

STUDY MATERIALS (MCQs with ANSWERS)
501-ENGG-DSE-1A
Philology: History of English Language

1. *During which period did the Norman Conquest significantly influence the English language?*

 - a) Old English period
 - b) Middle English period
 - c) Early Modern English period
 - d) Late Modern English period
 - *Answer: b) Middle English period*

2. *What event in 1066 marked the beginning of the Middle English period?*

 - a) Viking Invasions
 - b) Battle of Hastings
 - c) Magna Carta signing
 - d) Hundred Years' War
 - *Answer: b) Battle of Hastings*

3. *Which English monarch is associated with the translation of the Bible into English in the 14th century?*

 - a) King Alfred
 - b) King Henry VIII
 - c) King James I
 - d) King Edward III
 - *Answer: a) King Alfred*

4. *What major historical event in the 15th century contributed to the standardization of English spelling?*

 - a) The Renaissance
 - b) The Black Death
 - c) The War of the Roses
 - d) The invention of the printing press
 - *Answer: d) The invention of the printing press*

5. *Which English playwright had a profound impact on the development of Early Modern English through his plays and sonnets?*

 - a) Christopher Marlowe
 - b) Ben Jonson
 - c) William Shakespeare
 - d) John Donne
 - *Answer: c) William Shakespeare*

6. *In Early Modern English, what term is used to refer to the period's elaborate and ornate writing style?*

 - a) Renaissance style

- b) Elizabethan prose
- c) Jacobean poetry
- d) Euphuism
- *Answer: d) Euphuism*

7. *Which influential dictionary, first published in 1755, aimed to capture the English language's meaning and usage?*

- a) Johnson's Dictionary
- b) Webster's Dictionary
- c) OED (Oxford English Dictionary)
- d) Cambridge Dictionary
- *Answer: a) Johnson's Dictionary*

8. *What linguistic phenomenon led to the simplification of the English vowel system in the late Middle English period?*

- a) The Great Vowel Shift
- b) The Normandy Shift
- c) The Consonant Mutation
- d) The Schwa Revolution
- *Answer: a) The Great Vowel Shift*

9. *Which monarch's accession in 1603 united the crowns of England and Scotland, influencing linguistic and cultural exchanges?*

- a) Queen Elizabeth I
- b) King James I
- c) Queen Mary I
- d) King Charles I
- *Answer: b) King James I*

10. *During which historical period did English experience an influx of Latin and Greek words, leading to vocabulary expansion?*

- a) Old English period
- b) Middle English period
- c) Early Modern English period
- d) Late Modern English period
- *Answer: c) Early Modern English period*

11. *Who authored the influential work "The Golden Bough," contributing to the study of folklore and philology?*

- a) J.R.R. Tolkien
- b) Sir James Frazer
- c) Joseph Campbell
- d) Jacob Grimm
- *Answer: b) Sir James Frazer*

12. *Which linguistic concept refers to the study of the meaning of words and their relationships?*

- a) Phonetics
- b) Syntax
- c) Semantics
- d) Morphology
- *Answer: c) Semantics*

13. *In which century did the Great Vowel Shift significantly impact the pronunciation of English words?*

- a) 14th century
- b) 16th century
- c) 18th century
- d) 20th century
- *Answer: b) 16th century*

14. *Who developed the concept of the linguistic sign, which consists of the signifier and the signified?*

- a) Ferdinand de Saussure
- b) Noam Chomsky
- c) Roman Jakobson
- d) William Labov
- *Answer: a) Ferdinand de Saussure*

15. *What is the term for the study of language in its social context, including its use and variation?*

- a) Pragmatics
- b) Sociolinguistics
- c) Stylistics
- d) Discourse analysis
- *Answer: b) Sociolinguistics*

16. *Which linguistic feature distinguishes Old English from later stages of English?*

- a) Verb-subject-object word order
- b) Definite and indefinite articles
- c) Grammatical gender
- d) Use of case markings
- *Answer: d) Use of case markings*

17. *Who is known for proposing the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, suggesting that language influences thought?*

- a) Edward Sapir
- b) Benjamin Lee Whorf
- c) Noam Chomsky
- d) Steven Pinker
- *Answer: b) Benjamin Lee Whorf*

18. *What linguistic term describes the study of meaning within sentences and discourse?*

