

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY**



**END OF SEMESTER ONE EXAMINATIONS 2016/2017**

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENTS OF LANGUAGES (ENGLISH)**

**ENGL 302: HISTORY OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**3 CREDITS**

**LEVEL 300**

**JUNE, 2017**

**DURATION: 2 HOURS: 30MINS**

**STUDENT ID No.....**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**ANSWER ONLY THREE QUESTIONS**

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THE INVIGILATOR**

Instruction: Answer questions **ONE** and any **TWO** others.

1. Provide the most accurate and concise answers for the following:

- a. Name the three tribes that invaded the British Isles.
- b. The original inhabitants of Great Britain spoke ... language.
- c. English comes from the languages of the ... tribes who arrived in England in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- d. The first extended written English texts were made by.... who spoke and wrote Latin.
- e. They adapted the Roman alphabet, adding the letters....(ash), ..., (eth), and ... (thorn).
- f. In which period did Chaucer write his famous *Canterbury Tales*?
- g. Samuel Johnson's Dictionary was published under the title.....
- h. Which group of people contracted Samuel Johnson to publish the dictionary?
- i. Mention the two main factors that accounted for the availability of books, texts, maps, magazines and newspapers, etc. in Great Britain during the time of Samuel Johnson.
- j. The oldest of the twenty dictionaries that had been published in England was a... written by...
- k. Mention three important innovations that made Samuel Johnson's dictionary unique at the time.
- l. Translate these Old English sentences into modern English.
  - i. ðes mann rídeð
  - ii. séo sunne scínð
  - iii.. ðis hors bíteð
  - iv. séo niht sweorceð
  - v. ðás menn cumað

(40 marks)

2. Discuss how the writing of the dictionary contributed to the development of the English language. (30 marks)
3. Illustrating your answer with appropriate examples, explain three ways in which the subject or object position of a word can be determined in Old English. (30 marks)

4. Examine the extract below and comment on its linguistic features:

Me mette / how that romed vp and doun  
With Inne oure yeerd / wheer as I saugh a beest  
Was lyk an hound / and wolde han maad areest  
Vp on my body / and han had me deed  
His colour / was bitwixe yellow and reed  
And tipped was his tayl / and bothe hise eeris  
With blak / vnlyk the remenant of hise heeris  
His snowte smal / with glowynge eyen tweye  
Yet of his look for / feere almost I deye  
This caused me / my gronyng dotelees  
Avoy quod she / fy on yow hertelees  
Allas quod she / for by that god aboue  
Now han ye lost / myn herte and al my loue  
I kan nat loue a Coward / by my feith  
For certes / what so any woman seith  
We all desiren / if myghte bee  
To han housbondes / hardy wise and free  
And secree / and no Nygard ne no fool  
Ne hym / at is agast of euery tool  
Ne noon auantour / by that god aboue  
How dorste ye seyn for shame / vn to youre loue  
That any thyng myghte make yow aferd  
Haue ye no mannes herte / and han a berd

(30 marks)

(An excerpt from *The Nun's Priest's Tale* by Chaucer)

5. Using examples to illustrate your answer, trace the significant linguistic changes that took place in the development of the English language from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. (30 marks)