

YOUR NAME:

REGISTRATION

(A) Intuitive Inuit (1/3) [10 points]

The **Inuit** live in the Arctic regions of Canada and Greenland, and speak a language called **Inuktitut**. The Inuit used to be known as Eskimos, but this term is now considered insulting. The writing system used for the Inuktitut language is based on the one devised for writing Cree, a Native American language not related to Inuktitut. The writing system is highly regular and systematic, which should make your task all the easier.

One area of Canada where Inuit is spoken is called Nunavut and its capital is Iqaluit. Here is how these two words are written:

Nunavut ᓄᓇᕗᑦ
Iqaluit ᐃᖅᓗᐃᑦ

English has borrowed some words from the Inuit, such as ‘igloo’ which in Inuktitut is written as  and is pronounced ‘ihlu’: the ‘hl’ is a lateral fricative, like the LL sound in Welsh, a bit like an ‘s’ combined with an ‘l’! The ‘hl’ is treated as a single sound.

Your task is to look at the text below – it's the first part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – and to transcribe the underlined words into Roman letters on the basis of the first four words which have been done for you.

¹This sound is also found in Zulu and the Mexican language Nahuatl, among others.



(A) Intuitive Inuit (2/3)

Note that Inuktitut uses the same numerals as English, and has the same punctuation marks (only commas and fullstops in this text) as in English. There is no distinction between upper case (capitals) and lower case letters. A dot above a symbol indicates that the vowel is long, which can be represented in transcription by doubling the vowel letter. The sequence 'rk' is used for the [q] sound, a uvular plosive (like a 'k', but further back in the throat) and should be transcribed as a 'q'. The sequence 'ng' should be thought of as a single sound (a velar nasal, as in the English word "sing"). The letter 'j' represents a 'y' sound. (as in "yank").

A1. Write your answers here:



(A) Intuitive Inuit (3/3)

A2. Using the information you have extracted from the text, how would you write the following words in the Inuktitut writing system? Let's start with two words for snow.² Enter one character in each cell.

A.	qanniq	'snow as it is falling'										
B.	aput	'snow on the ground'										
C.	mukluk	'sealskin boot'										
D.	umiaq	'canoe'										

A3. Finally, can you identify the English word borrowed from Inuktitut in A, and identify the place names in B and C? Enter the English word, one letter in each cell.

A.	q b ɬ q b	(a form of transport)										
B.	b <u>o</u> C											
C.	q <u>c</u> ɬ b											

²You may have heard that the Inuit (or Eskimos) have lots of different words for 'snow'. In fact this is a kind of urban legend. Inuktitut has two main words for 'snow' although lots of shades of meaning can be expressed by adding endings – you will have noticed that Inuktitut words are very long.

