LNG 202 March 3, 2017 Quiz: Old English: Largely Phonology

1) Consider the following set of Old English words containing the voiceless alveolar fricative phoneme /s/. Sort them into two subsets, one where the voiceless fricative phoneme /s/would be pronounced with its voiceless allophone [s], one where the phoneme would be voiced [z]: *sæt, wīse,cēosan, hūs.*

2) Consider the following set of Old English words containing the voiceless velar stop /k/ (which is spelled with a ‘c’ in Old English). Sort them into one subset where the /k/ would be palatalized as the voiceless alveopalatal affricate /č/ and one where it would remain a velar stop [k]: *ceorfseax, cnēo*, *cielle, clacu.*

3) Consider the following set of Old English words containing the voiceless velar fricative phoneme /x/, which is spelled with an ‘h’ in Old English. Sort them into two subsets, one where the voiceless phoneme would remain velar as [x] and one where it would be palatalized as a voiceless palatal fricative [ç]: *naht, sihð, tēah, miht.*

4) Consider the three borrowings into Old English from Latin. Determine (from their semantic content) which period they are most likely a borrowing from: the continental (pre 449) or the Christian (post 600) period.\* Explain your reasoning:

*camp* “camp” (> Lat. *campus) nonne*  “monk” (> Lat. *nonnus) cuppe* “cup” (> Lat. cuppa)

5) Which of these compounds is a “kenning”? (circle the italicized Old English words)

*swan-rād* “swan-road” = “the sea” *heofon-candel* “sky-candle” = “the sun” *ealdormann* “older-man” = leader

\*I’ve left out the Celtic period because it is the most difficult to assess and the most controversial.

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