Maulana Azad National Urdu University

Programme: **MA (English)**

I Semester Examination, November-2025

Course Title: **History of the English Language and Literature** Course Code: **MAEN101CCT**

Time: **3 Hours** Total Marks: **70**

Note: This question paper consists of 3 parts: Part A, PartB and PartC. The number of words to answer each question is only indicative. Attempt all parts.

Part A contains 10 compulsory questions of multiple choice/fill-in-the-blank in the blank/very short answer type questions. Answer all questions. Each question carries 1mark. **(10x1=10-marks)**

Part B contains (8) questions, of which students are supposed to answer 5 questions. Answer each question in approximately 200 words. Each question carries 06 marks. **(5x6=30 marks)**

Part C contains (5) questions, of which students are supposed to answer 3 questions. Answer each question approximately 500 words. Each question carries 10 marks. **(3x10=30 marks)**

Part-A

1. ***Fill in the blanks with the correct answers.***

i. Ferdinand de Saussure defined _____ as a system of signs, where a sign is a combination of the signifier and the signified.

ii. The _____ Theory of the origin of human language is based on the concept of onomatopoeia.

iii. _____Law, formulated by the Danish linguist, complements Grimm's Law in the study of the historical phonological changes within the Germanic languages, affecting the pronunciation of certain consonants.

iv. The epic poem _____ is the longest and most famous surviving work of Old English literature.

v. The _____ English period, spanning roughly from 1066 to 1500 AD, represents a transitional phase for the English language heavily influenced by the Norman Conquest.

vi. Wordsworth's *Preface to Lyrical Ballads* is considered the manifesto of the _____ movement.

vii. The _____ (French "rebirth") was a period in European history marking the transition from the Middle Ages to modernity.

viii. The _____was a religious, political, intellectual, and cultural upheaval in 16th-century Europe that challenged the authority of the Catholic Church and founded Protestantism.

ix. *On the Origin of Species*and the theory of natural selection bythe biologist, _____, challenged the religious concept of life's origin, fuelling a conflict between science and religion during the Victorian Age.

x. John Dryden and Alexander Pope belonged to the Age of _____ (also called the "Age of Reason'), a European intellectual and cultural movement that flourished during the 18th century.

Part-B

2. Define the major theories of the origin of language.
3. Explain Grimm's Law with appropriate examples.
4. Summarize the chief features of the Old English language and literature.
5. Describe the Great Vowel Shift and comment on its influence on the English language.
6. Discuss the origin and early development of English drama.
7. Explore the distinctive qualities of the Neo-Classical literature.
8. Outline the rise and growth of the English novel.
9. Evaluate the significance and contribution of any female writer of your choice.

Part-C

10. Trace the origin of the English language from the Indo-European family of languages.
11. Analyze the Middle English period, highlighting its major linguistic and literary developments.
12. Assess the significance of the Renaissance in shaping the history of English literature.
13. Illustrate the greatness of William Shakespeare as a dramatist with suitable examples
14. Compare and contrast the characteristic features of the Romantic and Victorian literatures.

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