



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH

- LEVEL 4

FINAL EXAMINATION

- March 2006

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- LSD 2201

DURATION

- THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 25. 03. 2006

TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30pm.

ANSWER ANY 03 QUESTIONS, SELECTING AT LEAST ONE FROM PART (A)
AND ONE FROM PART (B)

PART A

1. "Old English vocabulary, spelling and word forms are so unfamiliar that it looks like an alien language" Would you agree with this description of Old English?
2. In what way (or ways) did the Viking (Scandinavian) invasion of Britain influence the English language?
3. "The classical languages, Greek and Latin have had a major impact on English"
Discuss this statement, paying special attention to changes effected during the Reniaissance.
4. Comment on the factors that led to the rise of London English as 'Standard' English.
5. The English language was brought to America by colonists from England in the seventeenth century.
How did this influence the development of English in America?
6. Identify the reasons why English which was once merely a language spoken in England, is today a language of global importance.

PART B

7. "Language change occurs as a result of a number of causes". Discuss this statement with respect to the changes that have affected the English Language.
8. In English some verbs have a simple structure while others reflect more complex forms. Explain the reasons for this. Illustrate your answer with examples.
9. Write an essay outlining the changes in interrogatives (questions) and negatives from the fifteen century to the present day.
10. Compare and contrast the old English system of pronouns with that of modern English, and comment on the changes between the two systems.
11. "Punctuation has not remained fixed." Would you agree with this statement?
12. The major issues in English spelling includes the problem of silent letters, and the fact that the same phoneme could be represented by different combinations of letters. Explain why this has occurred. Your answer should contain relevant examples of both problems.