

UK LINGUISTICS OLYMPIAD

ROUND ONE, ADVANCED LEVEL, February 2011

[Questions 1 and 2 are not used at Advanced level.]

Question 3 Doubling in Caterpillar Country (11 marks)

Arrernte is an Australian Aboriginal language, spoken mainly in the centre of the country, in and around Alice Springs. It is one of the largest Aboriginal languages, spoken by both adults and children and taught in schools such as the Yipirinya¹ School in Alice Springs. When written, Arrernte uses the same alphabet we use for English. Some combinations of letters signal special sounds, in the same way that English 'th' represents a sound that is not a combination of the 't' and 'h' sounds. For example, 'rr' represents the single sound of a rolled r and 'th' indicates a t-like sound with the tongue further forward, touching the back of the upper teeth.

Use the (slightly simplified) examples of Arrernte verbs in the following table to answer the questions below, **writing your answers in the answer sheet**.

Arrernte	English gloss	Arrernte	English gloss
<i>atherreme</i>	'is laughing'	<i>areme</i>	'is looking'
<i>atherreke</i>	'was laughing'	<i>areke</i>	'was looking'
<i>atherperreme</i>	'keeps laughing'	<i>arepareme</i>	'starts to look'
<i>atheme</i>	'is grinding'	<i>atakeme</i>	'demolish'
<i>atheke</i>	'was grinding'	<i>atakepakeme</i>	'keeps demolishing'
<i>athelpatheme</i>	'starts to grind'	<i>atelpatakeme</i>	'starts to demolish'
<i>mpwareme</i>	'is making'	<i>untheme</i>	'is going along'
<i>mpwareke</i>	'was making'	<i>unthepuntheme</i>	'keeps going along'
<i>mpwarepareme</i>	'keeps making'	<i>unthepuntheke</i>	'kept going along'
<i>mpwelpempwareme</i>	'starts to make'		

3.1 (1 mark) What meaning is expressed by the ending *-eme* or *-eke*?

3.2 (3 marks) Arrernte speakers show that an action is frequent ('keeps on doing X') by adding extra elements ('affixes') to the verb and by doubling selected vowels and consonants in the word's basic form (its 'stem'). State the rule as clearly as you can; make sure you specify how the affix and the stem's parts are arranged within a word.

3.3 (3 marks) Speakers also show that an action is commencing ('starts to do X') by adding an affix and repeating selected vowels and consonants of the stem. State the rule as clearly as you can.

¹ Yipirinya is the Arrernte word for 'caterpillar', the symbol of the Arrernte people of Alice Springs.

3.4 (1 mark) Which 'commencing' verb in the above list needs a slight addition to the rule?

3.5 (3 marks) Here are three new words in Arrernte: *arlkweme* 'is eating', *kwerpeme* 'is swallowing', *itirreme* 'is thinking'. How would you say the following?

- (a) was eating
- (ii) kept swallowing
- (iii) starts to think

Question 4 Ulwa Possessives (9 marks)

Ulwa is a language spoken in Nicaragua. It contains quite a few loanwords from English, which is spoken in the Bluefields area of the country.

The following table contains some nouns and the possessive forms ("my X", "your X", etc.) for those nouns. Note that Ulwa distinguishes between singular and plural "you", and also distinguishes between inclusive "we" (we including you) and exclusive "we" (we not including you).

arakbus	"gun"	kululuk	"woodpecker"
askana	"his/her clothes"	liima	"lemon"
bilamkana	"their fish"	mistu	"cat"
bilammana	"your (plural) fish"	sapaaka	"his/her forehead"
diimuih	"snake"	sikbilh	"horsefly"
diikanamuih	"their snake"	siknibilh	"our (inclusive) horsefly"
diimamuuh	"your (singular) snake"	suumanalu	"your (plural) dog"
gaadni	"our (inclusive) god"	paunimak	"our (inclusive) tomato"
iibin	"heaven"	taikinatai	"our (exclusive) grey squirrel"
kahma	"iguana"	taim	"time"
kapak	"manner"	uumamak	"your (singular) window"
kapakka	"his/her manner"	waikinaku	"our (exclusive) moon"
karaskanamak	"their knee"	wasakanala	"their possum"
kiika	"his/her stone"		

