

i Information

University of Oslo
Department of Literature, Area Studies and European Languages
Spring 2020
ENG4166 – Middle English, introduction

4-hour written exam without supervision, May 12 at 9:00 AM.

Practical information about the examination

This exam consists of five questions.

Answer **two** questions of your own choosing. Do not answer more than two of the questions.

Write a minimum of 500 words per question. Always write in grammatically complete sentences. Single-word answers will not be accepted.

Inspira will automatically save your answer every 15 seconds. Your answers will be automatically submitted in Inspira when the examination time is up. After starting the exam, you will see your remaining time in the upper left corner.

If you want to withdraw from the examination, please click on the icon in the right corner, and then choose “withdraw”.

Sources and referencing

It is important that you familiarize yourself with the rules for sources and referencing: <https://www.hf.uio.no/english/studies/sources-referencing/index.html>

It is not mandatory to include a bibliography (reference list) if it is a short take-home examination (2-6 hours). Using other people’s material without declaring it properly may be considered as cheating or attempted cheating. The consequences of cheating or attempted cheating may be severe for you as a student, please follow the link for more information: <https://www.uio.no/english/studies/examinations/sources-citations/>

Contact information











If you are experiencing technical difficulties during your examination or have further questions, please call 22 84 10 70 or 22 85 91 73.

1 Question 1

1. Social mobility had become much more of a possibility by the end of the Middle English period than it had been at its beginning. Bankers, merchants, lawyers, and artisans formed a new middle class that tended to be both urban and literate. Why is this fact important in relation to the linguistic situation in the Middle English period? Hints: standardisation, bilingualism, mixed-language texts, diffusion of linguistic innovations, High language, Low language.

For Old English 'thorn', write T (capital 't'); for Old English 'edh', write D (capital 'd'); for Old English 'yogh', write G (capital 'g'). For long vowels, use the acute accent (AltGr+).

Fill in your answer here

Format | **B** | *I* | U | x_2 | x^2 | I_x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Σ | ABC | 

Words: 0

Maks poeng: 0

2 Question II












2. Attached is an excerpt from Castleford's Chronicle, a text of the Brut. The subscript "3" character represents the letter yogh. Produce a linguistic commentary on this text. Are there any features that point forward in time? Other features that point backward in time? Does the text contain any dialectally-marked features?

It is a long text. Your answer does not have to be exhaustive. Do not worry about referring to line numbers.

For Old English 'thorn', write T (capital 't'); for Old English 'edh', write D (capital 'd'); for Old English 'yogh', write G (capital 'g'). For long vowels, use the acute accent (AltGr+).

[Attachment as pdf](#)

Fill in your answer here

Format | **B** | *I* | U | x_2 | x^2 | I_x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Σ |  | 

Words: 0











Maks poeng: 0

3 Question III

3. The textbook chapter written by Alexander Bergs discusses William Labov's characterisation of historical sociolinguistics as "the art of the making the best use of bad data" (Labov 1994, 11). Bergs asks what variables can be studied given what types of materials survive from the Middle English period; for example, change in usage during the lifetime of a single individual (letters by members of the Paston family) or gendered language use (Margery Kempe was a woman). Give other examples of the types of materials that survive from the period and the variables that they permit scholars to study.

For Old English 'thorn', write T (capital 't'); for Old English 'edh', write D (capital 'd'); for Old English 'yogh', write G (capital 'g'). For long vowels, use the acute accent (AltGr+).

Fill in your answer here

Format | **B** | *I* | U | x_2 | x^2 | I_x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Σ | ABC | 

Words: 0











Maks poeng: 0

4 Question IV

4. Discuss the terms "Norman French", "Anglo-Norman", "Anglo-French", and "Central French" in relation to the linguistic situation in England in the Middle English period.

For Old English 'thorn', write T (capital 't'); for Old English 'edh', write D (capital 'd'); for Old English 'yogh', write G (capital 'g'). For long vowels, use the acute accent (AltGr+).

Fill in your answer here

Format | **B** | *I* | U | x_2 | x^2 | I_x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Σ | ABC | 

Words: 0












Maks poeng: 0

5 Question V

5. His early imitators described the poet Geoffrey Chaucer (c. 1340-1400) as "the first founder of our language". Assess this claim.

