

D 31677

(Pages : 2)

Name.....

Reg. No.....

**THIRD SEMESTER M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION
DECEMBER 2012**

English

Paper X – THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE – HISTORY AND STRUCTURE

(2004 – 2009 Admissions)

Time : Three Hours

Maximum : 80 Marks

I. Attempt *four* of the following questions, without omitting any section :

Section A

1. "Language is a symbolic system of systems that mediates between the world of sounds and the world of experience". Discuss with suitable examples.
2. Write an essay on Stress, Rhythm and Intonation in the RP of English. Illustrate your answer with suitable examples.
3. Write an essay on the basic elements of graphology.

Section B

4. Discuss the nature and extent of the Latin influence on English down the ages.
5. Write an essay on Shakespeare's contribution to the growth of English vocabulary.
6. How did the Bible Translations influence the development of the English language?

Section C

7. Describe the major processes of Word Building in English.
8. Discuss the pros and cons of a major spelling reform in English.
9. What are the major differences between the British and American varieties of the English language?

Section D

10. What are the basic premises of Transformational Generative Grammar? Illustrate your answer with suitable examples.
11. Examine the basic differences between Traditional Grammar and Modern Grammar.
12. Write an essay on the phonemes of RP.

(4 × 12 = 48 marks)

Turn over

II. Transcribe the following passage into *phonemic (broad)* transcription :

The cutting-edge science is ringing alarm bells. Avian flu virus picked up by pigs can swap genetic materials with another flu virus already in the pig and become a new, hitherto unknown flu virus for which no person, no animal has pre-existing immunity. The kind of virus causes a pandemic because it spreads from human to human.

(5 marks)

III. Write short notes on *three* of the following topics :

1. Spenser's contribution to the English language.
2. Euphemism.
3. The concept of acceptability in usage.
4. Suprasegmental features.
5. Organs of Speech.
6. Free and Bound Morphemes.
7. Loss of inflections during the Middle English period.

(3 × 5 = 15 marks)

IV. Answer *six* of the following questions briefly :

1. English belongs to the _____ branch of the Indo European family of languages.
2. The plural form of the Old English word *cild* is _____.
3. What is i-mutation?
4. The four main dialects of Old English were _____, _____, _____, and _____.
5. Whose name is associated with spelling reform in America?
6. Write any *two* Latin words still used in English.
7. Write two names that suggest the Celtic influence on English.
8. Write out the rule for Passivization Transformation.
9. How many vowels and consonants are there in Old English?
10. Why was word order not overtly important in Old English?

(6 × 2 = 12 marks)