

ENGL 507 Second Test Review : Fall 2013

Some “thought questions” for the OE/ME period:

1. What is important about the various dialects of Old English? Which has had the most influence on the development of modern English? What changes in the dialects of Middle English?
2. What was the influence of the Scandinavian invasions of England on the development of the English language? The influence of the Norman Conquest? The influence of Latin and cultural contact languages?
3. What influence did Old English noun declensions have on the development of modern English?
4. Why is it important to understand about Old English strong and weak adjective forms? What traces of them are left in modern English?
5. Historically, where do modern English modal verbs like *shall, should, may, might, can, could, must* and *ought* come from?
6. Which sound changes in Old and Middle English had the most impact on Modern English?

What Should You Know for this Exam?

- Historical developments influencing both Old and Middle English—**names, dates, events, maps** (hint!)
- Important phonemic and morphemic developments in both periods.
- Important developments in the lexis of both periods—know some particular examples. For instance, if I asked “what’s a Celtic word that survives from the OE period?” what would you say? If I asked “what’s a Dutch word that came into English in the ME period?” what would you say?
- Major orthographic changes in both periods
- Major grammatical changes in both periods
- There will have to be some memorization. In particular, I’d recommend you become very familiar with
 - The OE demonstratives (Algeo p. 96)
 - The characteristic differences between weak and strong OE adjective declensions (Algeo p. 97-98)
 - The OE personal pronouns (Algeo p. 99)
 - The characteristic differences among OE weak and strong verbs (Algeo 103-104)
- Your knowledge of these characteristics **may** be assessed by asking you to parse a short passage of OE for which the vocabulary is provided (as in the homework or as in example I on p. 108)
 - The ME personal pronouns (Algeo p. 131)
 - The characteristics of ME strong verbs (Algeo p. 134)
 - The personal endings for ME verbs (Algeo p. 134)
- Your knowledge of these characteristics **may** be assessed by asking you to analyze a short passage of ME for which the vocabulary is provided (as examples 2-4 on p. 137)

This test will have more ways to show your factual/concrete knowledge. There will be one 30-pt essay question, for which you will have a choice of prompts. The exam will be (as always) closed-book, closed notes, bags & phones on the side of the room. No blue books are needed.