

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH

- LEVEL 4

FINAL EXAMINATION

- May 2009



THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- LSD 2201

DURATION

- THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 30. 05. 2009

TIME:

1.30 pm.

-

4.30pm.

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

PART A



1. The Norman Conquest was an event that had a greater effect on the English language than any other. Would you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.
2. In what ways did the Vikings contribute to the English language?
3. Give an account of how English was established in America, and examine the differences in vocabulary and spelling of American English and Standard British English.
4. Discuss the influence of classical languages (Latin and Greek) on English language.
5. "The Teutonic invasion was the beginning of the English language" Would you agree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.

(50 marks)

PART B

6. Examine how social factors have affected linguistic change in English.
7. In what ways do the Pronouns that we use today differ from Pronominal system of Old English? Your answer should pay special attention to 2nd Person and 3rd Person Pronouns.
8. "Nouns in English do not all obey the same rules with regard to plural formation."
Explain this phenomenon with relevant examples.
9. "In English, some verbs have a simple structure, while others reflect more complex forms." Comment with appropriate examples.
10. Would you agree that the phenomenon referred to as the Great Vowel Shift affected the quality of all long vowels in English? Support your answer with examples.

(50 marks)