



Register Number:

Date: 5-1-21

**ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE – 27**  
**I MA ENGLISH-END-SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS: JANUARY 2021**  
**EN 7118 –BRITISH LITERATURE**

Time- 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs

Max Marks- 70

**Instructions:**

1. This paper has **FOUR SECTIONS** and **THREE** printed pages.
2. You are allowed to use a dictionary.
3. Don't exceed the word limit.

**I. Answer ANY ONE of the questions given below in about 300 words. (15 marks)**

1. Which term do you hold to be a more accurate name—Old English or Anglo-Saxon? Give reasons. What insights have you gained into Modern English from your encounter with this ancestor? Tell us a little about words or phrases which you remember from the texts you have studied.
2. Does the MA English student gain anything from studying an Anglo-Saxon/Old English text such as Beowulf? Give reasons for your answer.

**II. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 200 words each: (2x10=20)**

3. Which two of Chaucer's portraits in the General Prologue give the modern reader a good sense of the world in which the text is set? What evidence can you provide from the text to support your answer?
4. What purpose does the incident featuring Grendel's mother play in the text? What do you make of the fact that she is given no name? Give a paragraph-length account of the battle between her and Beowulf before responding to the questions asked.
5. Comment on the ideas of devotion and faith that seem to be present in *Sumer is icumen in* and in Caedmon's Song. Do the two texts lead us to these ideas in the same way?

- III. Annotate the following extracts in about 200 words each. Your note must identify the text, locate this extract in terms of what transpires before and after, and pay close attention to textual devices, syntactic processes and other distinctive features:

(2x10=20 marks)

6. EXTRACT A

**þa ymbe hlæw riodan hildediore,**  
Then about that barrow the battle-keen rode,  
**æpelinga bearn, ealra twelfe/,**  
atheling-born, a band of twelve,  
**woldon ceare/ cwiðan ond kyning mænan,**  
lament to make, to mourn their king,  
**wordgyd wrecan ond ymb wer/ sprecan;**  
chant their dirge, and their chieftain honor.  
**eahtodan eorlscipe ond his ellenweorc**  
They praised his earlship, his acts of prowess  
**duguðum demdon, swa hit gedefe/ bið/**  
worthily witnessed: and well it is  
**þæt mon his winedryhten wordum herge,**  
that men their master-friend mightily laud,  
**ferhðum freoge/, þonne he forð scile**  
heartily love, when hence he goes  
**of lichaman læded/ weorðan.**  
from life in the body forlorn away.

7. EXTRACT B

**But first he cheweth greyn and lycorys,**  
But first he chews cardamom and licorice,  
**To smellen sweete, er he hadde kembd his heer.**  
To smell sweet, ere he had combed his hair.  
**Under his tonge a trewe-love he beer,**  
Under his tongue he had a true-love herb,  
**For therby wende he to ben gracious.**  
For thus he thought he would be gracious.  
**He rometh to the carpenteres hous,**  
He goes to the carpenter's house,  
**And stille he stant under the shot-wyndowe --**  
And he stands still under the casement window :-  
**Unto his brest it raughte, it was so lowe --**  
Unto his breast it reached, it was so low --  
**And softe he cougheth with a semy soun:**  
And softly he coughs with a gentle sound:

- IV. Read the poem given below, rendered into Modern English from the original Anglo-Saxon. These lines come with an instruction: "When they swarm, take some earth, throw it down with your right hand under your right foot, and speak".

I catch it under foot, I may have found it.  
Listen, this earth can avail against every creature  
and against its opponent and against the lack of care  
and against the greatness of the human tongue.

Sit down, victorious lady, sink to the earth!  
Never would you fly into the woods.  
Be so mindful of my good,  
as is every man of food and his home.

**IV.A. Answer the following questions in about five sentences each: (3x5=15)**

8. Comment on the way the poem is written. What does it remind you of?
9. Who is being addressed in the poem? What two pieces of evidence can you give to support your guess?
10. How is the second stanza different from the first?