

Your name:

# The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2020

## Round 1



### 1 Problem 7. A cat in a hat (20 marks)

Chintang is spoken by about 5,000 people in Nepal. It is a Sino-Tibetan language, so it is related to Chinese and Tibetan. In Devanagari script, the script usually used

for writing Chintang, its name is **छिन्ताङ्ग**. Here are 16 Chintang sentences (in semi-IPA transcription), and 16 English sentences which translate them, but which are given in a different order.



1	cuwa uthurumbe? yuŋno	a	There is a hole in the towel.
2	appa chintanbe? yuŋno	b	The woman has gone away.
3	sencak sie	c	The rice has been cooked.
4	wapaŋa topi wadaŋse	d	There is a hat on the head.
5	kok thuktanbe?	e	My mother-in-law slept.
6	ram hariniŋ khonŋo	f	You go to the market.
7	kʌp kedaŋse	g	The water is in his mouth.
8	tanbe? topi yuŋno	h	Joge sent a letter.
9	menwaŋa sencak sede	i	The mouse died.
10	tawelbe? uhon yuŋno	j	The woman has bought a chicken.
11	anambaŋa cuwa thuŋno	k	The cup has been broken.
12	mechacha khadaŋse	l	My father is in Chintang.
13	jogeŋa ciŋthi hakte	m	The rooster has put on a hat.
14	anamma imse	n	A cat killed a mouse.
15	hana bajar akha?no	o	Ram plays with Hari.
16	mechachaŋa wa khedaŋse	p	My father-in-law drinks water.

**Q7.1.** On your answer sheet, **match** the Chintang sentences (1-16) with their corresponding English translation (a-p).

**Q7.2.** On your answer sheet, supply the translations for the following:

- athurumbe? kok yuŋno
- appa khade
- anamma ammanini yuŋno
- There is a cat in a hat.
- Joge plays with a chicken.
- My hen is at the market.
- parent-in-law

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### Solution and marking.

Scoring: (max 32)

- 7.1: 1 point for each correct letter. (max 16)
- 7.2a-c: 2 points for each correct sentence, 1 with one wrong word. (max 6)
  - Treat *went away* as one word.
  - Accept synonyms, e.g. *dad* for *father*.
- 7.2d-g: 1 point for each correct word. (max 10)
  - Insist on *yunno* and *khonno* being sentence-final, but allow any other order.
  - Ignore minor copying errors (e.g. *be* for *be?*)

7.1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	g	l	i	m	c	o	k	d	n	a	p	b	h	e	f	j
7.2a	There is rice in my mouth.						d	topibe? menwa yunno								
b	My father went away.						e	joge wani? khonno								
c	My mother-in-law is with my mother.						f	awama bajarbe? yunno								
							g	nam								

### Commentary

There are many different ways into this problem, but here's one:

- 4 English sentences contain *is*, and 4 Chintang sentences contain *yunno*, so *yunno* = *is*.
  - *yunno* is at the end of the sentence, so maybe the last word is always the verb?
- (l) contains Chintang and (2) *chintanbe?*, so (l) = (2), and
  - *be?* = 'in'
  - *appa* = (my) father.
- 2 English sentences contain *woman* as the subject and 2 Chintang sentences contain *mechacha(ηa)*, so *mechacha* = *woman*.
  - (j) = (16) (two non-verbs in each)
  - (b) = (12)
  - *-ηa* is added to a noun when it's a transitive subject? (Also found in 4, 9, 11, 13.)
- And so on.