

IV. APPLICATION. Explain briefly the following sub-topics . 5 points each.

1. Archaic Features in American English

answer: American pronunciation as compared with that of London is somewhat old-fashioned. Most Americans pronounce either and neither with the vowel of teeth or beneath, while in Britain an alternate pronunciation has developed since the American colonies were established and the more usual pronunciation is now with an initial diphthong. American English has kept a number of old words or old uses of words no longer used in Britain. Americans still use mad in the sense of anger, the general significance of sick without restricting it to nausea and they still speak of rare meat, whereas the British now say underdone. Platter is a common word in the United States but is seldom used anymore in Britain except in poetry.

2. Early Changes in the Vocabulary

answer: Accordingly in colonial language changes of vocabulary take place almost from the moment the first settlers arrive.

England—larger and more impressive mountains and forests, and the result was a whole series of new words like bluff, foothill, notch, gap, divide, watershed, clearing, and underbrush.

Native Americans - wigwam, tomahawk, canoe, toboggan, mackinaw, moccasins, wampum, squaw, papoose.

Foods: hominy, tapioca, succotash, and pone. Animals: moose, raccoon, skunk, opossum, chipmunk, porgy, terrapin, mud hen, garter snake, bullfrog, potato bug, groundhog, reed bird.

English words formed at the same time and out of the same experience: war path, paleface, medicine man, pipe of peace, big chief, war paint, and the verb to scalp. Trees: hickory, live oak, locust, sweet potato, eggplant, squash, persimmon, pecan political: congressional, presidential, gubernatorial, congressman, caucus, mass meeting, selectman, statehouse, land office. New mode of life—back country, backwoodsman, squatter, prairie, log cabin, clapboard, corncrib, popcorn, hoe cake, cold snap, snow plow, bobsled, sleigh.

French—portage, chowder, cache, caribou, bureau, bayou, levee, and others; from the Dutch cruller, coleslaw, cookie, stoop, boss, scow; from German noodle, pretzel, smearcase, sauerkraut.

3. Webster's Influence on American Spelling

answer: American spelling often differs in small ways from that customary in England. We write honor, color, and a score of words without the u of English honour, colour, etc. We sometimes employ one consonant where the English write two: traveler—traveller, wagon—waggon, etc. We write er instead of re in a number of words like fiber, center, theater. We prefer an s in words like defense, offense, and write ax, plow, tire, story, and czar, for axe, plough, tyre, storey, and tsar.

4. The English Dialects in America