

Leftovers:

Slides We Had No Time to Discuss

(naturally, these play no role on the exam)

Session I: The Anglo-Saxons

Penitential Thinking: Gildas (s. VI)

“

From that time the germ of iniquity and the root of contention planted their poison amongst us, **as we deserved**, and shot forth into leaves and branches. The barbarians being thus introduced as soldiers into the island, to encounter, as they falsely said, any dangers in defence of their hospitable entertainers, obtain an allowance of provisions, which, for some time being plentifully bestowed, stopped their **doggish** mouths. Yet they complain that their monthly supplies are not furnished in sufficient abundance, and they industriously aggravate each occasion of quarrel, saying that unless more liberality is shown them, they will break the treaty and plunder the whole island. In a short time, they follow up their threats with deeds. (*The Destruction of Britain* ch. 23, trans. Giles)

”

Germanic Culture According to Tacitus

“ Uncles esteem their sisters' sons as much as fathers, and some consider this bond of blood even closer and more sacred; when taking hostages they give it more weight, as though they would bind their affections more firmly and their family more broadly. Yet each man has his own children as heirs and successors, and wills are unknown. If there are no children, next in line to inherit are brothers and uncles, both paternal and maternal. **The more kin a man has and the greater in number his connections by marriage, the more honoured is his old age: childlessness has no reward.** (*Germania* 20.3, trans. Rives) ”

→ strong social cohesion based in kinship

Rome: Empire and Cultural Sphere



Figure: The Roman Empire, 116 CE (CC-BY-SA: WMC user)

The Mediterranean: Soteriological Breeding Ground

Mediterranean

- ▶ Urban
- ▶ (Systematic) geographic mobility
- ▶ Multiculturalism
- ▶ Lack of group solidarity
- ▶ Lack of family ties, shared values, social cohesion

Germania

- ▶ Rural
- ▶ (Some mobility)
- ▶ More homogeneous
- ▶ Kin solidarity
- ▶ Strong social cohesion

Why Would Germanic Cultures Adopt Christianity at All?

- ▶ Universal religions favour social cohesion across larger territories
- ▶ The Church was a powerful institution
- ▶ Germanic kingship seems to have had a sacral aspect

→ Implemented in top-down fashion as political opportunism

Edward Enthroned!



Figure: Bayeux Tapestry: Edward (public domain / WMC user)

Does Harold Swear Fealty to William?



Figure: Bayeux Tapestry: Harold Swears an Oath (public domain / WMC user)

Edward Dies



Figure: Bayeux Tapestry: Edward's Funeral (public domain / WMC)

Harold Ascends the Throne!



Figure: Bayeux Tapestry: Harold Enthroned (CC-BY-SA Daniel R. Blume)

A Portent in the Sky!



Figure: Bayeux Tapestry: Halley's Comet (public domain / WMC user)

William Has All the Trees Cut Down!



Figure: Bayeux Tapestry: William Orders Ships Built (public domain / Ulrich Harsh)

The Crossing!



Figure: Bayeux Tapestry: The Crossing (public domain / Ulrich Harsh)

A Ruse!



Figure: Bayeux Tapestry: Cavalry vs Shield Wall (public domain / [Gabriel Seah](#))

A Ruse!

“ Realizing that they could not without severe loss overcome an army massed so strongly in close formation, the Normans and their allies feigned flight and simulated a retreat, for they recalled that only a short while ago their flight had given them an advantage. The barbarians thinking victory within their grasp shouted with triumph, and heaping insults upon our men, threatened utterly to destroy them. Several thousand of them, as before, gave rapid pursuit to those whom they thought to be in flight; but the Normans suddenly wheeling their horses surrounded them and cut down their pursuers so that not one was left alive. Twice was this ruse employed with the utmost success. (William of Poitiers, *Deeds of William*, qtd in Morillo, *The Battle of Hastings*, 169)

”

Harold Dies



Figure: Bayeux Tapestry: Harold's Death (public domain / WMC user)

Session II: Language and Literature

Stress and Alliteration

“

Hwæt! We Gárdena in géardàgum, *crossed alliteration*

þéodcýninga, þrým gefrúnon,

hu ða æþelingas ellen frémedon.

Oft Scýld Scéfing scéaþena þréatum, *sc-alliteration*

5 mónegum mægþum, méodosetla oftéah,

egsode eorlas, syððan ærest wéarð *vowel alliteration*

féasceaft fúnden. He þæs frófre gebád,

wéox under wólcnum, wéorðmyndum þáh,

oðþæt him æghwýlc ymbsittendra

10 ofer hrónràde hyran scólde,

gómban gýldan. Þæt wæs gód cýning!

