



AILO

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad
The Problem Solvers' Challenge

Preliminary Round

January 2025

2 Hours

Plus ½ hour for data entry online

QUESTION BOOK

Answer as many of the questions as you can.

Please note that questions are of varying value. Please write your answers in the answer books provided and then submit a copy of your answers into the online submission link

Questions

A.	Cricket mad in India	Babette Verhoeven	15 points
B.	Darmiya	Tamila Krashtan	15 points
C.	21st century Icelandic	Michael Salter	25 points
D.	Coptic sound changes	S. V. Mayshev	15 points
E.	We will learn Santali	Harold Somers	30 points

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Question A: Cricket mad in India

15 points

Cricket is probably the most popular sport in India, and many people follow the Indian Premier League. Here are ten teams' names written in the Devanagari script, which is used to write Hindi, one of the official languages of India, and the corresponding names in English, but **in a different order**.

There are no capital letters in Hindi and the letters represent either a combination of a consonant and a vowel or a vowel on its own.



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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 गुजरात तैतन्स् | A Lucknow Super Giants |
| 2 लखनऊ सुपेर् गिअन्त्स् | B Chennai Super Kings |
| 3 सुत्रैसेर्स् हैदराबाद | C Punjab Kings |
| 4 मुंबई इन्दियन्स् | D Kolkata Knight Riders |
| 5 राजस्थान रोयल्स् | E Delhi Capitals |
| 6 दिल्ली चपितल्स् | F Rajasthan Royals |
| 7 चेन्नई सुपेर् किन्स् | G Gujarat Titans |
| 8 पंजाब किन्स् | H Mumbai Indians |
| 9 कोलकाता क्नैत् रैदेर्स् | I Sunrisers Hyderabad |
| 10 रोयल् छल्लेनोर्स् बैंगलोर | J Royal Challengers Bangalore |

1. Match the Devanagari 1-10 with the English A-J.

2. Another team, now defunct, whose name appears below, played in the same region as one of the above teams, and had an animal nickname. How would you write the team name in English?

गुजरात लयोनर्स्

Question B: Darmiya

15 points

Darmiya (or Dharma) is a Sino-Tibetan language spoken in the Darma valley, in the Himalayas, in the Indian state of Uttarakhand, near the border with Tibet.

Here are some sentences in (transliterated) Darmiya, with their English translation.



jernu xyeno mangni. The frightened child is angry.
mangnu pya geeyang. The red bird will limp.
jonu khuli hweyang. The young monkey will be drunk.
kangnu kaka joni. The sick uncle is in time.
winu bijateme baloni. The old woman is small.

1. Translate the following into English.

- (a) *jernu pya kangni.*
- (b) *geenu xyeno wiyang.*
- (c) *kangnu khuli geeni.*
- (d) *balonu bijateme joyang*

2. Translate the following into Dharma.

- (a) The red monkey is afraid.
- (b) The drunk uncle will be angry.
- (c) The young child will be sick.
- (d) The small bird is drunk.

Source: 52nd (Russian) Traditional Linguistics Olympiad 2021/22, qualifier stage. Translated and modified by Harold Somers. Picture credit <https://rishikeshdaytour.com/blog/darma-valley>

Question C: 21st century Icelandic

(25 points)

Unlike many of the world's languages, Icelandic has not simply adopted English terms for modern technology. Icelanders are proud of the rich history of their language, and have opted instead to coin authentic Icelandic words for various 21st-century necessities. Nevertheless, since Icelandic, like English, is a Germanic language, some parts of the words below will look familiar (and have familiar meanings).



Here are 14 Icelandic technological terms, followed by their English translations **but in a different order**.

Approximate pronunciation guide: for the purposes of this problem, it is sufficient to assume pronunciation is more or less as in English, except **j** is like y in yes, **ð** is like th in this, **æ** is like the vowel in climb, **ö** is like French œ or German ö, and the ´ symbol makes the vowel long (like in Irish).

