

Study guide: First test, up to Germanic

The TEST will involve three kinds of tasks:

- I. changing **IE forms into Germanic**: Grimm, Verner, vowel changes, etc. for roots, ablaut for verbs. (We'll do more with noun inflection later, so pay attention to those paradigms even if they won't be directly tested right now.)
- II. doing some brief **definitions/IDs**, where you'll need a couple of sentences plus a couple of examples.
- III. answering some longer **questions**, where you should give a solid paragraph or so plus examples.

My expectations:

- I've given an answer or two for each type to give an idea of roughly the level of detail I hope to see. These don't contain all the info you could give, but are guides to the general type of answer I expect to see.
- You'll have **OPTIONS** on the test in each section, e.g. 6 of 8 questions. You may even see one or two of the questions below on the test and maybe examples we've covered in class or in worksheets and homework. After each section, I've given my best guess at how many items will be on the real test, and the point count — but that may change as I finalize the test.
- Write in English or German, as you prefer. Feel free to use *Telegrammstil*, abbreviations, tables of data rather than prose, etc. It's about getting information across, not about fancy style. **GIVE GOOD, CLEAR EXAMPLES AT EVERY TURN.**
- The test will be built around what we've talked about in class and what you've read in the book with ample reference to handouts, worksheets and other material on the website.

PREVIEW: Realistic sample material

I. Proto-forms

A. General sound changes: Give Gmc forms. You can also indicate briefly what rules account for the changes for clarity. **8 of 10, 3 pts per item.** Note: if I don't gloss forms, don't worry about the meanings – in many cases, it will be obvious, but not always. Just make the changes.

IE	Gmc	
*dōnt-	<u>*tanþ</u>	1. Lautverschiebung: d > t, t > þ; short o merges with a.
*bhronk-	_____	
*Hster-	_____ -n	
*perd-	_____	(The vowel becomes <i>a</i> in Eng, <i>u</i> in Gm.)
*smerd -	_____	
*sāg-	_____	

B. What Ablaut series do these verbs belong to? Give principal parts indicated. 5 of 7, 3 pts per item. Note: (1) These will be (very early) Germanic forms. (2) The only consonantal change you'll need is Verner – when you have a voiceless fricative in the base form. (For IE *s, you can use either *z or *r for the Verner output.) (3) These will only cover classes I-VI.

Class	Sg. Pret.	Pl. Pret.	Past Part.
_____	*bend-	_____	_____
<u>I</u>	*greip- <u>graip</u>	<u>gripum</u>	<u>gripan</u>
_____	*beud-	_____	_____
_____	*far-	_____	_____
_____	*stel-	_____	_____
_____	*k ^w ep-	_____	_____

II. Definitions/IDs: define, indicate the importance of briefly, give examples. 6 of 8, 5 pts per item. Note: Think especially about (1) how to state clearly the importance of these things for the history of German and (2) being sure to give good examples.

1. Anaptyxis:

In IE, liquids (l, r) and nasals (n, m) could be syllabic – they could function like vowels, forming the heart of a syllable. For ex. *t̥r̥b- ‘village’ or *w̥l̥k^w- ‘wolf’. In Germanic, these syllabics get systematically changed into sequences of -u- plus consonant, so ur, un, etc., as in *p̥urp- and *w̥ulf-. We still see variability between vowel+liquid or nasal today – see forms like *habm̩* in colloquial German or *bottle* (with ɫ) in English.

2. Substrate:

3. Stative verbs:

4. Early Runic:

5. Laryngeal:

III: Questions: Write a solid paragraph, with examples. 3 of 5, 10 pts. per item. Note: These will often be open-ended to an extent, so that you have some choice about what direction to take the question in.

1. Describe how IE accent worked, its phonetics and placement and the traces we find in Germanic. How did accent shift from IE into Germanic?

2. How do you build an IE noun? What key Germanic developments emerge from this system?

The starting point is a 'root', which typically consists of CVC, sometimes with an 'extension', i.e. another consonant, added on. So, *wer can take an -m extension. Most nouns end in a theme vowel, for ex. *-o, which assigns the noun to a particular inflectional class. With such suffixes, we have a 'stem', to which inflection can be added – to mark case, number, gender, like. Those suffixes indicate noun classes that survive clearly in Gmc (such as the -a stems like the words for 'day', from IE *-o.) In Germanic, the system becomes less transparent due to sound changes (beginning with o > a vs. a: > o: in the above example). And the number of inflectional categories starts to decline – for instance, some cases are lost (ablative and locative).

3. Describe Verner's Law, and include a comment on its importance for historical linguistics.

4. How does the *Stammbaum* approach fall short in characterizing the breakup of the Germanic languages from Proto-Germanic? How can we address that problem?

5. What is the value of finding systematic sound correspondences between languages?