History of the Language

Final Essay Question

Write an essay that presents an integrated overview of the history and development of the English language. As much as possible, discuss changes in phonology (the sound system), morphology (the inflection and formation of nouns, adjectives, verbs and pronouns), syntax, orthography and the lexicon (vocabulary), and include any changes from IE to Germanic that had an impact on the shape and development of English. Be sure to focus on the ways in which changes in one of the areas listed above (e.g. morphology) affected other area(s) (e.g. syntax). Try to present as holistic an overview as possible, focusing on the most important changes in the language, those with the greatest influence on the development of English. Begin by presenting a thesis that identifies the most consequential changes or the most important directions of change, and then follow up this thesis with a supporting argument.