

A level ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Unit 3

Language over Time

Sample Question 1

Marking guidelines



1. (a) Identify the word class and archaic spelling patterns of the following words using appropriate terminology. [6]

Mark scheme: award **one** mark for each correct answer from the table below.

EXAMPLE	WORD CLASS	ARCHAIC SPELLING PATTERN
<i>wel</i> (Text A, line 7)	adverb	single consonant (after a short vowel)
<i>sayd</i> (Text A, line 9)	verb	<i>i/y</i> interchange
<i>farre</i> (Text A, line 12)	adverb	double consonant (after a long vowel) OR appended -e

- (b) What does the spelling of the examples below tell us about language change? Make two points and refer to the examples using appropriate terminology. [4]

Mark scheme: award **one** mark for the correct identification of the word class (up to a maximum of 2 marks) and **one** mark for a valid explanation about language change (up to a maximum of 2 marks).

EXAMPLE	WORD CLASS	DESCRIPTION OF VARIATION	LANGUAGE CHANGE CONCEPTS
<i>thee</i> (Text A, line 10)	(second person) pronoun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> increasingly restricted to 'affective' use suggests intimate tenor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> simplification of the pronoun system changes in the lexicon over time
<i>victuals</i> (Text A, line 18)	(plural/concrete) noun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French loan word archaic/dated 	

- (c) Describe the form and the archaic grammatical features of the following examples using appropriate terminology. [4]

Mark scheme: award **one** mark for the correct identification of each word class (up to a maximum of 2 marks) and award **one** mark for a valid description of archaic grammar (up to a maximum of 2 marks).

EXAMPLE	FORM	ARCHAIC GRAMMATICAL FEATURE
<i>loues not</i> (Text A, line 15)	3 rd person singular present tense negative verb (phrase)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> absence of dummy auxiliary 'do' for negative non-use of periphrastic 'do' negator (<i>not</i>) follows lexical verb high frequency verbs retained the EME form—idiomatic or idiosyncratic use ref. to PDE 'does not love'
<i>hath</i> (Text A, line 15)	3 rd person (singular) present tense verb (phrase)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd person verb inflection obsolete by the end of EME period 3rd person standard southern inflection replaced by northern dialect –s inflection

(d) Analyse features of the grammatical structure and punctuation that are typical of Early Modern English in the extract from Text A below. Make three points and select an appropriate example to support each point. [6]

Nay, quoth I, you shall pardon me, for I haue spoken too much alreadie, no definitiue sentence of death shall march out of my wel meaning lips, they haue but lately suckt milke, and shall they so sodainly change theyr food and seeke after bloud?

Oh but, quoth he, a mans friend is his friend, fill the other pint Tapster, what sayd the king, did hee beleeeue it when hee heard it, I pray thee say, I sweare to thee by my nobility, none in the worlde shall euer be made priuie, that I receiued anie light of this matter from thee.

That firme affiance, quoth I, had I in you before, or else I would neuer haue gone so farre ouer the shooes, to plucke you out of the mire.

Mark scheme: **three** points required—award **one** mark for each point (up to a maximum of 3 marks) and **one** mark for each appropriate example (up to a maximum of 3 marks).

EXAMPLE	ARCHAIC GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURE/ PUNCTUATION FEATURE	UNACCEPTABLE ANSWERS
<i>Nay, quoth I, ...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> absence of speech marks for direct speech 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> comments on archaic spelling and lexis
commas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequent use between clauses e.g. ‘... alreadie, no ...; lips, they ...’ use for parenthesis e.g. quoting clauses (<i>quoth I</i>) and interjections unexpected positions e.g. separating post-modifying noun clause from head adjective (<i>priuue, that I receiued ...</i>) 	
<i>a mans friend</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> absence of possessive apostrophe 	
<i>Tapster/king</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> inconsistent use of initial capitals 	
<i>what sayd the king, did hee beleeeue ...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> absence of question marks (inconsistent) 	
<i>but lately so sodainly</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> adverbials separating auxiliary and lexical verb (medial position) 	
<i>quoth I/he</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> inversion of subject and verb 	
<i>I pray thee ... I sweare to thee ...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> parenthetical (EME) interjections 	
ll.5-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> loosely structured sentences (comma splices) 	
<i>That firme affiance ... had I ...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fronted object followed by inverted subject/verb 	

Award other valid responses where they are accompanied by an appropriate example.