he perished, and is found.'