”

“

Ða wæs on úhtan mid árdàge *light verse (type A3)*

127 Gréndles gúðcræft gúmun undýrne.

”

Rhythmic Prose

“

Æfter ðam ðe Móyses, se mæra héretoga,
þæt Gódes fólc gelædde of Pháraones þéowette
ofer ða Réadan Sáe, 7 Gód him æ gesette,
7 æfter þam þe Iósue be Gódes sylfes gewissunge
5 þæt mánkyn gebrohte mid swiðe mícclum síge
to þam behátenan éarde 7 hi þæron wúnedon,
þa wurdon hig ealles to oft on ýfel áwende
7 mid ýfelum wéorce þone ælmihtigan Gód
þearle gegrémedon. 7 Gód hi eac sona
10 háðenum léodum let to ánwèalde,
swa þæt þa háðenan háfdon heora gewéald,
swa oft swa hig ábùlgon þam ælmihtigan Góde,
oð þæt hig eft oncnéowon heora ýfelan dáeda
7 gebúgon to Góde bíddende his miltse. (*Judges*)

”

Reading Old English

“

Se ðeodric wæs Amulinga. He wæs cristen, þeah he on þam arrianiscan gedwolan þurhwunode. He gehet Romanum his freondscipe, swa þæt hi mostan heora ealdrihta wyrðe beon. Ac he þa gehat swiðe yfele gelæste, 7 swiðe wraðe geendode mid manegum mane. Þæt wæs toeacan oðrum unarimedum yflum þæt he Iohannes þone papan het ofslean. Þa wæs sum consul, þæt we heretoha hatað, Boetius wæs gehaten; se wæs in boccræftum 7 on woruldþeawum se rihtwisesta.

”

Aid 1: Use Your High/Low German, English, Frisian, Latin...

“

Se Ʒeodric wæs Amulinga. He wæs cristen, þeah he on þam
arrianiscan gedwolan þurhwunode. He gehet Romanum his
freondscipe, swa þæt hi mostan heora ealdrihta wyrðe beon.
Ac he þa gehat swiðe yfele gelæste, 7 swiðe wraðe geendode
mid manegum mane. þæt wæs toeacan oðrum unarimedum
yflum þæt he Iohannes þone papan het ofslean. þa wæs sum
consul, þæt we heretoha hatað, Boetius wæs gehaten; se wæs in
boccræftum 7 on woruldþeawum se rihtwisesta.

”

Aid 2: Memorize Pronouns and Possessive Adjectives

“

Se Ʒeodric wæs Amulinga. He wæs cristen, þeah he on þam arrianiscan gedwolan þurhwunode. He gehet Romanum his freondscipe, swa þæt hi mostan heora ealdrihta wyrðe beon. Ac he þa gehat swiðe yfele gelæste, 7 swiðe wraðe geendode mid manegum mane. Þæt wæs toeacan oðrum unarimedum yflum þæt he Iohannes þone papan het ofslean. Þa wæs sum consul, þæt we heretoha hatað, Boetius wæs gehaten; se wæs in boccræftum 7 on woruldþeawum se rihtwisesta.

”

	Personal pronoun, 3rd person				Distal demonstrative pronoun			
	<i>masc</i>	<i>neut</i>	<i>fem</i>	<i>plural</i>	<i>masc</i>	<i>neut</i>	<i>fem</i>	<i>plural</i>
Nom	hē	hit	hēo	hīe	se	þæt	sēo	þā
Acc	hine	hit	hīe	hīe	þone	þæt	þā	þā
Gen	his	his	hire	hira	þæs	þæs	þære	þāra
Dat	him	him	hire	him	þām	þām	þære	þām

Table: Third-person personal pronoun and distal demonstrative pronoun

Aid 3: Use Inflectional Endings to Your Advantage

“ Se Ʒeodric wæs Amulinga; he wæs cristen, þeah he on þam arrianiscan gedwolan þurhwunode. He gehet Romanum his freondscipe, swa þæt hi mostan heora ealdrihta wyrðe beon. Ac he þa gehat swiðe yfele gelæste, 7 swiðe wraðe geendode mid manegum mane. þæt wæs toeacan oðrum unarimedum yflum þæt he Iohannes þone papan het ofslean. Þa wæs sum consul, þæt we heretoha hatað, Boetius wæs gehaten; se wæs in boccræftum 7 on woruldþeawum se rihtwisesta. ”

- ▶ *-um*: dative plural *or* dative singular masc./neuter *or* adj. nsm.
- ▶ *-a*: *could* be genitive plural
- ▶ *-e*: *could* be dative singular masc./neuter *or* adverb
- ▶ *-an*: *could* be infinitive *or* oblique weak: not nominative sg./dative pl./genitive pl.