4.1 (8 marks) The Ulwa words for meanings (1-8) below can be made from the pieces listed (in alphabetical order) in the next table. You may not use a piece more than once, but some pieces will be left over. Write your answers in the answer sheet.

a	bin	bus	ii	ka	ka	ka	ka	kah	ki	ki
ki	ku	lii	lu	luk	ma	ma	ma	ma	mis	na
na	na	na	ni	pak	rak	tai	tai	taim	tu	

- (1) “his/her grey squirrel”
- (2) “our (inclusive) heaven”
- (3) “your (plural) iguana”
- (4) “his/her gun”
- (5) “your (singular) lemon”
- (6) “their woodpecker”
- (7) “our (exclusive) time”
- (8) “my cat”

4.2 (1 mark) The remaining pieces (those that you did not use in 4.1) can be rearranged into an Ulwa word. What is the word, and what does it mean?

Question 5 Mix Up on the Farm (11 marks)

Tohono O’odham, also known as Papago, is spoken in south central Arizona in the U.S. and in northern Sonora in Mexico.

The following are eight Papago sentences and their English translations in random order. Match each Papago sentence with its English translation. Notes on the spelling: A colon (:) after a vowel means that the vowel is long. The apostrophe (') denotes a glottal stop. The letter ‘c’ is pronounced like ‘ch’ in English ‘chair’. The letter ñ is pronounced as it is in Spanish, corresponding to the ‘ny’ sound in English ‘onion’. A hyphen is used to connect a prefix to a word.

1. Ha-cecposid ’o g wakial g wipsilo.	A. I am speaking
2. Pi ’ac ñeñok ’a:cim.	B. The man is speaking.
3. Ceposid ’o g wakial g wisilo.	C. I am working.
4. Pi ’o cickpan g cecoj.	D. The cowboys aren’t branding the calf.
5. Pi ’o ceposid g wapkial g wisilo.	E. We are not speaking.
6. Cikpan ’añ ’a:ñi.	F. The men are not working.
7. Ñeok ’o g ceoj.	G. The cowboy is branding the calf.
8. Ñeok ’añ ’a:ñi.	H. The cowboy is branding the calves.

5.1 (8 marks) Use the table in the answer sheet to show which English sentence translates each Papago sentence.

5.2 (3 marks) An English speaker trying to learn Papago might make mistakes. For each sentence below, place a tick or a cross in the answer-sheet table to show whether the sentence is correct or whether it is a mistake.

- 1. Ha-cecposid ’o g wakial g wisilo.
- 2. Cickpan ’añ ’a:ñi.
- 3. Cickpan ’ac ’a:cim.

Question 6 Tiger Tale (16 marks)

You will see at the end of this problem a pair of news articles, one in Indonesian and one in English. They are not translations of one another, but they cover roughly the same events: the killing of a tiger by poachers in a zoo in Indonesia and the subsequent investigation. Both articles have been slightly abridged from their original format. Read the articles as best you can and answer the following questions on the answer sheet:

6.1. (1 mark) What word should replace the **** in the English text?

6.2. (4 marks) Give the most likely translations of the following Indonesian words into English:

- a. polisi b. harimau c. bernama d. Jumat

6.3. (4 marks) Give the most likely Indonesian translations of the following words:

- a. south b. said c. Wednesday d. million

6.4. (7 marks) Do the following capitalized words and phrases refer to persons (P), locations (L), or times or dates (T)? Put P, L or T for each word or phrase indicating what category it most likely falls into.