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|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <i>farartæki</i> | A. cable (electric) |
| 2. <i>farsími</i> | B. computer |
| 3. <i>fartölva</i> | C. computer cable |
| 4. <i>kvikmynd</i> | D. electric light |
| 5. <i>myndsímtal</i> | E. electricity |
| 6. <i>rafmagn</i> | F. email message |
| 7. <i>rafmagnsljós</i> | G. laptop |
| 8. <i>rafmagnssnúru</i> | H. mobile phone |

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|----------------------------|------------------|
| 9. <i>símanúmer</i> | I. film, movie |
| 10. <i>símahleðslutæki</i> | J. phone call |
| 11. <i>símtal</i> | K. phone charger |
| 12. <i>tölva</i> | L. phone number |
| 13. <i>tölvupóstur</i> | M. vehicle |
| 14. <i>tölvusnúru</i> | N. video call |

- Determine the correct correspondences.
- Give the Icelandic words for: (a) image (b) speech
- Give an English expression for: (a) *símisnúru* (b) *tölvuljós*
- The adjective 'mobile' in English can have two similar, but slightly different meanings. Give the Icelandic word that corresponds to each of the following meanings:
(a) portable, can be moved (b) moving, moves itself.

Question D: Coptic sound changes (15 points)

Given below are some words, shown in phonetic transcription, in two of the six major dialects of Coptic, the now extinct language spoken in ancient Egypt until the Arab conquest in the 7th century CE, though it is still used as a liturgical language by Coptic Christians. The two dialects, Said and Boheir were closely related but pronunciation differed in a number of features. The English translations are given for your information, but are not relevant to the solution.



The ´ symbol indicates the stress in words of more than one syllable. The , symbol below a consonant in the Said dialect indicates that it is syllabic, ie forms a separate syllable, like the L or N in, respectively, *apple*, or *sudden*, in English. A raised ^h indicates that the consonant is aspirated, ie pronounced with an extra puff of air. Pronunciation is otherwise roughly as in English, except c is always 'hard' (IPA [k]), and č is like *ch* in *church* (IPA [tʃ]).

	Said	Boheira	English
1	cop	č ^h op	foot
2	błlé	bellé	blind
3	płce	p ^h élči	rags
4	kúpř	k ^h úper	henna
5	smótn	smóten	It's easy
6	petčí	petč ^h í	receiving
7	čóftn	č ^h óften	over the edge
8	pisabé	pisabé	that sage
9	capíce	čap ^h íči	kapifa

	Said	Boheira	English
10	čenepór	čenephór	roof
11	tetřríme	tetenrími	You are crying
12	čátfe	č ^h átfi	reptile
13	čmpéh	(a)	apple
14	anók	(b)	I
15	cépe	(c)	cloud
16	tápř	(d)	caraway
17	(e)	(f) amre	baker

Your task is to fill in the blanks (a)-(e) (including an indication of the stress) and indicate (f) where the stress on the Boheira word in example 17 should be.

Source: 42nd Moscow Traditional Olympiad in Linguistics (2011), round 1. Translated by Harold Somers.

Question E: We will learn Santali

(30 points)

Santali, also known as Santal or Santhali, is the most widely-spoken language of the Munda subfamily of the Austroasiatic languages, spoken by around 7.6 million people in north-east India, as well as in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal: it is the third most-spoken Austroasiatic language after Vietnamese and Khmer. Normally written (since about 1940) in the Ol Chiki script, here are some Santali verb phrases presented in a simplified transcription, together with their respective translations.



ñeletmeañ	I see you (sg)
daleañ	I will strike him
ñelediñae	He sees me
daledeape	You (pl) strike him
ñelkoako	They will see them
ñeletliñkanam	You (sg) are seeing us both
dalpekanale	We will be striking you (pl)
ñeletliñaben	You both see us
daletkinkanaliñ	We both are striking them both

1. Translate into English:

- (a) ñeledeam
- (b) ñelkokanae
- (c) daletliñako
- (d) dalmeakin

2. Translate into Santali

- (a) We both will see you (pl)
- (b) I am seeing you both
- (c) You (pl) are striking him
- (d) We will strike you (pl)

Source: Rev. L. O. Skrefsrud, *A Grammar of the Santhal Language*, Benares, 1873.
https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=y8jibl4_ptYC. Picture Moongo.in