For Old English 'thorn', write T (capital 't'); for Old English 'edh', write D (capital 'd'); for Old English 'yogh', write G (capital 'g'). For long vowels, use the acute accent (AltGr+).

Fill in your answer here

Format | **B** | *I* | U | x_2 | x^2 | I_x |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Σ |  | 

Words: 0

Maks poeng: 0

Question 2
Attached





University of Rochester
River Campus Libraries

Excerpt from Castleford's Chronicle or the Boke of Brut

by: Thomas Castleford (Author)

from: Castleford's Chronicle or The Boke of Brut, circa 1327 (Pp. 543 - 550) 1996

Wi₃ samed to him an oste ful grete,
 He entred þe schire of Someresete.
 Qwen he com so ner Bathes cite
 Þat alle þe sege he might ouerse,
 Of þe Saxons þat his treu₃ brak,
 Þat alle might her, þis wordes he spak:
 'Lo, þe Saxons, so fals of fame,
 Of falsed and of weked name!
 'Ful weked and fals þai mai be cald,
 Treu₃ to me þam dedeignes to hald!
 'In þe fai₃ I haf my Godde to queme,
 Anens var treu₃ I salle þam deme.
 I anenter strength salle me afors
 Þis daie to venge me on þar cors -
 I salle me venge þis ilke daie,
 Manli in feld if þat I maie,
 Of blodde schedde of my citisains,
 Sen falsli þai rise me agains.
 'Armes yow, men, armes yow now!
 Lo, þe tratours er befor yow!
 To fight on þam makes yow boune,
 Haf na dout to ber þam doune.
 Als tratoures treu₃ haf þai broken,
 And wikedlie opon vs w'r'oken.
 'Þoru þe help of þe vertu
 Of Criste of Heuen, of Lorde Ihesu,
 Þe maistrie of þam sal we win -
 Dotes yow noght on þam to rin!

Her Britons and Saxons togedir yode;
 Gret Scheddyng þar was of mannes blod. [VI.] xxxv

Qwen Arthur had þus said and doune,
 Vp ras þan Saint Du[b]rice ful sone,
 Þe archebishope of Legions,
 In resens of alle þe Britons.
 He clame vpon a litel montaine
 Þat for him was so eise and gaine;
 Wi₃ hegh voice, on þis maner
 He cried þat alle þe folk might her:
 'Yie Cristen men, in Britaine won,
 Þat haldes Cristen profession,
 Hafes in yow now reu₃ and pete
 Of our neighbors and þe contre,
 Þat þoru treson of þe paigiens,
 Þat yitte agains yow sustiens,
 Wel ner yitte þoru your herd drifen,
 In endelise sorow for to lifen,
 Bot yie fight wi₃ wapen in hende,
 Your awn coundre for to defende.
 'For your contre wi₃ wille yie fight,
 On your famen dies for y'our' right!
 Die for your right es victorie,
 To your saul it es remedie.

