THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA
DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH - LEVEL 4
FINAL EXAMINATION - July 2011
THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE - LSD 2201
DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

DATE: 23. 07. 2011 TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30pm.

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

PART A

1. Discuss the impact of the classical languages on the vocabulary of the English Language.

2. "It is impossible to write a modern English sentence without using a number of Anglo-Saxon words." Using this statement as the starting point of your answer, discuss the relationship between Old English and Modern English.

3. Identify the ways how Standard British and American English diverge from each other and comment on the reasons for these changes.

4. In what way (or ways) did the Viking (Scandinavian) invasion of Britain influence the English language?

5. "English which was once merely a language spoken in England, is today a language of global importance."

   Discuss with special reference to the spread of English in the 19th and 20th centuries.

(50 marks)

PART B

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

7. "In English some verbs have a simple structure while others reflect more complex forms."
   Using this as the starting point of your answer, comment on this phenomenon illustrating your answer with appropriate examples.

8. "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.

9. Discuss the effect of the Great Vowel Shift on English spoken forms. Your answer should include examples for each phonetic change that occurred.

(50 marks)