



2025 Scholarship Examination Paper

Language Aptitude Test

26–27 February 2025

Time allowed: 45 minutes

Do your work on this paper. There are two parts.
Leave at least five minutes at the end to check your work.

Dictionaries are not permitted.

Total marks: 30

If you have already learnt any modern or classical languages, please state which and the length of time (e.g. “Japanese, 1 year” or “Spanish, 1 term”):

.....
.....

Question 1 – Grammatical awareness

Underline **ten** errors involving spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG) in this extract from *Treasure Island*. There may be more than ten errors.

Correct each error in the table and explain the problem in each case.

How that personage haunt my dreams, I need scarcely tell you. On stormy nights, when the wind shook the four corners of the house, and the surf roared along the cove and up the cliffs, I would to see him in a thousand forms, and with a thousand diabolical expression. Now the leg would be cut off at the knee, now at the hip; now he was a monstrous kind of a creature who had never had but the one leg, and that in the middle of his body. To see him leep and run and pursue me over hedge and ditch was the worse of nightmares. And altogether I paid pretty dear for my monthly fourpenny piece, in the shape of this abominable fancies.

But though I was so terrified by the idea of the seafaring man with one leg, I was far less afraid of the captain himself than any body else who knew him there were nights when he took a deal more rum and water than his head would carry; and then he would sometimes seat and sing his wicked, old, wild sea-songs, minding nobody; but sometimes he would call for glasses round, and force all the trembling company to listen to his stories or bare a chorus to his singing. Often I have heard the house shaking with "Yo-ho-ho, and a bottle of rum."

e.g.	haunted	Present tense verb in a past tense narrative
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Total for Question 1: 15 marks

Question 2 – Old English and West Frisian

Study the text and the three translations. Write your answers on the next page.

Modern English is descended from a language that was brought to Britain in the 5th Century CE, by Germanic tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands. Old English is very different from modern English, but in the province of Fryslân in the Netherlands, Old English's closest relative survives as West Frisian or Frysk. West Frisian is spoken by about 400,000 speakers, and 75% of Fryslân's population. It is an official language in the Netherlands, alongside Dutch.



Anglo-Saxon was written with extra letters, of which **æ**, **þ** and **ð** feature here. The **æ** was pronounced as the *a* in *cat*, while **þ** and **ð** are the *th* sounds in *thin* and *this* respectively.

Below are three translations of the Lord's Prayer from the Bible with their year of publication. Bible translations are the only texts that we have in both Old English and West Frisian. Note that the passages are not exact translations of each other!

	Old English (West-Saxon dialect 990 CE)	Modern West Frisian (1978 CE)	Modern English (1982 CE)
1.	Fæder ure þu þe eart on heofonum,	Us Heit yn 'e himel,	<i>Our Father in heaven,</i>
2.	si þin nama gehalgod.	lit jo namme hillige wurde,	<i>hallowed be your name,</i>
3.	To becume þin rice,	lit jo keninkryk komme,	<i>your kingdom come,</i>
4.	gewurþe ðin willa,	lit jo wil dien wurde	<i>your will be done,</i>
5.	on eorðan swa swa on heofonum.	op ierde likegoed as yn 'e himel.	<i>on earth as it is in heaven.</i>
6.	Urne gedæghwamlican hlaf syle us todæg,	Jou ús hjoed ús deistich brea	<i>Give us today our daily bread.</i>
7.	and forgyf us ure gyltas,	en ferjou ús ús skulden	<i>And forgive us our debts,</i>
8.	swa swa we forgyfað urum gyltendum.	sa't wy ús skuldners ek ferjûn hawwe;	<i>as we have forgiven our debtors.</i>
9.	And ne gelæd þu us on costnunge,	en lit ús net yn fersiking komme,	<i>And do not lead us into temptation,</i>
10.	ac alys us of yfele.	mar ferlos ús fan 'e kweade;	<i>but deliver us from the evil one.</i>
11.	Soplice.	Amen.	<i>Amen.</i>

1. Translate the following words into both modern West Frisian and Old English:

Modern English	West Frisian	Old English
kingdom		
earth		
today		
temptation		

[8 marks]

2. What do the following Old English words and phrases mean in modern English?

swa swa
urne
nama

[3 marks]

3. Which modern English words are related to (and have the same meaning as) the following modern West Frisian words?

lit
hawwe

[2 marks]

4. Which Old English words are the source of the following modern English words?

loaf
guilts

[2 marks]