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

BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

Term End Examination 2023-2024

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

Course Name – Old and Middle English (including Chaucer)

Course Code - MELS101

(Semester I)

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) 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
- (ii) The poem "Judith" is found in _____. Select the right option.
- a) the Beowulf Manuscript
b) the Junius Manuscript
c) the Exeter Book
d) the Vercelli Book
- (iii) Analyze which of these Kennings is used to describe Waldere's sword
- a) enemy-swallower
b) death-bringer
c) instrument-of-war
d) help-in-battle
- (iv) "Exodus", "Daniel", "Christ and Satan" are the poems written by Caedmon found in _____. State the correct option.
- a) The Vercelli Book
b) The Exeter Book
c) Junius Manuscript
d) The Beowulf Manuscript
- (v) Beowulf was written by _____. Identify.
- a) Chaucer
b) Eormanric
c) Guthlac
d) Anonymous Poet
- (vi) _____ poem by Chaucer is the first known attempt in English to use the heroic couplet? Select the right answer.
- a) The Complayant of Mars
b) Troilus and Criseyde
c) The Romaunt of the Rose
d) The Legend of Good Women
- (vii) The monster _____ is found in the text of Beowulf. Select the correct option.
- a) Graendel and his kin
b) Graendel
c) an unnamed supernatural entity
d) None of the above
- (viii) It is decided that each Canterbury pilgrim would tell _____. Choose the right answer.

- a) one story
c) three stories
- (ix) Select the correct combination that applies to the identity of the Widsith-poet.
- a) His name implies "one who journeys frequently and constantly" and comes from a tribe at war with the Myrgings
c) His name implies "one who is restless and yearns to travel" and hails from an unidentified or unnamed tribe
- b) four stories
d) two stories
- b) His name implies "the explorer or the traveller" and he belongs to the Myrgings
d) His name implies "widely travelled" and he belongs to the House of the Myrgings
- (x) The last Saxon king was defeated in _____. Write the correct option.
- a) 1088
c) 1055
- b) 1066
d) 1044
- (xi) Debate which of these is recorded by the play Everyman as being applicable for the fate of man.
- a) that good deeds ultimately triumphs over the evil deeds one has committed, regardless of the moral state of the individual in question
c) that evil deeds must be minimised and good deeds amplified not just in the mortal life, but also in the afterlife.
- b) that good and evil deeds must be confessed to or narrated by the dead individual, as in a journal
d) that good deeds and evil deeds would cumulatively be judged by God as in a ledger book
- (xii) It is counter-intuitive, but a careful study of the prehistory of the Anglo-Saxon era reveals that the English nation could only come about in response to: _____. Choose the correct answer.
- a) internal conflict
c) foreign policy
- b) internal peace
d) foreign incursion
- (xiii) Appraise which of the following can be accounted for as one of the lesser acknowledged attributes of The Canterbury Tales:
- a) instead of revealing England's divisions, it revealed in its diversity.
c) it alerted us to the term auctor, someone who is both an originator, or one who gives increase, the best description for Chaucer himself.
- b) it upheld the idea that we cannot divorce poetry from knowledge because poetry itself is an object of knowledge.
d) it compiled domesticity to divinity.
- (xiv) Observation: The poem Deor has a common refrain which appears after every few lines. Inference: This could be used to argue the poem was sung or recited. Write the appropriate answer.
- a) Both observation and inference are false
c) Inference is true, observation is false
- b) Observation is correct, inference is false
d) Both observation and inference are true
- (xv) The poem Widsith refers to 'Wicinga-cynn' which may be the earliest reference to which community?
- a) The Scots
c) The Picts
- b) The Celts
d) The Vikings

Group-B

(Short Answer Type Questions)

3 x 5=15

2. Identify when and where does Beowulf take place? (3)
3. Whose interpretation of the green girdle do you agree with - Gawain's or the rest of the Court's? Illustrate. (3)

4. Justify *Waldere* as an Old English Heroic Poetry. (3)
5. Examine the mixed ethos of Anglo-Saxon literature, enabled by the coexistence of Christian and heroic values, and how it helps us to understand the cultural values of the time. (3)
6. Analyze why the narrator in "Deor's Lament" resorts to a personal narration of events after having reverted to the religious element? (3)

OR

Explain the reasons for the tragic end of the hero Beowulf. (3)

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Group-C

(Long Answer Type Questions)

5 x 6=30

7. Explain the significance of the refrain in the structure of "Deor's Lament". (5)
8. Appraise how *Everyman* addresses the tension between individual piety and institutional religion within the context of the Middle Ages. How does the play reflect the medieval concerns about the Church's authority and personal spiritual responsibility? (5)
9. Judge in what ways does the portrayal of heroism in *Widsith* provide insight into the cultural values and societal structures of the Anglo-Saxon period (5)
10. Examine the significance of the mead hall in Anglo-Saxon literature, considering both its cultural and political implications. How does the mead hall symbolize the ideals of kingship and camaraderie in works like "Beowulf"? Utilize literary critics' interpretations to strengthen your argument. (5)
11. Write a note discussing the role of fate in "Deor's Lament" and its impact on the speaker's experiences and outlook on life. (5)
12. Why was *Everyman* not ready for death? How does *Everyman* respond to the death? Explain the conflict withing *Everyman's* mind. (5)

OR

Analyze how the *Beowulf*-poet projects the ideals of Anglo-Saxon culture and society in the poem. (5)