UKLO Round 2 March 2014

Data and questions

Vulgar Latin and the Romance languages

From 100-300 CE the Roman Empire included much of
Europe, and the use of Latin spread through this empire, mainly in a spoken version
called "Vulgar [= colloquial] Latin". Later, as the empire declined, different dialects
of Vulgar Latin changed and diverged so much that they became different languages:
the "Romance" languages of today's Europe, including Italian, Spanish, Catalan
(spoken in the north-east of Spain), French and Romanian. English is distantly related
to Latin, so there are many basic words in the two languages that have a vague
resemblance; and later (in the Middle Ages) English borrowed many more words
directly from Latin and from the Romance languages.

The following tables show pronunciations rather than spellings, so each letter
indicates one sound only (e.g. g is always pronounced as in 'get', and never as in
'gem'); some special symbols are used to show particular sounds:

- u = the sound of "oo" in "boot".
- ə = the sound of the "a" in "about".
- ɨ = a sound between ə and i.
- j = the sound of "y" in "yes".
- ʎ = like the "lli" sound in "million".
- ʃ = the sound of "sh" in "ship".
- dʒ = the first sound of "jump".
- œ = similar to ə but with the lips rounded like an "o".
- ŋ = the sound of "ng" in "bang" (where some speakers of English also
  pronounce a distinct g).
- tʃ = the sound of "ch" in "chip".
- y = like the sound of "ee" in "bee", but with the lips rounded .
- ɥ = a quick version of y.
- ð = the sound of "th" in "other".
- The symbol ~ above a vowel means that the vowel is nasalized (sounds
  through the nose).
- For words of more than one syllable, the symbol ' means that the stress is on
  the following syllable.

Note that changes in the Romance pronunciations are not always predictable; and also
that occasionally a Romance language has used a different Latin word, or even one
from another language clearly <u>not</u> related to Latin.

Table 1 shows the pronunciation of some corresponding words in Vulgar Latin and in
three modern Romance languages.

Table 1

Table 1 Vulgar Latin	A	B	C	English translation
'matrem	mer	'marə	'mamə	mother
'patrem	per	'parə	'tatə	father
'filium	fis	fiʎ	'fiul	son
'filiam	fij	'fiʎə	'fiika	daughter
so'rorem (or ger'manam)	sœr	dʒər'manə	'sora	sister
'fratrem (or ger'manum)	frer	dʒər'ma	'frate	brother
'katum	ʃa	gat	pi'sika	cat
'kanem	ʃjẽ	ka	'kɨjne	dog

Q.5.1. Put the words listed below into their correct places in table 2.

bin, 'dekem, dew, dœ, dos, 'dowə, katr, 'kentum, 'kwatrə, 'kwatuor, nœf, 'novem, 'nowə, 'okto, opt, sã, sẽk, seks, sen, 'septem, set, siŋ, sis, sis, 'ʃapte, tres, tres, 'tʃintʃi, u, 'unum, ɥit, vẽ, 'zetʃe

Table 2

Vulgar Latin	A	B	C
	œ̃		'unul
'dues			
	trwa		trej
			'patru
'kwinkwe			
			'ʃase
		set	
		bwit	
		now	
	dis		
'viginti			dowə'zetʃi
			'sutə

Q.5.2. Put the words below into their correct places in table 3:

Romance words
'apə, beʎ, ə'skriwrə, flœr, 'floare, 'hominem, kənt'a, 'luna, 'ʎunə, o, om, 'skribere, ʃã'te, 'veki, vi, 'viatsə

English words
flower, life, man, moon, sing, water, write

Table 3

Vulgar Latin	A	B	C	English translation
'akwa		'ajgwə		
kan'tare			kɨn'ta	
'florem		flo		
	e'krir		'skrie	
		'omə	om	
'vita		'biðə		
	lyn		'lunə	
'veklus	vjœ			old (masculine)

Q.5.3. Write the missing pronunciations or meanings in table 4:

Table 4

Vulgar Latin	A	B	C	English translation
'panem	pẽ			bread
	e'twal	ə'streʎə	'stele	star
'vekla	vjej		'veke	
	œj	uʎ	'oki	eye
'videt	vwa	bew		sees
'videre	vwar		ve'dea	
	kɑ̃	kwan	kɨnd	when?

Q.5.4. Explain as clearly and concisely as you can how pronunciations changed between Vulgar Latin and the three languages.

Vulgar Latin and the Romance languages

Q.5.1.

Vulgar Latin	A	B	C
'unum	œ̃	u	'unul
'dues	dœ	dos	'dowə
tres	trwa	tres	trej
'kwatuor	katr	kwatrə	'patru
kwinkwe	sɛ̃k	siŋ	tʃintʃi
seks	sis	sis	ʃase
'septem	set	set	'ʃapte
'okto	ɥit	bwit	opt
'novem	nœf	now	'nowə
'dekem	dis	dew	'zetʃe
'viginti	vɛ̃	bin	dowə'zetʃi
'kentum	sɑ̃	sen	'sutə

Q.5.2.

Vulgar Latin	A	B	C	English translation
'akwa	o	'ajgwə	'apə	water
kan'tare	ʃɑ̃'te	kənt'a	kɨn'ta	sing
'florem	flœr	flo	'floare	flower
'skribere	e'krir	ə'skriwrə	'skrie	write
'hominem	om	'omə	om	man
'vita	vi	'biðə	'viatsə	life
'luna	'lyn	'ʎunə	'lunə	moon
'veklus	vjœ	beʎ	'veki	old (masculine)

Q.5.3.

Vulgar Latin	A	B	C	English translation
'panem	pɛ̃	pa	pɨjne	bread
stella(m)	e'twal	əs'treʎə	'stele	star
'vekla	vjej	'beʎə	'veke	old (feminine)
'ok(u)lum	œj	uʎ	'oki	eye
'videt	vwa	bew	'vede	sees
'videre	vwar	'bewrə	ve'dea	see
'kwando	kɑ̃	kwan	kɨnd	when?