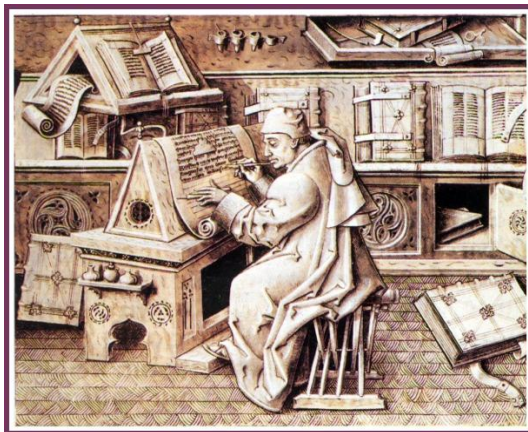


# English Through Time

Q32206

- Where does the English language come from?
- Why is the way English words are spelled so different from the way they are pronounced?
- What is “standard” English, and how did it become “standard”?
- How representative are historical texts of the language spoken by ordinary people in the past?



This module focuses on the development of the English language from before the arrival of Anglo-Saxon settlers in the 5<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. It offers students a thorough grounding in the changes that the language has undergone over this time. We will look at topics such as the development of writing, language contact and standardisation. An important theme running through the module is the relationship between the historical record and the political power of those who produced and preserved that record.

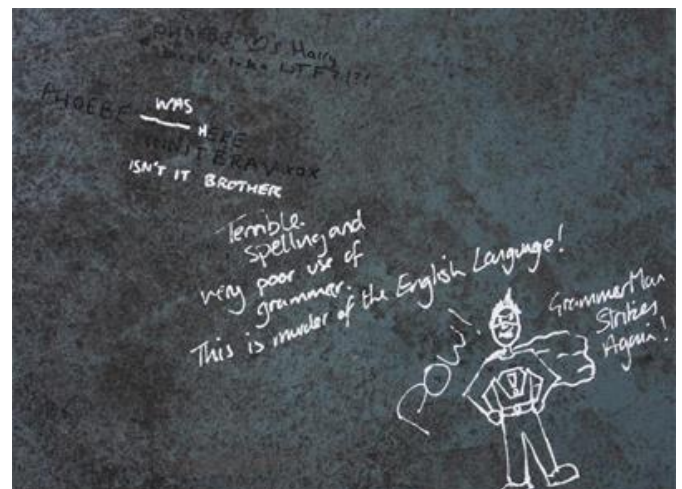
The module is useful not only for studying history, but for helping you to understand the structure of present-day English and the relationship between language, language variation and ideology.

## Teaching format

One 3-hour workshop with individual and group exercises working with language data from different periods.

## Assessment

2500-word timed essay (commentary on texts from different periods) – 50%  
2500-word essay – 50%



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