

# ENGLISH 328 FINAL EXAMINATION

## (FALL 2010)

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*Note: You are English majors. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation all count.*

**I.** (17 points) Briefly explain in one or two sentences the difference between (or among) the following seven sets of vocabulary terms; use examples if necessary to illustrate your point succinctly.

- (1) Present participle and a gerund
- (2) Strong verb and weak verb
- (3) artificial, synthetic, and analytic languages
- (4) aspect, voice, and tense of verbs
- (5) structuralist grammar and traditional grammar
- (6) phoneme, grapheme, and morpheme
- (7) Indo-European and non-Indo-European

**II.** (3 points) In the IPA, some symbols indicate “voiced” sounds, and some indicate “unvoiced” sounds. Anatomically, what is the difference between “voiced” and “unvoiced”? Give an example of a voiced sound (clearly labeled as such) and its unvoiced equivalent—either using IPA or writing out words and underlining/labeling the appropriate part of each word that makes each sound.

**III.** (25 points) **Diagram the following sentence.**

*While the 793 attack at Lindisfarne grabbed Europe’s attention, the first encounter between Vikings and Englishmen actually occurred in Wessex in 787 when three lost Viking ships sailed through a fog and landed in the Portland Bay, and a servant of King Beohtric thought them traders, so he tried collecting taxes from them, but they dismembered him and sailed on their way, no doubt greatly confused by the bureaucratic encounter.”*

--adapted from John Haywood, “Portland,” pp. 150-151, *Encyclopedia of the Viking Age*.  
London: Thames and Hudson Books, 2000.

<p>"Ignorant people think it's the noise fighting cats make that is so aggravating. It ain't so; it's the sickening grammar they use." —Mark Twain</p>
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**IV.** (5 points) According to A. C. Baugh, the most common source of neologisms in English before the nineteenth century was loanwords from foreign languages. After the nineteenth century, what became the largest source of neologisms?

“Nostalgia is like a grammar lesson. You find the present tense and past perfect.”  
—anonymous

**V.** (5 points): A. C. Baugh notes that the Enlightenment grammarians tried to model rules of grammar for English based on Latin and Greek examples or borrowed rules of thumb from mathematics and applied them to English. Provide examples of two such rules they created that “stuck” in English, which traditional grammarians still follow in spite of their ahistorical origin.

**VI.** (8 points): Using IPA symbols, write out the following phrase phonetically:

*"My mother says chewing gum is a gateway drug."*

**VII** (5 points): *The Oxford English Dictionary* is designed around “historical” principles. What does this mean and how is it different from a reference dictionary used only for spelling and modern meaning? Why does that difference make its entries for words so hideously long compared to reference dictionaries, and why does it prove especially useful for students analyzing literature from the past?

**VIII** (7 points) List Dr. Wheeler's three warning signs of the unholy sentence structure, passive voice, explaining what passive voice is, why it is evil, and how to avoid it.

*“Me fail English? That’s impossible!”*  
—Bart Simpson, *The Simpsons*

IX. (25 points) LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF HISTORICAL TEXTS:

The following two passages come from Arthurian literature written 500 years apart. The top is an excerpt from Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte Darthur*, the Winchester Manuscript version, in which Malory defends Gwenevere from her detractors by asserting that Gwenevere and Lancelot's ancient affair was chaste, unlike the vulgar love affairs of his own time. The bottom passage comes from T. H. White's *The Once and Future King*, in which White defends Guenever in terms of her context, claiming Guenever is an admirable and even tragic figure. I have footnoted the more obscure words in each passage.

**[Malory, circa 1460]** "But nowadays men can nat love seven nyght but they muste have all their desires. That love may nat endure by reson; for where they bethe sone accorded<sup>1</sup> and hasty, heete sone keelyth.<sup>2</sup> And right so faryth the love nowadays, sone hote, sone colde. Thys ys no stabylyté. But the olde love was nat so, for men and women coude love togydir seven yerys, and no lycoures<sup>3</sup> lustis was betwyxte them. . . . And so in lyke wyse [was] such love in Kyng Arthures dayes. And therefore all ye that be lovers, calle unto youre remembraunce the monethe of May, lyke as ded Quene Gwenever, for whom I make here a lytyll menciou, that whyle she lyved she was a trew lover, and therefore she had a good end."

**[T. H. White, 1939]** "You could pretend that Guenever was a sort of man-eating lioncelle<sup>4</sup> herself, or that she was one of those selfish women who insist on ruling everywhere. . . . But the rock on which these easy explanations founder is that she was not promiscuous. There was never anybody in her life except Lancelot and Arthur. People who have been digested by a man-eating lioncelle tend to become non-entities—to live no life except in the vitals of the devourer. Yet both Arthur and Lancelot lived full lives, and accomplished things of their own. She gathered her rose-buds while she might, and the striking thing was that she only gathered two of them, which she kept always, and that those two were the best. . . . Guenever's central tragedy was that she was childless. Arthur had two illegitimate children, and Lancelot had Galahad. But Guenevere—and she was the one of the three who most ought to have had children, and whom God had seemingly made for breeding lovely children—she was the one who was left an empty vessel, a shore without a sea. This is what broke her."

1. We know that Malory lived during the time of the Great Vowel Shift (1400-1450), but he wrote this particular work in 1460 about ten years after the Great Vowel Shift ended. This chronology makes it difficult to determine if he used the scribal *-e* as a grapheme or if he used the organic *-e*. Underline any example of a word in the top passage that illustrates this ambiguity (i.e., underline a word where we can't tell today if he used a scribal *-e* or pronounced an organic *-e*).
2. In the bottom passage, T.H. White uses a compound adjective. Circle the compound adjective, then explain what punctuation mark indicates it is a compound adjective, and explain why that punctuation mark helps us avoid confusion.
3. In the top passage, Malory uses a genitive declension of a proper name. Circle that word with its genitive form. In the bottom passage, White has a similar possessive form of a common name. Examine each instance, and note the difference in punctuation to show possession. According to A. C. Baugh, how did this punctuation change develop over time?
4. Malory is writing in a time of transition from Middle English to (Early) Modern English. Using the T. H. White passage as a point of contrast or comparison, write a brief essay about the passage as an illustration of the history of grammar—perhaps two-to-three paragraphs long. In this essay, comment on any features in Malory's writing that remain typical of Middle English or any features that foreshadow coming trends in Modern English.

*"Enim Caesar non est supra grammaticos."* ["Even Caesar is not above grammarians."] —scribe's response to Emperor Sigismund I, when the Emperor asserted he was above following mere grammatical rules.

<sup>1</sup> "quickly joined together"

<sup>2</sup> "the heat soon cooleth"

<sup>3</sup> "lecherous"

<sup>4</sup> lioness, i.e., a not fully matured female lion