

EXAMINATION PAPER IN ENGLISH ANSWERED.

University of London—Matriculation Examination in English Language, July 3rd, 1880.
Morning, 10 to 1.

Examiners: Prof. Henry Morley,
Knight Watson, Esq., M. A.

(*Not more than ten Questions are to be attempted in addition to the Exercise in Dictation.*)

NOTE BY ED.—In order to economize space we have taken the liberty to refer the student to text books in the case of questions that present no special difficulty.

1. Write out and punctuate the passage read by the Examiner. [*Candidates will bear in mind that it is not allowable to make a fair copy of this Exercise in Dictation.*]

2. To what family of languages does English belong? Give any facts shewing its relation to some other language in Europe.

For answer see Mason's Grammar, preliminary notice, or Earle's Philology, section 2.

3. English "*three*" is Latin "*tres*," in German "*drei*." State and explain by examples the law to which a change of this kind is attributed.

For answer refer to Earle's Philology sections 4 and 5, for fuller details than can be given here.

4. How many sounds might possibly be represented by the English alphabet? Classify the actual letters of the alphabet according to their sounds.

The English alphabet, if judged according to the essentials of an alphabet, can properly represent only 21 sounds. Each sign should represent but one sound, and each sound be represented but by one sign. The letters *c, j, x*, are therefore redundant. *C* has the sound either of *k* or of *s*; *j* is equivalent to *dg*; *x* is sounded like *gs* or *gz* or *ks*. The letters *w* and *y* represent vowel sounds already represented, and are

only regarded as consonants from their being more rapidly pronounced at the beginning of words. For the last part of the question refer to Angus's Handbook, section 103.

5. Name and define each of the parts of speech.

This is mere book work, refer to any authorized Grammar.

6. Show how we came by the possessive case in '*s*, and by the plural in *s*. Tell what you know about nouns forming their plurals in *en*.

From the Anglo Saxon genitive case in *ys* or *es* we have the possessive case in '*s*—the apostrophe being used to denote the elision of the vowel. The affix for the genitive case employed in Anglo-Saxon is one which it has in common with nearly all the Aryan languages.

The termination *en* comes from the Anglo-Saxon *an*. The only plurals of this form in regular use are oxen, brethren. Shoon and hosen are no longer used. Children is a double plural in form, and so is kine. Swine is singular and collective. As regards the origin of the plural in *s*, we may notice that in Anglo-Saxon all nouns of the simplest class formed their plural in *an*, later, *en*. In southern English the forms in *es* began to supersede those in *en*, and later they were used indiscriminately. This is accounted for by the fact that when the Normans began to speak English they made use of the plural affix *s* used in Norman French in pluralizing English nouns. The use of the plural in *s* is then due to the influence of the Norman French. It has been pointed