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# AILO

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad  
*The Problem Solvers' Challenge*

## Preliminary Round

January 2024

2 Hours

Plus ½ hour for data entry into online submission form

# QUESTION BOOK

*Answer as many of the questions as you can.*

*Please note that questions are of varying value: suggested time for each question is as shown*

*Please write your answers in the answer books provided and then submit a copy of your answers into the online submission link*

### Questions and credits

A. Eating out in Kampuchea	Babette Newsome	15 points	18 mins
B. Happy birthday to Ewe	Michael Salter	15 points	18 mins
C. Progressive Paiwan	Ethan Chi	20 points	24 mins
D. Wash them for me	Michael Salter	25 points	30 mins
E. Zou time	Brendan Bethlehem	25 points	30 mins

## Question A: Eating out in Kampuchea (15 points)

Kampuchea, also known as Cambodia, is a country in South-East Asia, bordered by Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. The vast majority of the population are Khmer which is also the name of the official language, spoken by about 16 million people. The Khmer script is the oldest in South-East Asia and is based on an ancient script from Southern India. Khmer is written without any spaces between words. In this problem, you do not need to know how it is pronounced.



Below is an extract from the menu of a Cambodian restaurant, with English translations of each dish. English words in brackets are added for clarity, but do not correspond to any Khmer word.

បាយឆាសាច់ក្របី	fried rice (with) buffalo
បាយឆាសាច់ជ្រូក	fried rice (with) pork
បាយឆាហាតៅហ្នឹ	fried rice (with) tofu
បាយដំណើបខ្លឹះដូង	sticky rice (with) coconut milk
បាយដំណើបស្វាយ	sticky rice (with) mango
សាឡាត់សាច់គោ	beef salad
សាឡាត់ត្រី	fish salad
ស៊ុបត្រី	fish soup
គុយទាវស៊ុតសាច់គោ	egg noodles (with) beef
គុយទាវស៊ុតសាច់ជ្រូក	egg noodles (with) pork
គុយទាវទឹកសាច់បង្កា	noodles (in) liquid (with) shrimp
គុយទាវទឹក	noodles (in) liquid

Note, a buffalo is a cow-like animal, kept for its meat and milk in Asia. Tofu is a vegetarian food made from soya beans.

1. A vegetarian friend, who does not eat meat, fish, or seafood, is planning a trip to Cambodia. Which of the following dishes are suitable for them? Just indicate 'yes' or 'no' next to each.

- (a) ក្នុងសាច់បង្កា
- (b) គុយទារទឹកត្រី
- (c) បាយនា
- (d) សាឡាត់ហតៅហ្វី
- (e) គុយទារស៊ីតសាច់មាន់

2. If you know that គោ means 'cow' and ជ្រូក means 'pig', what does the word សាច់ mean?

3. Here are five more dishes from the restaurant menu. Translate them (or say what they contain).

- (a) ស៊ីបបង្កាដូង
- (b) គុយទារនា
- (c) សាឡាត់ស៊ីត
- (d) បាយនាសាច់បង្កា
- (e) បាយដំណើបហតៅហ្វី

**Question B: Happy birthday to Ewe** (15 points)

In the Ewe language, spoken principally in Ghana, your name is connected to the day on which you were born. Below are some 2024 dates and *possible* names for children born on these days: Note: ɔ is a vowel sound a little like the 'aw' in 'paw'.

- February 4 Kɔsi Lamptey (male child)
- February 6 Kɔbla Mensah (male child)
- February 9 Afi Addo (female child)
- February 11 Kwasi Boateng (male child)
- February 12 Kɔdzo Owusu (male child)
- February 17 Ami Adu (female child)
- February 21 Aku Nkrumah (female child)
- February 24 Kwami Ofori (male child)
- March 5 Abla Obeng (female child)
- March 10 Esi Sarpong (female child)
- March 12 Kwabla Agyemang (male child)
- March 20 Kwaku Acheampong (male child)
- March 25 Adzo Amoah (female child)



1. Match the dates below to the children born on that day, and indicate whether they are male (M) or female (F):

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| (a) February 7  | (1) Awu Yakubu   |
| (b) February 10 | (2) Kɔku Musah   |
| (c) February 13 | (3) Kofi Okyere  |
| (d) February 22 | (4) Adzo Aseidu  |
| (e) February 26 | (5) Kɔmi Quansah |
| (f) March 1     | (6) Abla Nyarko  |

2. On what day would Kwawu Danso have been born?

- (a) February 9      (b) February 15      (c) February 20

3. Which of these people was born on February 5?

- (a) Kwadzo Appiah      (b) Afi Nkonnor      (c) Kwami Ansah

4. Mrs Agbe has a baby girl on March 24. What might the baby be called?

## Question C: Progressive Paiwan

(20 points)

Paiwan is the language spoken by the Paiwan people, one of the indigenous peoples of Taiwan. Despite numbering nearly 100,000, only around 15,000 Paiwan are native speakers of the language. Below are some Paiwan verbs given in both their root form and progressive form. The English translations are given for interest, but are not relevant to solving the problem. Letter sequences *tj*, *dj*, and *lj* represent single consonant sounds, and *y* is also a consonant.

