

School Certificate Examination.

6 ENGLISH BOOK.

CHAUCER: *Prologue*.

MONDAY, JULY 18TH, 1949. 1½ HOURS.

[Candidates must answer Question 1, and **three** of the Questions 2 to 6.]

1. Read the following passages and the questions beneath them. Write answers to the questions on **two** of the passages only. Confine your answers *strictly* to the questions.

A.

X
Than longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,
And palmers for to seken straunge strondes,
To ferne halwes, couthe in sondry londes.

- (a) What are palmers?
- (b) What strondes would they be likely to seek?
- (c) Explain "straunge," "halwes," "couthe."

B.

He was a Ianglere and a goliardeys,
And that was most of sinne and harlotryes.
Wel coude he stelen corn, and tollen thryes;
And yet he hadde a thoumbe of gold, pardee.

- (a) To whom does this passage refer?
- (b) Explain "Ianglere," "goliardeys."
- (c) Explain "tollen thryes."
- (d) Explain the reference in the last line.

[Turn over]

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

And which of you, that bereth him best of alle,
That is to seyn, that telleth in this cas
Tales of best sentence and most solas
Shal have a soper at our aller cost
Here in this place, sitting by this post.

- (a) Who is speaking, and to whom?
- (b) Explain "sentence," "solas," "our aller cost."
- (c) How many tales was each pilgrim to tell?
- (d) Where is "this place"?

2. "He was a verray parfit gentil knight." What evidence does Chaucer bring forward to support this description?

3. What do you learn of travel and travellers in the fourteenth century from reading the *Prologue*?

4. Select and describe **three** examples of the way in which Chaucer finds humour in the personal features of the pilgrims.

5. What do you think was Chaucer's opinion of the Church in his day?

6. Rewrite in clear MODERN ENGLISH:

Up roos our host, and was our aller cok,
And gadrede us togidre, alle in a flok,
And forth we riden, a litel more than pas
Un-to the watering of seinte Thomas.
And there our host bigan his hors areste,
And seyde; "Lordinges, herkneth, if yow leste.
Ye woot your forward, and I it yow recorde.
If even-song and morwe-song acorde,
Lat se now who shal telle the firste tale.
As evere mote I drinke wyn or ale,
Who-so be rebel to my Iugement
Shal paye for al that by the weye is spent."