

Exam Specifications

Examination Environment

This exam will take place online on ILIAS as accessed through the **Stud.IP** course page via the tab Learning Modules. A mock exam is there now; a final exam will be available there in due time, and it will become clickable at the starting time of the exam.

Once you start the exam, you have 120 minutes to complete it. If you start the exam a few minutes late, you will still have 120 minutes, but there will be a hard cutoff 140 minutes after the official start.

Please try out the mock exam and familiarize yourself with the environment early on. If you spot any issues, inform your instructor. During the exam, you are not permitted to be in contact with anyone or use any aids. You should thus plan to write the exam in an undisturbed room on a reliable device with good Internet connectivity. The question titles in the navigation pane on the left will have keywords indicating the subject of each question to facilitate navigation (see Figure 1 on p. 3 below).

In addition to a regular text input device such as a physical keyboard, you may need access to the special characters *þ*, *æ*, and *ð* at least for the close commentary. You should be able to copy and paste these out of the excerpt given, but you may want to prepare another way of inputting these characters as well just in case. If you cannot input them using your keyboard, you could open a browser window to <http://langeslag.uni-goettingen.de/specialchars.html>. If all else fails, simply type *ae* and *th* (not e.g. *p* or *o*).

Structure

1. Lecture exam (25% in B.EP.204 / 33% in M.EP.02c — count no more than 30 minutes)
2. Seminar exam (75% in B.EP.204 / 67% in M.EP.02c — count at least 90 minutes)
 - (a) Commentary on a seen passage of Old English prose or verse (30% of seminar exam)
 - (b) Translation of an unseen passage of Old English prose (40% of seminar exam)
 - (c) Discussion of a seen Middle English text (30% of seminar exam)

Specification

Lecture Exam

Dr Wolf will have the specifics on the lecture exam. Expect there to be a mix of mandatory questions in a variety of formats (matching assignments, multiple choice, fill in the gap) alongside a number of (e.g. 3) sets of a number of (e.g. 3) open questions of which you are expected to choose and answer only one per set. In other words, parts of the lecture exam will give you a choice

as to which questions to answer, while other parts do not leave you a choice. Even in the open questions, answers can generally be brief (a few sentences to a brief paragraph).

Close Commentary

This assignment will quote a short passage (8–12 lines of prose or verse, with no or minimal glosses) from either *The Dream of the Rood* or the preface to the Old English *Pastoral Care*. Your instructor may choose further to limit the range of lines to be considered for the exam later in the term. If the passage was not discussed in class, you will at least receive a model translation well ahead of the exam. You will be asked to comment on all aspects of the passage: form (rhythm and alliteration; diction), content/argument, and cultural context. This assignment is usually left wide open: you will be given a passage and are expected to comment on it, as well as on the wider text from which it has been excerpted, without further instruction. To prepare for this assignment, take the feedback on your midterm commentary to heart; study your translations and the instructor's model translations of these texts; reread your class notes on content, form, and themes along with the editors' introductions and notes to these texts in the textbook; but also read the essays by Wormald (on literacy) and Ó Carragáin and North (on *The Dream of the Rood* and its Northumbrian culture) provided on [Stud.IP](#), and by all means spend time coming to interpretations of your own with which to dazzle your instructor. Finally, **closely study the example commentary on the Close Commentary handout!** You can anticipate much of what should be in your commentary ahead of time, since we cover only so much content. Please note that whereas this assignment does *not* involve translating part of the excerpt, your commentary should make clear that you know exactly what it says.

Translation of an Unseen Passage

This will be a short excerpt (the equivalent of four printed lines) of Old English prose, thoroughly but not exhaustively glossed. Words that we have often encountered may not be glossed, and the same may be true of words whose senses are transparent from their Modern English reflexes. The excerpt will be given a Modern English title to help provide context. To prepare for this assignment, learn your paradigms, but also practise reading familiar and new prose texts in the textbook. Above all, it will help to be able to recognize the case, number, and gender of key pronouns; identify verbs and determine their tense and number; and use case to distinguish between subjects and objects. A sample passage is included on p. 3 below (take note of its conventions for conveying grammatical information in parentheses!), and another example may be found in the mock exam on ILIAS ([Stud.IP](#) → Learning Modules).

Discussion

This is a short essay question which you should answer in two to four brief paragraphs. It will concern the Middle English text we have read (i.e. *The Franklin's Tale*) and explore one particular issue the author raises, or a cultural phenomenon he explores. For instance, the poem ends with the question which character in the tale is “the most free”; that could be a natural essay question to ask here.

Sample Translation Assignment

Provide a single translation into Present-Day English, without footnotes or parenthetical material. If you find any ambiguities, translate just one acceptable sense.

Pharaoh's Death

Ðā Pharao cōm tō ðære sǣ, 7 eal his here, ðā fōr hē on þone ylcan weg æfter Israhēla folce on dægrēd mid eallum his folce 7 mid eallum his wǣpnum. Ðā cwæð Drihten tō Moyses: “Aðene ðīne hand ofer ðā sǣ 7 ofer Faraon 7 ofer ealne his here.” 7 hē āhefde up his hand, 7 sēo sǣ slōh tōgædere 7 āhwylfde Pharaones cratu, 7 ādrencte hine sylfne 7 eal his folc.

Glossary

ādrencan (1) drown

āhebban (1: āhefde) raise up

āhwylfan (1) engulf

āpenian (2) stretch out

cræt (1n) chariot

cuman (IV: cōm, cōmon, cumen)
come

cweþan (V: cwæþ, cwædon, cweden)
say, speak

dægrēd (1n) daybreak

Drihten (1m) the Lord

faran (VI: fōr, fōron, faren) travel

here (1n) army

ilca (pron) same

Moyses (m proper) Moses

sǣ (1m/2f) sea

slēan (VI: slōh, slōgon, slagen) strike

wǣpen (1n) weapon

Figure 1: The practice exam on ILIAS