

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
B.A. (HONOURS)/B.A. IN ENGLISH



046

AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING - LEVEL 4
FINAL EXAMINATION - January 2025
THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - LEU4501/LSU2201
DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 04. 01. 2025

TIME: 09.30 am. - 12.30pm.

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

Part A

1. Several historical factors contributed to placing the English language in the West Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family. Discuss two (02) of the foreign invasions which support the above statement.
2. Examine the impact of the Norman Conquest, the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution on the vocabulary of the English language. Support your answer with examples.
3. 'Although spelling can be defined as the way of transcribing words in writing, in the English language the way a word is spelt does not always provide clues to its pronunciation'. Using this statement as a starting point discuss this complexity in the English spelling system, from the Middle English Period onwards, giving examples for each area.

4. The diphthongization of the long vowels in the English language caused a change in pronunciation. Describe this phenomenon. Explain this process with a diagram and at least 3 examples from Chaucer's period to the Present Day English.

(50 marks)

Part B

5. How did major historical events that took place in the 1800s lead towards the establishment and consolidation of American English? Use adequate examples to support your answer.
6. Although Kachru's model of World Englishes is still a popular model to understand the spread of English, there are many limitations to this model. Discuss using at least four (04) limitations.
7. Bringing examples from vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, and syntax, explore how Sri Lankan English (SLE) is a unique variety of English.
8. Using Standard British English as an example, outline the process of standardization of a language.

(50 marks)