

The English language paper which was set as part of the London
Matriculation examination for senior pupils in June 1899.
(from *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*, p.192)

N.B. CANDIDATES MUST NOT BREAK UP THEIR ANSWERS INTO SCATTERED PIECES.
GREAT IMPORTANCE WILL BE ATTACHED TO CLEARNESS AND ACCURACY OF
EXPRESSION AND STYLE.

I. – LANGUAGE

(Not more than seven of these ten questions are to be attempted)

- 1 Explain carefully what is meant by the term “grammar.” Give the chief divisions of “grammar,” with definitions and examples.
 2. Comment on the following statements:
 - a) “To reform Modern English spelling would be to destroy the life-history of many of our words.”
 - b) “The spelling of Modern English is little better than a chaos.”
 3. At what periods, and under what conditions, have Latin words been introduced into English directly or indirectly? Give examples.
 4. Derive and explain: *matriculate, parliament, isle, mayor, cricket*; and mention some derivatives from and some cognates with these words.
 5. What is meant by “relative pronouns”? Differentiate the uses of the relative pronouns in Modern English, giving instances of each.
 6. Write notes on the following words:
worse, nearer, but, it, songstress, riches, alms, ye, first, Wednesday.
 7. Classify adverbs, according to their origin and formation, with examples.
 8. How are (i) infinitives, and (ii) participles distinguished from other parts of verbs? Write down and discuss six sentences illustrating the various uses of (i) the Infinitive and (ii) the Present Participle.
 9. What is meant by “defective verbs”? Discuss the conjugation of any three.
 10. “To make a revolution every day is the nature of the sun, because of that necessary course which God hath ordained it, from which it cannot swerve but by a faculty from that voice which first did give it motion.”
 - (i) analyse this sentence;
 - (ii) underline the words of Latin origin.
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