

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA

DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH - LEVEL 4

FINAL EXAMINATION - May 2010

THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - LSD 2201

DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)



DATE: 29. 05. 2010

TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30pm.

ANSWER ANY 04 QUESTIONS, SELECTING TWO FROM PART (A) AND TWO 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. "The Scandinavians have contributed widely to the growth of the English Language". Comment on the contributions to English made by the Viking Conquest in the light of this statement.
3. "The classical languages Latin and Greek have had a major impact on the English language"
Discuss this statement, paying special attention to changes effected during the Renaissance.
4. What are the factors that have contributed to the spread and consolidation of English as a global language?
5. Give an account of how English was established in America and examine how this led to differences in vocabulary and spelling between American English and Standard British English.

(50 marks)

PART B

6. "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.

7. Interrogatives and negatives in English have undergone changes from the fifteenth century to the present day.

Write an essay outlining the major developments in change in these forms.

8. "English spelling is an amalgamation of various spelling systems".

Using this statement as the starting point of your answer, comment on how the spelling system of French affected English. Support your answer with relevant examples.

9. "Punctuation has not remained fixed". Discuss with reference to punctuation in English.

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)