Aid 4: Use Syntax and (German!) Word Order

“ Se Ʒeodric wæs Amulinga. He wæs cristen, þeah he on þam arrianiscan gedwolan þurhwunode. He gehet Romanum his freondscipe, swa þæt hi mostan heora ealdrihta wyrðe beon. Ac he þa gehat swiðe yfele gelæste, 7 swiðe wraðe geendode mid manegum mane. Þæt wæs toeacan oðrum unarimedum yflum þæt he Iohannes þone papan het ofslean. Þa wæs sum consul, þæt we heretoha hatað, Boetius wæs gehaten; se wæs in boccræftum 7 on woruldþeawum se rihtwisesta. ”

- ▶ *Bēon* typically followed by a subject complement or participle
- ▶ Noun phrases are predictable: [demonstrative] [adjective] [noun]
- ▶ Word order almost 1:1 German, i.e. SVO unless
 - ▶ the initial element is an adverbial/prepositional phrase > verb-last
 - ▶ subclause > verb-last

Step 1: Underline Verbs

“ Se ðeodric wæs Amulinga. He wæs cristen, þeah he on þam arrianiscan gedwolan þurhwunode. He gehet Romanum his freondscipe, swa þæt hi mostan heora ealdrihta wyrðe beon. Ac he þa gehat swiðe yfele gelæste, 7 swiðe wraðe geendode mid manegum mane. Þæt wæs toeacan oðrum unarimedum yflum þæt he Iohannes þone papan het ofslean. Þa wæs sum consul, þæt we heretoha hatað, Boetius wæs gehaten; se wæs in boccræftum 7 on woruldþeawum se rihtwisesta. ”

- ▶ Most words in *-þ/ð* are present-tense verbs
- ▶ Most words in *-don/-ton* and many in *-de/-te* are weak preterites
- ▶ Many words in *-on* are strong preterites
- ▶ Strong preterites singular end in their stem, i.e. a consonant
- ▶ Words in *-an* may be infinitives or plurals
- ▶ Syntax and word order will tell you the rest

Step 2: Separate Clauses

“ Se Ʒeodric wæs Amulinga. | He wæs cristen, | þeah he on þam arrianiscan gedwolan þurhwunode. | He gehet Romanum his freondscipe, | swa þæt hi mostan heora ealdrihta wyrðe beon. | Ac he þa gehat swiðe yfele gelæste, | 7 swiðe wraðe geendode mid manegum mane. | Þæt wæs toeacan oðrum unarimedum yflum | þæt he Iohannes þone papan het ofslean. | Þa wæs sum consul, | þæt we heretoha hatað, | Boetius wæs gehaten; | se wæs in boccræftum 7 on woruldþeawum se rihtwisesta. ”

Before

- ▶ Conjunctions
- ▶ Relative pronouns
- ▶ Temporal and locative adverbs
- ▶ *Þæt* as object

Step 3: Bracket Off Prepositional and Adverb Phrases

“ Se Ʒeodric wæs Amulinga. | He wæs cristen, | þeah he (on þam arrianiscan gedwolan) þurhwunode. | He gehet Romanum his freondscipe, | swa þæt hi mostan heora ealdrihta wyrðe beon. | Ac he (þa) gehat (swiðe yfele) gelæste, | 7 swiðe wraðe geendode (mid manegum mane). | Þæt wæs toeacan oðrum unarimedum yflum | þæt he Iohannes þone papan het ofslean. | (Pa) wæs sum consul, | þæt we heretoha hatað, | Boetius wæs gehaten; | se wæs (in boccræftum 7 on woruldþeawum) se rihtwisesta. ”

These provide supplementary information and can be ignored in the initial parsing.

Step 4: Identify Subjects, Objects, and Complements

“ [Se Ʒeodric] wæs [Amulinga]. | [He] wæs [cristen], | þeah [he] (on þam arrianiscan gedwolan) þurhwunode. | [He] gehet Romanum <his freondscipe>, | swa þæt [hi] mostan [heora ealdrihta wyrðe] beon. | Ac [he] <þa gehat> (swiðe yfele) gelæste, | ⁊ swiðe wraðe geendode (mid manegum mane). | [Þæt] wæs toeacan (oðrum unarimedum yflum) | [þæt [he] <Iohannes þone papan> het ofslean]. | (Þa) wæs [sum consul], | þæt we heretoha hatað], | [Boetius] wæs gehaten; | [se] wæs (in boccræftum ⁊ on woruldþeawum) [se rihtwisesta]. ”

Egils saga Skalla-Grímsson

“

The king of Scotland was called Óláfr the red. He was Scottish on his father's side but Danish on his mother's side, descended from Ragnarr *loðbrók*. He was a powerful man. Scotland was said to be a third of the realm compared with England.

