Part One Reading: History of the English Language

I. Primary Texts
(The Middle English texts are included as representative of specific metrical innovations.)

Beowulf
The Rhyming Poem
Judith
The Battle of Maldon
Death of Edward
Durham
Ælfric’s rhythmical prose:
   Life of Cuthbert
   Life of Edmund
   Life of St. Oswald
The Proverbs of Alfred
Poema Morale
The Owl and the Nightingale
Winner and Waster

II. Overview material
(This section focuses on language contact as a factor in phonological, prosodic, metrical and lexical change. The primary texts included in the Medieval and Renaissance Reading Lists will also be referenced in the questions on these aspects of the language history.)

   (Earlier editions OK)
Hogg, Richard and David Denison eds. (2008.) A History of the English Language. CUP.
Minkova, Donka (2014) A Historical Phonology of English. EUP and OUP.
Schreier, Daniel and Marianne Hundt eds. 2013. English as a Contact Language. CUP. (Chapters 3, 4, 5).