

1898

Honour School of English Language and Literature.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

[O. E. = Old English (Anglo-Saxon). M. E. = Middle English. N. E. = New English.]

1. Point out briefly the chief points of difference between Chaucer's orthography and that (a) of O. E., (b) of N. E. Show how the differences may be explained.

2. Mention the most important characteristics of the Kentish dialect during the M. E. period, and the chief writings in it.

3. (a) Formulate briefly the most important rules for the accentuation of O. E. words, and mention any prefixes which have assumed different forms under different conditions of accent. (b) How did Chaucer accentuate words of Romance origin?

4. (a) Give the Gothic and O. E. representatives of Indogermanic *e*, *i*, *o*, *u*, both in accented and unaccented syllables.

(b) What are the chief laws regulating the loss of unaccented vowels in O. E.?

5. (a) What diphthongs are found in M. E. in native English words, and what are their sources?

(b) Give some account of the influence of *r* on preceding vowel sounds in the N. E. period.

(c) The N. E. words *meat*, *field* had in O. E. the same vowel, viz. *ǣ*. Account for the present difference in spelling.

Were the vowels in the two words pronounced alike in Shakspeare's time?

(d) What was the nature of the *au* in M. E. words like *dauncen*, *straunge*? Trace the later development.

6. (a) Of what Indogermanic sounds is Germanic *ȝ* the representative? Trace briefly its development through the O. E., M. E., and N. E. periods.

(b) Explain the italicized consonants in the following words, and add, where you can, further instances of a similar nature:—*dwarf*, *whole*, for the *nonce*, *limb*, *could*, *pilgrim*, *bound* (for a place), *thunder*, *fifth*, *throne*.