**Essay Titles**

Write an essay on ONE of the following topics:

1. *Are there general principles of analogical change?*
2. To what extent is analogical change attributable to child language acquisition?
3. Assess the relative importance of reanalysis and morphologisation (grammaticalisation) in creating new morphological material.
4. *How do morphological irregularity and suppletion arise?*
5. Is exaptation a useful concept in historical linguistics?
6. 'The only reliable morphological reconstructions are those derived from phonology.’ Discuss.

If you are unsure which essay to choose, it is recommended that you do one of the starred titles, as these cover a broad range of core material.

**Reading**

**General morphological change**


Fisiak, Jacek (ed.) 1980. *Historical morphology*. The Hague: Mouton. [UL 779.c.190.16; or online via UL.]

**Analogy**


**Morphologisation and the creation of new morphological material**


**Other processes of morphological change**

Harris, Alice C. & Jan Terje Faarlund. 2006. Trapped morphology. *Journal of Linguistics* 42, 289–315. [Argues for a distinct historical process that eliminates inflections trapped inside a word by grammaticalisation e.g. when Old Norse grammaticalises a postposed definite article as in *hest-s=in-s* ‘the horse’, the first -s- was trapped and subsequently lost, hence later *hest-en-s*. Closely related to Haspelmath’s article on externalisation of inflection below.]


Joseph, Brian D. 1992. Diachronic explanation: Putting speakers back into the picture. In Garry W. Davis & Gregory K. Iverson (eds.), *Explanation in historical linguistics*, 123–44. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. [Argues that speakers often reanalyse the morphology of their language despite fairly obvious synchronic evidence that their reanalysis is wrong. Examples include English *let’s*, and the Sanskrit reduplicative perfect.]


**Exaptation**


**Suppletion**


**Morphological reconstruction**

Comrie, Bernard. 1980. Morphology and word order reconstruction: Problems and prospects. In Jacek Fisiak (ed.), *Historical morphology*, 83–96. The Hague: Mouton. [Questions the reliability of the assumption that the order of morphemes reflects earlier syntax, on the grounds that the order of morphemes can change.]


Fox, Anthony. 1995. *Linguistic reconstruction: An introduction to theory and method*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Use the sections on Comparative (pp. 92-103) and Internal (pp. 185-189) reconstruction of morphology.]