

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH

- LEVEL 4

FINAL EXAMINATION

- November 2013

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- LSD2201

DURATION

- THREE HOURS (03 hours)



DATE: 23. 11. 2013

TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30pm.

ANSWER ANY 04 QUESTIONS, SELECTING TWO FROM PART (A) AND TWO FROM PART (B).

PART A

1. "The English of North America was separated from the British English rather early, and has a somewhat different system." Using this statement as a starting point, discuss the differences between Standard British English and American English.
2. Comment on the Scandinavian influence on the English language.
3. Comment on the influence of the Classical languages (Greek and Latin) on the development of the vocabulary of the English language.
4. "English is considered an International language today." Comment on this statement paying close attention to the spread of English in the 19th and 20th centuries.

(50 marks)

PART B

5. Compare and contrast the pronoun system that was used in Old English with the pronoun system we use presently. Your answer should focus on the 2nd person and 3rd person pronouns.

6. "The Great Vowel Shift was not a single change involving one sound but a whole set of related changes." Discuss giving examples for the phonetic changes that occurred.

7. The formation of plural nouns in English is a complex process. Explain this phenomenon with examples.

8. "English spelling is compounded by the wholesale importation of foreign words." Comment on this statement with examples.

(50 marks)