



Be Cree-ative (10 marks)

Cree is the most widely spoken of the Canadian aboriginal languages, with about 117,000 people speaking one of its many varieties. Here are six words in Plains Cree (Nehiyawewin), a dialect spoken across much of the Western Canadian prairie and in parts of Minnesota, written using the Roman alphabet:

<i>tehtapiwin</i>	'chair'	<i>mistikwan</i>	'head'
<i>iskwahtem</i>	'door'	<i>tipahikan</i>	'hour'
<i>sakahikan</i>	'nail'	<i>astotin</i>	'hat'

- 2.1. (1 point)** Below are six words, meaning 'little hat', 'little nail', 'little door', 'little head', 'minute', and 'little chair'. Which means which? (Use the answer sheet.)

1. cipahikanis	2. miscikwanis	3. cehcapiwinis
4. sakahikanis	5. ascocinis	6. iskwahcemis

Pronunciation note: When writing Cree in the Roman alphabet, the letter <c> represents the [ts] sound.

Although Cree can be written in the Roman alphabet, it is more frequently written in a writing system known as "**Syllabics**". This writing system has been adopted by speakers of other Canadian aboriginal languages as well; Inuktitut Syllabics are in wide use, and speakers of Ojibwe (Anishinaabemowin), Blackfoot, and Carrier (Dakelh) have also written their languages in Syllabics.

- 2.2. (5 points)** The twelve words provided above in the Roman alphabet are given below (in random order) in Syllabics. Write their Roman alphabet equivalents in the answer sheet.

a. ᐃ<॥Δb> b. ᐄ^nJŋσ^n c. ንb॥Δb>

d. Γ^nΓb·> e. ፈ<॥Δbσ^n f. Δ^nб·॥ŋΓ^n

g. ንb॥Δbσ^n h. U॥CʌΔ·> i. Γ^nΓb·σ^n

j. Δ^nб·॥Uc k. ፈ^nCŋ> l. ፈ॥LʌΔ·σ^n

- 2.3. (4 points)** Explain your answer (on the answer sheet).



Answer sheet

2.1. 1	2	1
3	4	
5	6	



2.2 a	b	5
c	d	
e	f	
g	h	
i	j	
k	l	

2.3	4
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Answers

2.1. 1 minute	2 little head	1
3 little chair	4 little nail	
5 little hat	6 little door	



2.2 a tipahikan	b ascocinis	5
c sakahikan	d mistikwan	
e cipahikanis	f iskwahcemis	
g sakahikanis	h tehtapiwin	
i miscikwanis	j iskwahtem	
k astotin	l cehcapiwinis	

2.3 Mention mismatch between syllables and morphological structure.	4
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