- a. Palembang
- b. Sabtu
- c. Kapoltabes Jambi
- d. Minggu dinihari
- e. Sungai Maram
- f. Syamsuddin
- g. Kebun Binatang

Tersangka Pencurian Harimau Dibayar Rp18 Juta

Rabu, 2 September 2009 00:52 WIB | Peristiwa Hukum/Kriminal | Dibaca 683 kali

Jambi (ANTARA News) - Syamsuddin alias Udin Bolu (27), salah satu tersangka pelaku pencurian harimau Sumatera (*panthera tigris Sumatrae*) mengaku menerima bayaran Rp18 juta untuk melakukan aksinya.

"Untuk melakukan aksi itu saya dijanjikan mendapat bayaran Rp18 juta namun baru dibayar Rp8 juta," kata Udin Bolu saat ditanya Kapolubes Jambi, Kombes Bobyanto R Addoe, di Jambi Selasa.

Dalam melakukan aksi nekad tersebut, Udin hanya sebagai eksekutor membunuh dan mencuri harimau yang ada di kandang dalam Kebun Binatang (KB) Taman Rimba Kota Jambi.

Hal itu terungkap setelah Udin ditanyai Kapolubes Jambi saat ekspos kasus pelaku pencurian harimau. Pembunuhan dan pencurian harimau itu terjadi pada Sabtu (22/8).

Kedua tersangka yang menjadi buronan polisi dalam kasus pelanggaran hukum perdagangan satwa dilindungi tersebut berinisial I yang merupakan kakak tersangka Udin dan tersangka lainnya M, semuanya warga Palembang, Sumatra Selatan.

Terungkapnya kasus ini dimulai dari adanya pembelian ayam potong dan racun di salah satu toko di pasar Jambi, kemudian ditangkap tersangka Syamsuddin alias Udin pada Jumat 28 Agustus 2009 di kediamannya di kawasan Sungai Maram, Kota Jambi.

Setelah memberikan makan harimau tersangka Udin kembali datang ke kebun binatang tersebut pada pukul Minggu dinihari pukul 02:00 WIB dan langsung membunuh harimau bernama Shela dengan senjata tajam.

Kemudian barang bukti berupa kulit, daging dan tulang harimau tersebut dibawa ke Palembang untuk dijual ke pemesan yang kini sedang diungkap kasusnya.

Polisi berjanji akan segera mengungkap kasus pencurian dengan cara membunuh harimau di KB Taman Rimba Kota Jambi tersebut, kata Kapolubes Jambi.

Police arrest poacher for brutally killing tiger

Jon Afrizal, THE JAKARTA POST, Jambi Thu, 09/03/2009 11:28 AM | The Archipelago

Police have arrested a man suspected of brutally killing a Sumatran tiger in its zoo enclosure in Jambi last month.

Senior police officer Adj, Comr. Aswini Nawawi said Wednesday that the suspect had been identified as [****], known better as Udin Bolu.

Aswini said the man was among poachers who broke into the enclosure last month, killing and skinning the tiger, known as Sheila.

They used drugged meat to sedate the tiger, then killed her, officials at the zoo claimed.

Udin was captured last Thursday evening at his house in the Muarojambi regency, Palembang, South Sumatra. He was a known thug and had been in jail several times before for various crimes.

Aswini said preliminary investigations suggested that the attack was bankrolled by a businessman from Palembang.

During police questioning, Udin said he had received an order from an unidentified buyer in Palembang for the rare tiger skin, and soon hatched a plan to break into the zoo and kill the animal for its hide.

After collecting the skin and valuable organs and bones, Udin left for Palembang by bus, where he sold it to a broker for Rp 1 million.

Detectives investigating the case suspected the thieves poisoned the female tiger and slaughtered her in the early hours when the zoo is virtually unguarded and poorly lit.

The police found remnants of meat laced with anaesthetics and intestinal parts of the protected animal littered around the cage.

