Examination questions. 3rd Year, 5th Term

Academic Year 2015 / 2016

1. English as an Indo-European language. The main branches of Indo-European languages.
2. Old and Modern Germanic languages, their classification.
3. Common linguistic features of the Germanic languages. The Grimm’s law.
4. English as a West-Germanic language. Its relations to some other members of the group.
5. Periodization of the English language history. Henry Sweet’s theory. Other theories.
6. The main historical events affecting the development of the English language. Old English period.
7. The main historical events affecting the development of the English language. Middle English period.
8. The main historical events affecting the development of the English language. Modern English period.
9. Native English vocabulary. Features of native words.
10. Development of English vocabulary in Old English period. Different sources of borrowing.
11. Development of English vocabulary in Middle English period. Different sources of borrowing.
12. Development of English vocabulary in Modern English period. Different sources of borrowing.
13. The process of word-formation in Old and Middle English.
14. New ways of word-formation in Modern English.
15. Old English dialects and written works in them.
16. Old English Grammar. The nominal system.
17. Old English Grammar. The verb and non-finites.
18. Old English phonetics. Vowel and consonant systems.
19. The main features of Old English syntax.
20. Changes in the vowel and consonant system in Middle and Modern English.
21. Tendency towards simplification in Middle and Modern English (the nominal system).
22. Tendency towards simplification in Middle and Modern English (the verbal system).
23. The standardization of the English language (first grammars, dictionaries, newspapers).
24. Transition of synthetic English into analytical English.
25. Old English spelling. The development of the alphabet.
26. English spelling conventions. Reasons for the complexity of Modern English spelling.
27. Was it easier to learn English 1000 years ago?
28. Which of distinctive aspects of English morphology and syntax produce problems for learners coming from other countries?
29. Explain the notion of the functional universality of Modern English.
30. Modern trends in the development of English (World Englishes, English for specific purposes).
31. National varieties of the English language (American, Canadian language).
32. National varieties of the English language (Australian, New Zealand English).
33. English-based pidgins and creoles and their features.
34. What is the future of English, in your opinion?

Terminology

Living and dead languages

Natural and artificial languages

Vernacular

Synthetic and analytical forms

Lingua franca

Indo-European cognates

The internal reconstruction method

Language family

Language tree

Proto-language (parent language)

Daughter language

Germanic languages

Chief characteristics of Germanic languages

Grimm’s law

Verner’s Law

Suppletive forms

Inflection

Strong, weak verbs

Futhorc runic alphabet

thorn (Þ þ), wynn (Ƿ ƿ), eth (Ð ð), yogh (Ȝ ȝ)

ligature ash (Æ æ), o-e ligature ethel (Œ œ)

Old English dialects: Kentish, West Saxon, Mercian, Northumbrian

Vowel gradation

Ablaut

Metaphesis

Declension

Conjugation

Paradigm

Homonym

Anomalous verbs

Preterit-present verbs

Inverted word order

Transported word order

Derived words

Compound words

Affixation

Conversion

Abbreviation

Blending

Shortening

Stress-shift

Analogical word formation

Sound interchange

Narrowing – widening

Amelioration – Pejoration

Native words

Borrowings

Alliteration

Kenning

Compound metaphor

London Standard

Chancery English

Complexity of English spelling

The Great Vowel Shift

Hybrids

Etymological doublets

Functional universality of MdE

Inkhorn terms

Purism

Prescriptive / descriptive grammar

Standard English

Received Pronunciation

National varieties of English

Pidgins

Creoles