- a) Phonetics
- b) Syntax
- c) Pragmatics
- d) Morphology
- *Answer: c) Pragmatics*

19. *Which literary work is often considered a cornerstone for the study of Old English language and literature?*

- a) Beowulf
- b) The Canterbury Tales
- c) Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- d) The Dream of the Rood
- *Answer: a) Beowulf*

20. *In the context of philology, what does the term "etymology" refer to?*

- a) The study of word origins
- b) The analysis of sentence structure
- c) The study of language change over time
- d) The investigation of regional dialects
- *Answer: a) The study of word origins*

21. *What is the origin of the word "philology"?*

- a) Latin
- b) Greek
- c) Sanskrit
- d) French
- *Answer: b) Greek*

22. *Which linguistic subfield does philology primarily focus on?*

- a) Semantics
- b) Phonetics
- c) Historical linguistics
- d) Syntax
- *Answer: c) Historical linguistics*

23. *What is the study of the structure and formation of words called in philology?*

- a) Morphology
- b) Syntax
- c) Phonology
- d) Semantics
- *Answer: a) Morphology*

24. *Who is considered the father of modern linguistics and a key figure in philology?*

- a) Ferdinand de Saussure
- b) Noam Chomsky
- c) William Shakespeare

- d) Dante Alighieri
- *Answer: a) Ferdinand de Saussure*

25. *Which period does Old English language correspond to?*

- a) 5th to 11th century
- b) 11th to 15th century
- c) 15th to 17th century
- d) 17th to 19th century
- *Answer: a) 5th to 11th century*

26. *What is a characteristic feature of Middle English?*

- a) Use of runes
- b) Influence of Norman French
- c) Extensive use of Latin
- d) Introduction of printing press
- *Answer: b) Influence of Norman French*

27. *Which language family does English belong to?*

- a) Romance
- b) Germanic
- c) Slavic
- d) Celtic
- *Answer: b) Germanic*

28. *What is the term for the study of the historical development of the sound system of a language?*

- a) Syntax
- b) Phonology
- c) Semantics
- d) Pragmatics
- *Answer: b) Phonology*

29. *Which of the following is an example of a diachronic study in philology?*

- a) Analysis of contemporary slang
- b) Comparison of Old and Middle English
- c) Study of sentence structures
- d) Examination of regional dialects
- *Answer: b) Comparison of Old and Middle English*

30. *What is the process of language change over time called in philology?*

- a) Synchrony
- b) Diachrony
- c) Etymology
- d) Lexicography
- *Answer: b) Diachrony*

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- c) Etymology
- d) Lexicography

- *Answer: b) Diachrony*

41. *Which Scandinavian language had a significant influence on Old English due to Viking invasions?*

- a) Swedish
- b) Danish
- c) Norwegian
- d) Icelandic

- *Answer: b) Danish*

42. *What term is used to describe the linguistic influence resulting from the coexistence of two languages, such as Old English and Old Norse?*

- a) Diglossia
- b) Pidgin
- c) Creole
- d) Code-switching

- *Answer: a) Diglossia*

43. *During the Norman Conquest, which French variety had a significant impact on the English language?*

- a) Old French
- b) Middle French
- c) Provençal
- d) Norman French

- *Answer: b) Middle French*

44. *What term is used to describe the blending of sounds at the beginning of two words, often resulting in a new word?*

- a) Assimilation
- b) Alliteration
- c) Consonance
- d) Syncope
- *Answer: b) Alliteration*

45. *In the context of language change, what is the term for the process by which a word's meaning becomes more general over time?*

- a) Broadening
- b) Narrowing
- c) Amelioration
- d) Pejoration
- *Answer: a) Broadening*

46. *Which French phrase is used in English to refer to a diplomatic solution or compromise?*

- a) Coup d'état
- b) Fait accompli
- c) Rendezvous
- d) Entente cordiale
- *Answer: d) Entente cordiale*

47. *What Latin term is commonly used in English to indicate the act of making something known or revealing a secret?*

- a) Carpe diem
- b) Quod erat demonstrandum (Q.E.D.)
- c) Status quo
- d) Expose facto
- *Answer: b) Quod erat demonstrandum (Q.E.D.)*

48. *Which Greek term, meaning "word," is used in English to refer to the study of the origins and historical development of words?*

- a) Philology
- b) Etymology
- c) Syntax
- d) Semiotics
- *Answer: b) Etymology*