Northumbria was said to be a fifth of England, and it is its northernmost part, east alongside Scotland. Danish kings had governed it of old. York is its capital. Aðalsteinn possessed it; he had placed two earls over it. One was called Álfgeirr, the other Goðrekr. They were stationed there as defenders of the land against the Scots and Danes or Norsemen, which greatly raided the land and felt they had a great claim to the land, because everyone of any importance in Northumbria was Danish on his father's or his mother's side, and often on both. (ch. 51) ”

Eric Bloodaxe in Northumbria

“

948: Her Eadred cyning oferhergode eall Norðhymbra land, for þæm þe hi hæfdon genumen him Yryc to cyninge.

954: Her Norðhymbre fordrifon Yric, ⁊ Eadred feng to Norðhymbra rice.

(ChronD) ”

Head's Ransom

“ Then Egill stepped up to the table and clasped the king's foot.
He spoke:

Kominn emk á jó Íva
anrbeittan veg langan
öldu enskrar foldar
atsitjanda at vitja.

translation here

Nú hefr sískelfir sjálfan
snarþátt Haralds áttar
viðr ofrhuga yfrinn
undar blikis of fundinn.

King Eiríkr said: 'I don't need to list the crimes to your name, and yet they are so many and so severe, that any one of them would suffice to ensure you will never come away from here with your life. You have no reason to expect anything else than that you will die here. You might as well know right away that you will receive no settlement from me.' (*Egils saga* ch. 59)

”

Ívarr's Birth



Figure: Kráka / Áslaug (public domain / Mårten Eskil Winge)

The Vengeance of Ragnarr's Sons



Figure: Ælla's messenger before Ragnarr's sons (public domain / August Malmström)

The Vengeance of Ragnarr's Sons

“

When the messengers came with their troops to the town where the sons of Ragnar were being given a feast, they went into the hall where they were drinking, and went before the high-seat where Ívar was lying. Sigurð Ormr í Auga and Hvítserk sat playing *hneftafl*, and Björn Járnsiðr was carving a spear-shaft on the floor of the hall. And when the messengers of King Ella came before Ívar, they spoke to him respectfully. He received their greeting, and asked where they were from, and what tidings they bore. And the one, who was their leader, said that they were Englishmen, and that King Ella had sent them thither with tiding which spoke the fall of Ragnar, their father. Hvítserk and Sigurð quickly let the *tafl*-pieces fall from their hands, and they attended closely to the tiding-tale. Björn stood on the floor of the hall and leaned on his spear-shaft. But Ívar asked them exactly what the circumstances of Ragnar's lifeleaving had been.

(trans. Van Dyke 61) ”

The Vengeance of Ragnarr's Sons

“

And they told it all as it had happened, from the time he came to England until the time he gave up his life. And then when the tale came to when he had said ‘the young boars might grumble’, Björn squeezed the spear-shaft with his hand, and he squeezed so strongly that the print of his hand was seen on it afterwards. When the messengers ended the recounting, Björn shook the spear asunder, so that it broke into two pieces. And Hvítserk held a *tafl*-piece that he had been moving, and he crushed it so strongly that blood spurted out from under each fingernail. And Sigurð Ormr í Auga had been holding a knife and paring his nails when the tidings were being told, and he listened so closely to the tidings that he did not notice until the knife stood in the bone, and he did not flinch at that. But Ívar asked how it all had happened, and his color was now red, now livid, and he would suddenly become very pale, and he was so swollen that his flesh was all mortified from the anger that was in his breast.

(trans. Van Dyke 61–62) ”

Knútsdrápa

“

1 Ok Ellu bak,
at, lét, hinns sat,
Ívarr ara,
Jórvík, skorit.

And Ívarr, who resided at York, had Ælla's
back cut with an eagle.

2 Ok senn sonu
sló, hvern ok þó,
Aðalráðs eða
út flæmði Knútr.

And Knútr soon defeated or drove out the
sons of Æthelred, and indeed, each one.

”

(ed. and trans. Townend, “Knútsdrápa”)

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