

Your name:



The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2022 - Round 1

Problem 6. Back And Forth In Bislama (15 marks)

The Avoiuli writing system is used on Pentecost Island in Vanuatu, a Pacific island country in the Pacific region of Melanesia. With a design inspired by traditional sand drawings, Avoiuli was developed over fourteen years by Chief Viraleo Boborenvanua, as part of a movement he leads to revitalize Melanesian culture and language.

One of the languages that Avoiuli is used to write is Bislama, one of the official languages of Vanuatu. As you will see, Bislama is a creole language – many of its words come from English, some come from French, and others from the indigenous languages of Vanuatu.

Below is a sign written in Bislama, using the Avoiuli script, on the front of a college on Pentecost Island. For the purposes of this problem, each of the words in the script below has been allotted a number:

1 2 3
4 5
6 7 8 9
10 11 12
13 14 15



Q 6.1 Give the number of a word (any one, if there are multiple) which corresponds to these Bislama words:

(a) filosofi		(c) blong	
(b) institut			

Q 6.2 Give the number of a word (any one, if there are multiple) which means:

(a) village		(d) technology	
(b) centre		(e) humanity	
(c) teach			

Q 6.3 Which geographical area of the Pacific is mentioned in the text?

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Solution and marking.

Scoring: (max 9)

- Q6.1-3: 1 point per word or number (max $3 + 5 + 1 = 9$)

Q6.1

(a) filosofi	9	(c) blong	3 or 6
(b) institiut	4		

Q6.2

(a) village	14 (vilij)	(d) technology	10 (teknoloji)
(b) centre	2 (senta)	(e) humanity	12 (hiumaniti)
(c) teach	7 (tijim)		

Q6.3

Melanesia (word number 5)

Accept alternative spellings and forms, e.g. Melenesia, Melenesian, Melanesian, Melenisian, Melenisia

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Commentary

The full inscription reads: sab senta blong melenisian institiut blong tijim saen filosofi hiumaniti mo teknoloji lisa vilij lolovini

Sap Centre of the Melanesian Institute for teaching science, philosophy, humanity and technology, Lisaa village, Central Pentecost

A	G	K	NG	T
B	GG	L	O	U
D	H	M	R	V
E	I	N	S	W

Source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avoiuli>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avoiuli#/media/File:Notice_in_Avoiuli_script_at_a_custom_school,_Pentcost_Island,_2014.jpg



Chief Viraleo Boborenvanua, Founder
of the Avoiuli writing system