AILO 2022 National Final Answer Book

Question A: Counting the words for 'snow'?

A1.(a) W   (b) ≲   (c) ⌐

A2.(a) piŋasut...

(b) qulit atausiq ....

(c) iñuiññaq malġuk...

A3.(a) 1 .... (b) 5 .... (c) 19 ....

A4. Today's date (2020-3-9) in numbers and words.
Notice how the intro to the question said "If you walked into a maths classroom in northern Alaska **today** [emphasis added], you might well see a blackboard (or maybe a whiteboard) that looks like the one below..." ☺

Question B: The spirit is willing but the flesh is Wik

B1. Fill in the correspondences A-W

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
H	T	K	V	G	B	U	J	W	R	I	A

13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
M	P	L	C	O	D	E	S	Q	F	N

B2.(a) ma'................................. (b) waɣ ....

Question C: Scott's Mewwy Gikhmakh

C1. (a) wiʔu.................. (b) benɣ .... (c) giːniŋg ....

(d) dipdop............... (e) biːɣ.................... (f) hmax................

(g) giɣ .... (h) diŋg................. (i) dunʔi.................

(j) dix.................... (k) dewibiɣən .... (l) dinx...................

C2.(a) thank you very much ....

(b) wash your hands and clean your teeth ....

(c) stay with me...

Question D: Don't bite the hand…

D1. (a) jeʁexə .... (b) jewəʔʷəš't * .... (c) ətxəš't ....
(d) jewəbate .... (e) jeʔəš't .... (f) əwəč'əš't ....
(g) jepŝedeʔeš't .... (h) jeṭeχʷš't .... (i) əbzeš't ....

* or əwəʔʷəš't depending on explanation

D2. Explanation (Continue on the back page if necessary)

- Add **s't** to form future. There was an unfortunate typo in the data, as the final item was missing this ending. Anyone noticing this and offering a plausible explanation (eg it's the only stem ending in **ʁ**) got a bonus mark. But many answers omitted this simple obvious rule!
- Change prefix from **je** to **ə** if object undergoes change of state (or "if the action is harmful" which was a common suggestion)
- -**a**- in present changes to –**e**-. Actually, the real rule is that this change only occurs if in the penultimate syllable and if the stem ends in –**e**, but in all the given data there was no counter-example (ie of an –**a**- elsewhere in the stem), so the rule looks simpler, ie -**a**- always changes to –**e**-. If this *was* the rule, that would make the answers to (a) and (d) unsure, so we allowed this, and also **jeʁaxə** for (a) and **jewəbete** for (d).

Apart from the glitches, the question was relatively easy, despite appearances due to the many unfamiliar symbols. For this reason we were quite strict about correctly copying the symbols and diacritics.

Question E: What's new in Niuean?

E1.(a) There are only birds ....

(b) The teacher that I caught has also washed him

(c) The child that the bird saw will have plenty of canoes that Sione will wash ....

E2.(a) To totou foci a ia ....

(b) Kua fai ika noa a Sione ka kai he faiaoga..

(c) Ne tā he faiaoga ne kitia e Mele e vaka ....

(d) Kua muhu kāmuta tūmau ....

E3. Explanation (Continue on the back page if necessary)

- The default word order is *Tense + Verb + (Adverb) + Subject + Object*
- Tense markers are as follows:

Past	**ne**	Perfect	**kua**	Present	**Ø**	Future	**to**

- Nouns must be preceded by a case marker:

	Ergative	Absolutive
Name / Pronoun	**e**	**a**
Else	**he**	**e**

  - The ergative is used for the subject of a relative clause, or a subject if it is followed by an object; the absolutive is used elsewhere.
- They can be followed by a relative clause.
  - Relative clauses are introduced by **ne** if the clause is in the past tense, and **ka** in the future, then follow typical syntax.
- Verbs come in two types: existential verbs, **fai** *be/have* and **muhu** *be/have plenty*; and general verbs.
  - Existential verbs are translated as *there + be* without a subject, and as *have* with a subject.
  - The object is compulsory. The head noun is moved to come directly after the verb, and does not appear with case markers. Relative clauses stay in the object position.
  - Note that existential verbs are always treated as intransitive, i.e., subjects of existential verbs are absolutive.