

4-HOUR WRITTEN EXAMINATION
NFI4120 - Old Norse Language and Text
Fall 2023

Time: December 11th, 3 pm (4 hours).

--- The exam consists of two main parts (translations and grammar questions), with several sub-questions in each part. All questions must be answered. ---

Recommendations:

1. Read through the whole exam before you start answering the questions, in order to be able to distribute the time appropriately. Give yourself time to answer all questions.
2. You will get points for all sub-questions, so make sure to answer all questions.
3. If you struggle to give a concrete answer to any of the grammar questions, you are welcome to explain your thinking and reflect on the grammatical difficulties you encounter.

The following dictionaries are allowed:

Zoëga, Geir T. *A Concise Dictionary of Old Icelandic*.

Heggstad, Leiv et al. *Norrøn Ordbok*.

You find the exam questions on the following pages.

Good luck!

Part I. Translations. Translate to ‘normal’ English, but if you choose to translate a bit freely, make sure to explain or show that you understand what the word actually means.

1. Translate this passage from *Ívens saga*: (3 p. per line; 30 p max; -1 for serious mistakes; -0,5 for minor mistakes)

- (1) Síðan reið ek þaðan í brott, sem hann vísaði mér ok at miðjum degi sá ek
- (2) vinviðinn yfir kapellunni. Var það sá fegrsti viðr er á jörðu má vaxa. Ek sá hvar
- (3) munnlauginn hekk. Hún var ger af brenda gulli ok svá hlekkirnir, en keldan vall
- (4) svá at alla vega kastaði um ok var hún þó sjálf ísköld. En stólpinn var af hinum
- (5) fegrsta smaragði. Ek tók munnlaugina ófyrirsynju ok fylða ek ofmjök ok sló ek
- (6) ofmiklu vatni á stólpann. Ok þegar sá ek himninn huldan með myrkum skýjum ok
- (7) jafnskjótt laust niðr meir en sex tígum eldinga á andlit mér. Ór myrkri skýjanna
- (8) kom snjór, regn ok hagl. Svá var storminn mikill og ógrligr, at hundruðum sinnum
- (9) kom mér í hug, at ek mundi eigi í brottu komaz af eldingum er á mik fellu ok
- (10) stórum viðum ok ofviðri.

2. Translate this passage from an unknown text: (3 p. per line; 21 points max)

- (1) Þat var einn dag at Freyr hafði gengit í Hliðskjálf ok sá
- (2) of heima alla; en er hann leit í norðrætt, þá sá hann á einum
- (3) bæ mikit hús ok fagrt, ok til þess húss gekk kona; ok er hon
- (4) tók upp hǫndunum ok lauk hurð fyrir sér, þá lýsti af hǫndum
- (5) hennar bæði í lopt ok á lög ok allir heimar birtusk af henni.
- (6) Ok svá hefndi honum þat mikillæti, er hann hafði sezkt í þat it
- (7) helga sæti, at hann gekk í braut fullr af harmi.

Part II. Grammar

3. Mutations (both texts):

- 3.1. Give the main characteristics of I- and U-mutations. (1 point for each = 2 TOTAL)
3.2. Give two examples of each from any of the two texts and explain where the mutation comes from. (1 point each = 4 TOTAL)

- I-mutations: *dagr* – *degi*; *vella* - *vall*
- U-mutations: *ískaldr* – *ísköld*;

4. Nouns (text 1):

- 4.1. List all the nouns in the first three lines, up to “...ok svá hlekkirnir”
- *degi* – dat m sg of *dagr*; *at* takes dat. + time (1 + 0,5 + 0,5; 0,5; 0,5 = 3 TOTAL)
 - *vinviðinn* – acc m sg of *vinviðr*; direct object
 - *kapellunni* – dat f sg of *kapella*; *yfir* + location
 - *viðr* – nom m sg of *viðr*; subject in the sentence
 - *jörðu* – dat f sg of *jörð*; *á* + location
 - *munnlauginn* – this is conjugated as nom m sg + def. article, but *mundlaug* is f., so it should have been *munnlaugin* – NB! shall I ‘correct it’ to make it easier for them?
 - *gulli* – dat n sg of *gull*; *af* takes dat.
 - *hlekkirnir* – nom m pl *hlekkir*; subject in the sentence.

4.2 What is the nominative form of the nouns? What is the case, gender and number that these nouns have in the text? Explain why these cases are used in these instances.

4.3 Which of these nouns have the definite article?

(*vinviðinn*; *kapellunni*; *munnlauginn*; *hlekkirnir* = 0,5 for each)

4.4 Which of these nouns are strong and which are weak?

(*kapella* is the only weak; the rest are strong = 0,5; 4 total)

5. Adjectives:

5.1 List all adjectives (incl. numerals) in text 2:

- *einn dag* – acc m sg numeral strong (0,5 points for each right answer = 2 per adjective)
- *heima alla* – gen m fl strong
- *einum bæ* – dat m sg strong
- *mikit hús* – acc n sg strong
- *fagrt* – acc n sg strong
- *allir heimar* – nom m pl strong
- *it helga sæti* – acc n sg weak
- *fullr* – nom m sg strong

5.2 Define their case, gender, number, and inflectional type (weak or strong).

5.3 Give an example of a comparative or superlative adjective from text 1, define its degree and its inflectional type.

- *af hinum fegrsta smaragði* – superlativ, conjugates as a weak adj. (1 point)

6. Pronouns:

6.1 What type, case, person, number (and gender if relevant) are the following pronouns?

What is the nominative form? (2 per pronoun)

Text 1:

L4: hún – personal, nom 3p sg f; hon

L7: á andlit mér – personal, dat 1p sg of ek

L9: á mik – personal, acc 1p sg of ek

Text 2:

L1: þat – demonstrative, nom n sg

L3: til þess – demonstrative, gen n sg of þat

L5: af henni – personal, dat 3p sg f of hon

7. Verbs:

7.1 Give examples of three weak and three strong verbs from **text 2**. Give their form, define whether they are strong or weak, and give the respective main forms.

(0,5 + 0,5; 0,5 x 4 or 5; 3 points for weak verbs; 3,5 for strong verbs)

- Hafði – hafa, weak

- gengit – ganga

- sá – from sjá

- Leit – from líta

- sá, from sjá

- gekk – from ganga

- tók upp – from taka

- lauk – from lúka

- lýsti – from lýsa, weak

- birtusk – from birtask

- henfndi – from hefna, weak

- sezk – setjask

7.2 Special verbs:

Text1, L2: má: which verb is this and what form? 1 point total

Text1, L9: mundi: which verb is this and what form? 1 point total

7.3. Reflexive:

Text2, L6: sezk – what is the infinitive form of this verb and what does the -zk ending refer to? 1 point

8. Adverbs: give one example of an adverb from text 1. 1 point

- fylða ek ofmjök

- jafnskjótt

9. Syntax:

9.1. Can you explain why *þat* is used in the following passage: “Var þat sá fegrsti viðr er á jörðu má vaxa”? (1 point)

140 points in total.

A: 90-100 %

B: 80-89%

C: 70-79 %

D: 60-69 %

E: 50-59 %

F: 49% or less