'Qwaso hafes in wille and rede
 For his broþer to suffer þe dede,
 He offers himself wi₃outen ende,
 Qwilk sacrifice til Godde to wend.
 'Criste he folghes in His traces,
 Þat man in þis world has þe graces
 For rightwisenes stand in strif,
 And for his broþer to gif his lif.
 'If any of yow, qwatso he be,
 In bataile die wi₃ willes fre,
 Þat ilke dedde he þis daie inrines,
 Standes in penance of alle his sinnes.
 I grant him absolucion
 Bifor Ihesu Criste, Goddes Son,
 Of alle þat he has done biforn
 Sen he was of his moder born,
 Qwarþoru he noght refuys þis daie
 Die for his broþer, so I yow saie.'
 Of þis in ded was na targing -
 Þai tok þe haly manes blissing
 And armed þam son, wi₃ willes gode,
 And vnto his biddyns þai stode.
 Kyng Arthur tok on ane auberck,
 So lik a kyng of worthi werk,
 And on his heid a helm of gold
 In dragons forme, slik vse he walde,
 And on his schuldres a scheld ful bright,
 Þat name was Pridwen it heght -
 Þe ymage þat in it was paint
 Of Marie, Goddes moder so saint,
 For haf her in memor he wald,
 Sen in alle nedes to her he calde.
 He tok his suerd hight Calborn,
 Girde him þarwi₃ he wald no₃ Scorn,
 Wroght in þe hile of Auelon;
 And his sper þat was cald Ron,
 In his right hande, lo, he it takes,
 Wide wondes and brad in fight it makes.
 Arthur he ordaind his oste,
 In batailes he and þam asoste -
 Ful hardelie he tok þe strete
 Wi₃ þe Saxons in feld to mete.
 Togider strak, lo, þar batailes,
 Aiþer on oþer harde dinttes deles;
 Þe Britons harde opon þam yiode
 And manli þai agains þam stode.
 Þai laide on faste, gaf many a dinte,
 Noþer oste for oþer wald stint,
 Ilke man oþer to sla was boune,
 Na man might knaw qweþer side yied doun.
 Neuer þai ceds, bot euer þai fight
 Alle þe lang daie, til it was night;
 Aiþer on oþer þar wapen brak,
 Noþer side, forso₃, gaf bak,
 Bot alle þe daie aiþer oþer sloght.
 And qwen þe son to reste it droght,
 To a montane neghum þai yiede
 Þe Saxons sone it occupede,
 Þai tok it þan for þar castelle,
 Þe night þaron to hofe and duelle.
 Of Saxons þan þe number so grete,
 Fra þai þis ilke montane might gete,
 Þam alle þaron þe night to halde.
 Alle about þam þai ordained wache,
 Harmes bi night fra þam cache.
 And þe Britons þe vale þai tok
 For þar resete; sum of þam wok.

Colgry[m] was sclane her wi₃ his breþer;
 Saxons was chast, now her, now þeder. [VI.] xxxvi

Þe night it paste. Son on þe morn

Þe son it ras, fair þam biforn.
 Arthur biheld vnto his face -
 Lo, he auised him of þe place.
 Þe monte he bigan to ascende,
 Þe Saxons þam for to defende.
 Þoru fors he wald, and no₃ þoru sleght,
 Of þe montain win to þe heght,
 Bot in vp clauering of his oste
 Ful many of his men he loste -
 Saxons doune fra on hegh þai ran,
 Þai wondede and sloght ful many a man,
 Sen better þai had donward fra hegh,
 Þat Britons vp climbande might dreght.
 Bot þe Britons, wi₃ fors ful grete,
 To þe heght of þe hille aboun þai gete.
 Þar reght schuldres þai sette to thring,
 To þar famen schuldres þai bring,
 Saxons þar bristes agains þam sette,
 Win þe hille on þam for to do lette -
 Schuldre to schulder, briste to briste,
 In slik brussing fele many periste.
 Britons vpward þoru fors þai wald,
 Saxons donward þam for to halde -
 Vpwarde, donwarde, þus þai thrang,
 Aiþer folk on oþer, durand ful lang.
 In þis maner alle daie þai faght,
 And yitte þe hille to win in waght.
 Qwen mikel of þe daie was paste,
 Dedeing þught Arthur, at þe laste,
 Þat þai þam sulde þe feld so warn
 And þe maistre in point to tharn.
 His suerde in hand out he drogh,
 Hight Caliburn, aknawen anogh,
 Þe nam of Saint Marie he criede,
 And to þe thikeste prese he hiede -
 Lo, qwar his enemise thikest preste,
 To entre þar neuer he ceste.
 He criede to God, wi₃ willes gude,
 And smate on alle befor him stude.
 Of his enemise he spared nane,
 Alle þase he toched þai fel doun slan;
 To sla his famen neuer he stint,
 Ilke man he toched dede of þe dint.
 Wi₃ Caliburn stik neuer he lefte
 To he of fele þe lifes had refte -
 Bi nombre he slogh þat tid of men
 Four vndre₃ and sextie and ten.
 Britons sagh Arthur on þam gatte;
 In thik batailes þai folgh in þatte.
 Þai sued þar king wi₃ ful gret ruth,
 Þai slogh an dfeld doun all abouth -
 Colgrim slane and Baldulf, his broþer,
 And many thousandes of þe oþer.
 Duk Cheldrik sagh þe gret perille,
 His side yiod doun, he stod ful ille,
 Wi₃ þe oste þat lefte he tok þe flight,
 Naui to gette if þat he might.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See The Battle of Mount Badon page.

d.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/text/excerpt-from-castlefords-chronicle-or-the-boke-of-brut