



# Cases of Academic Misconduct

May 2015  
Examination Session

## Subject Group 5

English B: Language SL  
Written Assignment  
Infringement: Plagiarism

# Original Script

English is a West Germanic language that was first spoken in early medieval England and is now a global lingua franca. It is an official language of almost 60 sovereign states and the most commonly spoken language in sovereign states including the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand and a number of Caribbean nations. It is the third-most-common native language in the world, after Mandarin and Spanish. It is widely learned as a second language and is an official language of the European Union and of the United Nations, as well as of many world organizations.\*1 Today, English is seen as the most popular language in the world. However, have any of us think about the origin of the language?

The history of the language can be traced back to the arrival of three Germanic tribes to the British Isles during the 5th Century AD. Angles, Saxons and Jutes crossed the North Sea from what is the present day Denmark and northern Germany. The inhabitants of Britain previously spoke a Celtic language. This was quickly displaced. Most of the Celtic speakers were pushed into Wales, Cornwall and Scotland. One group migrated to the Brittany Coast of France where their descendants still speak the Celtic Language of Breton today. The Angles were named from Engle, their land of origin. Their language was called English from which the word, English derives.\*2

Old English varied widely from modern Standard English, and most native English speakers today find Old English unintelligible. Nevertheless, English remains a Germanic language, and approximately half of the most commonly used words in Modern English have Old English roots. The words be, strong and water, for example, derive from Old English. Many non-standard dialects such as Scottish English (with its heavy Scots influence) and Northumbrian English have retained features of Old English in vocabulary and pronunciation.[7 Old English was spoken until sometime in the 12th or 13th century.

In the 10th and 11th centuries, Old English was strongly influenced by the North Germanic language Old Norse, spoken by the Norsemen who invaded and settled mainly in the North East of England (see Jórviík and Danelaw). The Anglo-Saxons and the Scandinavians spoke related languages from different branches of the Germanic family; many of their lexical roots were the same or similar, although their grammars were more divergent.

Increased literacy and travel have facilitated the adoption of many foreign words, especially borrowings from Latin and Greek since the Renaissance. (In the 17th century, Latin words were often used with the original inflections, but these

# Copied Source

## Comments

Although the candidate's sources have been cited in the bibliography, and some attempt has been made at in-text citation, it is not clear which words are the candidate's own, and which have been copied. Upon investigation, it transpires that the essay is almost entirely composed of the words of others. This is a clear example of plagiarism and poor referencing.

*The highlighted extracts continue on the following page.*

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_English\\_language?](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_English_language?)

The screenshot shows the Wikipedia article for 'English language'. The main text is highlighted in pink, matching the original script. The highlighted text reads: 'English is a West Germanic language that was first spoken in early medieval England and is now a global lingua franca. It is an official language of almost 60 sovereign states, the most commonly spoken language in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand, and a widely spoken language in countries in the Caribbean, Africa, and South Asia. It is the third most common native language in the world, after Mandarin and Spanish. It is widely learned as a second language and is an official language of the United Nations, of the European Union, and of many other world and regional international organisations.' The screenshot also shows the Wikipedia logo, navigation links, and a sidebar with 'Pronunciation' and 'Native speakers' sections.

<http://www.englishlanguageguide.com/facts/history/>

languages in the Scandinavian branch of the Germanic family, who colonised parts of Britain in the 8th and 9th centuries. The second wave was of the Normans in the 11th century, who spoke Norman (an Old English cognate related to French).

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It is convenient to divide English into periods: Old English (or Anglo-Saxon; to c.1150), Middle English (to c.1500), and Modern English.

# Original Script

eventually disappeared). As there are many words from different languages and English spelling is variable, the risk of mispronunciation is high, but remnants of the older forms remain in a few regional dialects, most notably in the West Country. During the period, loan words were borrowed from Italian, German, and Yiddish. British acceptance of and resistance to Americanisms began during this period.\*<sup>3</sup>

Reference:

1. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English\\_language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language)
2. <http://www.englishlanguageguide.com/facts/history/>
3. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_English\\_language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_English_language)

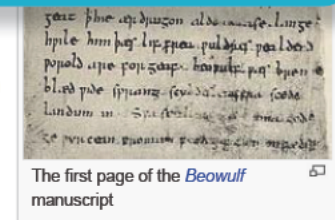
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## [http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/English\\_language?](http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language?)

dialects of Modern English <sup>[6]</sup> The most famous surviving work from the Old English period is the epic poem *Beowulf*, composed by an unknown poet

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The first page of the *Beowulf* manuscript

transformed by the spread of a standardised London-based dialect in government and administration and by the standardising effect of printing Consequent to the push toward standardization, the language acquired self-conscious terms such as "accent" and "dialect" <sup>[16]</sup> By the time of William Shakespeare (mid 16th - early 17th century), <sup>[17]</sup> the language had become clearly recognisable as Modern English In 1604, the first English dictionary was published, the *Table Alphabeticall*

Increased literacy and travel have facilitated the adoption of many foreign words, especially borrowings from Latin and Greek since the Renaissance (In the 17th century, Latin words were often used with the original inflections, but these eventually disappeared) As there are many words from different languages and English spelling is variable, the risk of mispronunciation is high, but remnants of the older forms remain in a few regional dialects, most notably in the West Country During the period, loan words were borrowed from Italian, German, and Yiddish British acceptance of and resistance to Americanisms began during this period <sup>[18]</sup>

## Modern English <sup>[edit]</sup>

*Main article: Modern English*

The *Dictionary of the English Language* was the first full featured English dictionary Samuel Johnson published the authoritative work in 1755 To a high degree, the dictionary standardized

