



BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2024-2025

Programme – M.A.(ENG)-2022/M.A.(ENG)-2023/M.A.(ENG)-2024

Course Name – Old and Middle English (including Chaucer)

Course Code - MELS101

(Semester I)

Library
Brainware University
398, Ramkrishnapur Road, Barasat
Kolkata, West Bengal-700125

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2:30 Hours

[The figure in the margin indicates full marks. Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.]

Group-A

(Multiple Choice Type Question)

1 x 15=15

1. Choose the correct alternative from the following :

- (i) The oldest extant poem of the Old English Period is _____. Choose the right option.
a) Hrothgar
b) Beowulf
c) Cynewulf
d) Clynewulf
- (ii) Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, one of the finest of all the Middle English romances was written in _____ dialect. State the correct answer.
a) West Midland
b) Kentish
c) Northumbrian
d) Mercian
- (iii) 'Soliloquies' by St. Augustine was translated by _____. Write the correct answer.
a) King Alfred
b) Orosius
c) Bede
d) Cynewulf
- (iv) The Jutes settled in England at _____. Recall the correct name of the place.
a) Mercia
b) Kent
c) Burgundy
d) Wessex
- (v) Hiltgunt and Waldere were captured in _____. Trace the right option
a) Guthere's Prison
b) Attila's Palace
c) King Theodoric's Palace
d) Hrothgar's Meadhall
- (vi) Statement I: Beowulf approached Hrothgar to help him because his uncle forced him to go to the Danes. Statement II: Beowulf approached Hrothgar to help him because Hrothgar had once helped his father. These statements can be explained as:
a) Both the statements are true
b) Both the statements are false
c) Statement I is false and statement II is true
d) Statement I is true and statement II is false
- (vii) Then that noble protector of all seamen. Write the meaning of the line from the poem Beowulf.
a) Beowulf will find the warrior to rule the geats after his death
b) Beowulf will protect the ocean and the sea after killing the monsters

- c) Beowulf will be the savior of Mead Hall built by Hrothgar
- d) Beowulf, who will be buried in the tower, will serve as a navigational aid to sailors.
- (viii) Who was the first one to forsake Everyman in the play Everyman? Identify
- a) Fellowship
- b) Strength
- c) Cousin
- d) Beauty
- (ix) Recall why the Saxons later rejected Christianization.
- a) because they were scared of baptism
- b) because they thought they will be crucified like Christ
- c) because they wanted independence in life
- d) because they were ignorant towards religions
- (x) Interpret for what purpose Hrothgar has built the mead hall.
- a) to bury the dead
- b) shelter to the poor
- c) for merry-making
- d) hide from the monster
- (xi) The poem Caedmon's Hymn earlier was a _____. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank.
- a) A prayer
- b) A poem
- c) A sonnet
- d) A song
- (xii) How does the Green Knight react when Sir Gawain flinches during the first attempted blow? Select the correct answer.
- a) He mocks Sir Gawain for his cowardice
- b) He strikes Sir Gawain immediately
- c) He forgives Sir Gawain
- d) He leaves without striking Gawain
- (xiii) How does the fox capture Chanticleer? Select the right answer.
- a) By sneaking up on him while he is asleep
- b) By flattering his singing ability
- c) By challenging him to a fight
- d) By offering him food
- (xiv) Select which of the following does "Five-Wits" correspond to, as recognised by Everyman?
- a) the five fingers on each hand
- b) the five toes on each leg
- c) the five senses
- d) five friends on his journey
- (xv) How does the speaker of The Seafarer view the contrast between life on land and life at sea? Select the correct answer.
- a) Life at sea is joyful, while life on land is full of hardship
- b) Life on land is full of adventure, while life at sea is dull
- c) Life on land is luxurious and easy, but ultimately meaningless
- d) Life at sea is peaceful, while life on land is chaotic

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Illustrate why Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is set during the Christmas season. (3)
3. Explain the satire in The Nun's Priest's Tale. (3)
4. Examine Everyman as a play about death. (3)
5. All ye that this do hear or see How they that I loved best do forsake me, except my Good Deeds that bideth truly. -- Discuss the lines from the play Everyman. (3)
6. Briefly write about the Christian message as embodied in the poem "The Seafarer". (3)
- OR**
- Justify Waldere as an Old English Heroic Poetry. (3)

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Group-C
(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Write a short note on the death of Beowulf with reference to his last words in the poem. (5)
8. Explain the trap and escape of Chanticleer in the poem The Nun's Priest's Tale. (5)
9. "After God sends Death to Everyman." Justify the following line with reference to the text. (5)
10. Recall how the poem Caedmon's song becomes a poem. Narrate the story behind the story of Caedmon's Hymn. (5)
11. Illustrate the Norman Conquest in England. How did the medieval period begin? (5)
12. Are there supernatural elements in Sir Gawain and the Green Knight? Illustrate your answer by giving examples. (5)

OR

Illustrate the War of Hastings in the Middle English Period. (5)

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