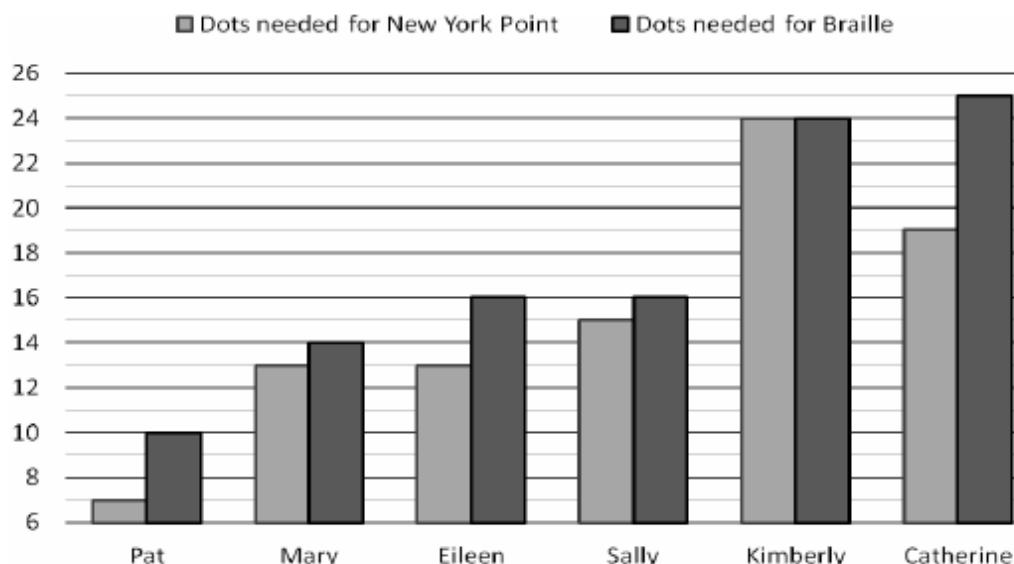
Authorities believe the tiger's valuable organs will be sold on the black market, which thrives for rare animal parts.

Question 7 The War of the Dots (15 marks)

Before the Braille tactile writing system was well-established throughout the English-speaking world, the New York Point system was widely used in American blind education. New York Point was developed in the 1860s by William Bell Walt for the New York Institute for the Blind, and was intended to fix the shortcomings he perceived in the French and English Braille standards.

The next six decades in blind education became known as the War of the Dots, as bitter feuds developed between proponents of this homegrown system and more international Braille-based systems. New York Point finally met its end after a series of public hearings convinced educational authorities that there should be a single standard for the entire English-speaking world.

Experts from both sides weighed in on the systems' merits. The proponents of New York Point argued that allowing letters to vary in size (from a 2x1 grid to a 2x4 grid, rather than a fixed 3x2 grid) allowed the most frequent letters to use fewer columns, resulting in space (and cost!) savings when publishing texts for the blind. For example, consider the number of dots needed to write the following names in each system:



They also pointed out that New York Point had a distinct series of capital letters, whereas Braille only had a “capital” punctuation mark.

On the Braille side, experts such as Helen Keller wrote that the New York Point capitalization system was unintuitive and confusing (“I have often mistaken D for j, I for b and Y for double o in signatures, and I waste time looking at initial letters over and over again”), and that using Braille allowed her to correspond with blind people from all over the world.

7.1. (6 marks) The following words in New York Point represent (in no particular order) the names Ashley, Barb, Carl, Dave, Elena, Fred, Gerald, Heather, Ivan, Jack, Kathy, and Lisa. Which is which? Use the table in the answer sheet to show the answer.

a.	••••• •••
b.	••••• •••
c.	••••• •••
d.	••••• •••
e.	••••• •••
f.	••••• •••
g.	••••• •••
h.	••••• •••
i.	••••• •••
j.	••••• •••
k.	••••• •••
l.	••••• •••

7.2. (9 marks) How would you write the following names in New York Point? Use the dot-grids in the answer sheet.

- a. Billy
- b. Ethan
- c. Iggye
- d. Orson
- e. Sasha
- f. Tim