

Old Norse Language and Text
MAS 4120

12. December 2014, 09.00–13.00

The following dictionaries are allowed:

Cleasby, Richard & Gudbrand Vigfusson. *An Icelandic-English Dictionary*.

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

Heggstad, Leiv et al. *Norrøn Ordbok*.

Note that all questions are to be answered.

1. Translate the following text to English or Norwegian.

Þat er upphaf þessar sögu, at Baldr enn góða dreymði drauma stóra ok hættliga um líf sitt. En er hann sagði ásunum draumana, þá báru þeir saman ráð sín, ok var þat gert at beiða griða Baldri fyrir alls konar háska; ok Frigg tók swardaga til þess, at eira skyldu Baldri eldr ok vatn, járn ok alls konar málmr, steinar, jörðin, viðirnar, sóttirnar, dýrin, fuglarnir, eitr, ormar. En er þetta var gert og vitat, þá var þat skemtun Baldrs ok ásanna, at hann skyldi standa upp á þingum, en allir aðrir skyldu sumir skjóta á hann, sumir hoggva til, sumir berja grjóti. En hvat sem at var gert, sakaði hann ekki, ok þótti þetta öllum mikill frami.

2. The word form *ásunum* in “hann sagði **ásunum** draumana” needs some explanation.

- a. Find the **lexical form** of this noun.
- b. Describe the word form **ásunum** in gender, number and case.
- c. The case of word-forms is always related to the grammatical context. What is the syntactic relations of the word **ásunum** and the following word **draumana**?

3. In the phrase “at hann **skyldi** standa upp á þingum, en allir aðrir **skyldu** sumir skjóta á hann” we find two different forms of a verb which has an unusual inflection.

- a. Find the lexical form of the verb.
- b. Analyse the forms of the verb in *number, person, tense* and *mode* (Note that the mode is not necessarily straight-forward).
- c. The forms of the verb are related to the grammatical context. What are the syntactic relations of the two verb-forms in the sub-clause “at hann **skyldi** standa upp á þingum, en allir aðrir **skyldu** sumir skjóta á hann”.

4. Translate the following text to English or Norwegian.

Þá sat maðr fríðr ok hærðr vel; hann sveipði hárinu fram yfir hofuð sér ok rétti fram hálsinn ok mælti: 'gørið eigi hárit í blóði.' Einn maðr tók hárit í hōnd sér ok helt fast. Þorkell reiddi at øxina; víkingrinn kipði hofðinu fast, lét sá eptir, er hárinu helt, reið øxin ofan á báðar hendr honum ok tók af, svá at øxin nam í jorðu stað.

5. Pronouns can sometimes be important to understand the relations between agents of a text. The above text has some interesting examples.

- a. What is the reference in common for the pronouns **sá** and **honum**?
- b. The two forms **sá** and **honum** have the same reference but they do not have the same function in the phrase. What is the function of the two forms.
- c. What kind of pronoun is **sér** and what is the case in the two phrases *yfir hofuð sér* and *í hōnd sér*?
- d. What is the reference of the form **sér** in *yfir hofuð sér* and *í hōnd sér* respectively.

6. There are **fourteen finite verb forms** in the text.

- a. Give the lexical form of the verbs with the help of the lexicon.
- b. Divide your list of verbs into strong and weak verbs.
- c. Present the principal parts of one strong and one weak verb respectively.
- d. The strong verbs differ significantly from the weak verbs in their inflexion. Discuss the main difference in the inflexion paradigms between strong and weak verbs.