

The *Germanic* group, which includes English, has been classified as follows :

Germanic	{	East Germanic	{	Gothic ¹	
				Old Norse	{ Norwegian. Icelandic. Swedish. Danish.
	{	West Germanic	{	Low German ²	{ English. Frisian. Platt-Deutsch. Dutch. Flemish.
				High German ²	—Modern German.

English, which has passed through three stages of growth—Old English, Middle English, and New or Modern English—is thus seen to belong to the Low German branch of the Germanic group or stock and the languages that resemble it most closely are Frisian (spoken in North Holland), Dutch, Platt-Deutsch (spoken on the West Baltic coast) and Flemish (spoken in Belgium).

SECTION B.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

The earliest inhabitants of Britain: Roman occupation.

The earliest inhabitants of whom we have any record were of Keltic race, like the people of the neighbouring country of Gaul, and spoke various dialects of the Keltic group of languages. Both countries—Britain and Gaul—were conquered by the Romans and became part of the Roman Empire. The conquered Gauls adopted the Roman or Latin language, and thus it has come about that French is for the most part a corrupted form of Latin and belongs to that group of languages which is

¹Part of a translation of the Bible into *Gothic* by Bishop Ulfilas (fourth century) has been preserved.

²The terms *Low* and *High* are geographical and refer to the Northern Lowlands and Southern Highlands of Germany respectively.