



Høgskolen i Telemark

Fakultet for allmennvitenskapelige fag

MIDTEKSAMEN

I

2029 ENGLISH THROUGH THE AGES

16.10.12

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; question 1 or 2 from part 1, question 1 or 2 from part 2 and the whole of part 3. If you choose the questions with two parts, both a) and b) must be answered.

PART 1 (40%)

1. What are the main characteristic features of Old English as regards morphology and syntax / word order? Illustrate some of your points by referring to concrete textual features in Appendix 1 below (*Ohthere*).

OR

2. a) Give a brief outline of the Anglo-Saxon invasions and how these paved the way for the main dialects of Old English.

b) What was the nature of the language contact situation between the Scandinavians and the English? Mention some concrete linguistic changes which the contact with Scandinavian/Old Norse brought about.

PART 2 (40%)

1. 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.

OR

2. a) Give a brief outline of the French influence on English following the Norman Conquest in 1066.

b) In what ways was the contact situation with French different than the situation with Scandinavian earlier? Your answer may take political/historical and social aspects into account, in addition to linguistic ones.

PART 3 (20%)

1. a) Comment on the word order of the following three (grammatically correct) Old English and Present-Day English sentences from the point of view of the **information principle** and/or **the principle of end weight**.

b) Then briefly explain why OE was freer than PDE to arrange the clause in accordance with these principles, referring to the examples where relevant.
 - a. [Ac hyra ar is mæst on þæm gafole] þe þa Finnas him gyldað
[but their revenue is mostly in the tribute] which the Finns them pay
 - b. On the edge of the grass lay a rubber ball dented with toothmarks.
 - c. There is an easier way through the woods.

APPENDIX 1: OHTHERE (extracts)

early Old English, c. 900 CE

- 1 Ða sceolde he ðær bidan ryhtnorþanwindes, for ðæm þæt land
Then should he there wait-for north wind, because the land
- 2 beag þær suþryhte, oþþe seo sæ in on ðæt land, he nysse hwæþer.
bowed there southwards, or the see in on the land, he knew-not which.
- 3 Ða siglde he þonan suðryhte be lande swa swa he mehte
Then sailed he from there southwards along land as-far-as he could
- 4 on fif dagum gesiglan. Ða læg þær an micel ea up in on þæt land.
in five days sail. Then stretched there a great river up in on the land.
- 5 Ða cirdon hie up in on ða ea, for þæm hie ne dorston forþ bi þære
Then turned they up in on the river, because they not dared past the
- 6 ea siglan for unfriþe, for þæm ðæt land wæs eall gebun
river sail for hostility, because the land was all inhabited
- 7 on oþre healfe þære eas.
on the-other half of-the river.
-
- 8 He wæs swyðe spedig man on þæm æhtum þe heora speda on beoð,
He was very wealthy man on the possessions which their wealth of consisted,
- 9 þæt is on wildrum. He hæfde þa gyt, ða he þone cyningc sohte,
that is on wild animals. He had still, when he the king sought,
- 10 tamra deora unbebohtra syx hund. Ða deor hi hatað hranas;
of-tame animals unsold six hundred. The animals they called reindeer:
- 11 þara wæron syx stælhranas, ða beoð swyðe dyre mid Finnum.
of-those were six decoy reindeer, which are very precious among Lapps.