

Notes on Part D

Exercise 5: Examination of the sample sentence at the end of paragraph 3 will show that a present-day long *e* word (*we*) and long *o* word (*stone*) were both said with /ā/ in Middle English. By comparing the words in the sample sentence, you can conclude the pronunciation for answers *a* and *b*. Items *c* and *d* will be guesswork, easily done if you choose a pronunciation different from Modern English.

Below are some other examples of pronunciation changes through the Great Vowel Shift.

<i>Our word</i>	<i>Old pronunciation</i>
bite	/bēt/
fly	/flē/
blood	/blōd/
love	/lūv/
meat	/māt/
wait	/wīt/
blow	/blū/

Answer Key—Part D (8 points)

(Italics represent the core of the answer.)

1. Different dialects develop when people who speak the same language are *separated long enough*.
2. When the differences are great enough that the two groups can *no longer understand each other at all*, the dialects are considered two different languages.
3. Increased communication by the *printing press* helped to unify the dialects of Middle English.
4. There was a gradual *change in the pronunciation of long vowels* after spelling was stabilized.
5. a. (2)
 b. (1)
 c. (1)
 d. (2)