THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH - LEVEL 4
FINAL EXAMINATION - June 2007
THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - LSD 2201
DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 02. 06. 2007 TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30pm.

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

PART A

1. "The Scandinavians have contributed widely to the growth of the English language." Do you agree with this statement? Discuss.

2. Comment on the following statement: "The classical vocabulary of the English language was expanded by the addition of many Greek and Latin words during the Renaissance."

3. Discuss how standard British and American English diverge from each other.

4. What are the factors that have contributed to the spread and consolidation of English as a global language?

5. Write an account of the historical development of American English.

6. "Old English is sometimes described as an alien language because of its unfamiliar vocabulary, spelling and word forms."
Do you agree with this statement?
Illustrate your answer with examples.

(50 marks)

PART B

7. "With the other aspects of English orthography, punctuation too is an area which has undergone many important changes"
Comment.

8. Write an essay on how the Norman Conquest had a major effect on the writing system of the English language.

9. "In English some verbs have a simple structure while others reflect more complex forms." Discuss this statement giving appropriate examples.

10. "Forms of nouns in English are problematic as they do not all obey the same rules with regard to plural formation."
Explain this phenomenon with relevant examples.

11. Comment on the changes in interrogatives (questions) and negatives from the fifteenth century to the present day.

12. Examine closely how social factors have affected linguistic change in English.

(50 marks)