<i>keman</i>	to eat	<i>kemakan</i>	eating
<i>ivu</i>	to talk	<i>ivuivu</i>	talking
<i>kivata</i>	to ask	<i>kivatavata</i>	asking
<i>lemumay</i>	to hit	<i>lemumalumay</i>	hitting
<i>temekel</i>	to drink	<i>temeketekel</i>	drinking
<i>penatjez</i>	to chisel	<i>penatjenatjez</i>	chiselling
<i>kalidjigidj</i>	to flash	<i>kalidjigidjigidj</i>	flashing
<i>paderua</i>	to hiccup	<i>paderuarua</i>	hiccupping
<i>semutjiray</i>	to spit	<i>semutjiratjiray</i>	spitting
<i>kemesa</i>	to cook	<i>kemesakesa</i>	cooking
<i>qudjaj</i>	to rain	(a)	raining
<i>demavatj</i>	to walk	(b)	walking
<i>semiup</i>	to suck	(c)	sucking
<i>mikerekel</i>	to shake	(d)	shaking
<i>ljaqeljaq</i>	to tickle	(e)	tickling
<i>masasevalit</i>	to take turns	(f)	taking turns

1. Fill in the gaps (a)-(f)

## Question D: Wash them for me

(25 points)

Yuracaré is an endangered language isolate (i.e. there are no known related languages) spoken by 2,000 to 3,000 people in central Bolivia.

1. Here are some Yuracaré phrases with their English translations given *in random order*. Determine the correct correspondences.

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <i>matëptë</i>  | (a) I pierce it.        |
| 2. <i>worowoy</i>  | (b) I throw them away.  |
| 3. <i>tibobop</i>  | (c) She throws it away. |
| 4. <i>majokkoy</i> | (d) She takes us.       |
| 5. <i>tamala</i>   | (e) She washes them.    |
| 6. <i>timalap</i>  | (f) You hit me.         |
| 7. <i>bobop</i>    | (g) You hit it.         |
| 8. <i>jokko</i>    | (h) You take me.        |

2. Here are another eight phrases from the language, featuring some new elements. Again, the translations are in random order, and you must determine the correct correspondences. Watch out: one of the verbs behaves in a different way from its English equivalent (more like other European languages).

- |                       |                               |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 9. <i>putëptë</i>     | (i) I dance with them.        |
| 10. <i>mubaylay</i>   | (j) You like me               |
| 11. <i>kudu</i>       | (k) She builds it for me.     |
| 12. <i>tindula</i>    | (l) You pierce it for him.    |
| 13. <i>tindup</i>     | (m) She washes (it) with you. |
| 14. <i>pankukkuy</i>  | (n) She likes you.            |
| 15. <i>kankukkup</i>  | (o) You fry it for me.        |
| 16. <i>kanworowop</i> | (p) She ascends with him.     |

3. Translate into Yuracaré:

- (a) I take it for us.
- (b) She washes you.
- (c) You pierce it for them.
- (d) We like it.

## Question E: Zou time

(25 points)

Zou is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken by about 88,000 people in Myanmar, India and Bangladesh. It is normally written in Latin script, as here, though in the 1970s an alternative script, Zoulai, was developed and is gaining popularity.

Below are some sentences in Zou, with their corresponding English translations. Note that  $k^h$  and  $\eta$  are consonants and  $\text{ə}$  is a vowel.

<i>əmah tuy nuamtəhin ədon</i>	He drinks water happily.
<i>ken siŋpi kədəymoŋsih</i>	I don't like tea at all.
<i>vok golte əhuŋsihdiŋ uh</i>	The big pigs will not come.
<i>ken kədamsih</i>	I am not well.
<i>nəŋ sah nəne</i>	You eat meat.
<i>bawŋte əhuŋleh uh ken skulah kəciahdiŋ</i>	If the cows come, I will go to school.
<i>nəŋ siŋpi nədonleh kəhuŋsihdiŋ</i>	If you drink tea, I will not come.
<i>nawpəŋ kin əkəp</i>	The quick child is crying.
<i>cini kintəhin nein</i>	Eat the sugar quickly!
<i>kəw k<sup>h</sup>otak<sup>h</sup>otaah kəciah uh</i>	We go to all the villages.
<i>nawpəŋ kilomte inahte əpəydiŋmo uh</i>	Will the nice children return to the houses?
<i>nəŋ ən kintəhin nənediəy</i>	You should eat rice quickly.
<i>kəw ənən kilom kədəyh uh</i>	We want all the nice rice.
<i>əmanu siŋpi ədonmoŋsihdiəy</i>	She should not drink tea at all.
<i>gəlkapte cini dohknaah əpaimo uh</i>	Do the soldiers throw the sugar on the table?
<i>nəŋ in gol nədəyhsihdiəy</i>	You should not want the big house

1. Based on the above information, do you think “you” in the English translations above is singular or plural?

2. Translate the following Zou sentences into English.

- nəŋ skul nədəymoŋsih*
- bawŋ gol kintəhin əhuŋdiŋmo*
- gəlkap nuamte siŋpi ədon uh*
- ken cinicini kənesihdiəy*
- vokte dohknaadohknaah əpəymo uh*

3. Translate the following English sentences into Zou.

- We will like the happy village.
- If she is well, will you drink the water?
- Do not cry nicely!
- Should the soldiers eat all the meat in the village quickly?
- If all the children are crying, I will not come at all.

**END OF PAPER**