



AILO

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad
The Problem Solvers' Challenge

ROUND ONE

February 2015
2 Hours

PROBLEM BOOK

Answer as many of the questions as you can.
Write your answers in the answer books provided.

Questions and credits

A. Big dog, old bull, strong horse	Mike Swan	15 pts
B. Elder Futhark runes Catherine	Sheard	20 pts
C. People and places	Harold Somers	20 pts
D. Ye olde English problem	Graeme Trousdale	20 pts
E. It's all Greek to me	Bozhidar Bozhanov	25 pts

Question A: Big dog, old bull, strong horse

(15 pts)

Danish, spoken in Denmark, and Swedish, spoken in Sweden, are closely related languages. This means that they have many similarities.

Read the Danish and Swedish phrases below, and look for patterns, similarities and differences. In particular, look at how articles (the words *the* and *a*) are used. Then complete the exercises below.

English	Swedish	Danish
a dog	<i>en hund</i>	<i>en hund</i>
a big dog	<i>en stor hund</i>	<i>en stor hund</i>
the dog	<i>hunden</i>	<i>hunden</i>
the big dog	<i>den store hund</i>	<i>den stora hunden</i>

A1. Identify which of these phrases are Danish and which are Swedish. Tick the appropriate box in the answer book. (8 pts)

a. <i>en tyr</i>	a bull
b. <i>en gammal tjur</i>	an old bull
c. <i>tyren</i>	the bull
d. <i>en gammel tyr</i>	an old bull
e. <i>den gamle tyr</i>	the old bull
f. <i>tjuren</i>	the bull
g. <i>den gamla tjuren</i>	the old bull
h. <i>en tjur</i>	a bull

A2. If the words for 'horse' are *häst* (Swedish) and *hest* (Danish), and the words for 'strong' are *stark* (Swedish) and *stærk* (Danish), complete the table below in your Answer book. (7 pts)

English	Swedish	Danish
a horse		
a strong horse		
the horse	<i>hästen</i>	
the strong horse		

Question B: Elder Futhark runes

(20 pts)

Old Norse was the language of the Vikings, the language spoken in Scandinavia and in the Scandinavian settlements found throughout the Northern Hemisphere from the 700s to the 1300s. Old Norse was the ancestor of the North Germanic languages: Icelandic, Faroese, Norwegian, Danish, and Swedish. Old Norse was written first in runic alphabets, then later in the Roman alphabet. The first runic alphabet, found on inscriptions dating from throughout the first millennium, is known as “Elder Futhark” and was used for both proto-Norse and early Old Norse.

Below are nine Anglicized names of Old Norse gods and the nine Elder Futhark names to which they correspond. Listed below are also two other runic names for gods.

Anglicized names

a. Baldur b. Dallinger c. Day d. Earth e. Freya f. Freyr g. Ithun h. Night i. Sun

Old Norse Runes

1 ᚸᚠᚢᚱᚱ 4 ᚹᚠᚦᚱᚱ 7 ᚷᚱᚱᚱᚱ 10 ᚷᚠᚠᚠᚱ

2 ᚱᚱᚱᚱ 5 ᚠᚱᚠᚠᚠᚱ 8 ᚹᚠᚠᚠᚱᚱᚱᚱ 11 ᚷᚱᚱᚱ

3 ᚠᚱᚠᚠᚱᚱ 6 ᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱ 9 ᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱᚱ

B1. Match the Anglicized names to the correct Elder Futhark names.

(9 pts)

B2. What are the two leftover Elder Futhark names, in the Roman alphabet? (2 pts)

B3. Write the runic names of the following gods: (9 pts)

- Tyr
- Ran
- Sif

Question C: People and places (20 pts)

In Japanese (*Nihongo*) as in many languages, proper names (names of people and places) often have a literal translation that describes some local feature (e.g. Smallfield, Whitehill, Longridge).

Here are some Japanese personal or place names and their jumbled up literal translations into English. All you have to do is match up the names and the translations.

However as you might expect there are one or two difficulties. The order of the elements in the Japanese and most natural translations are not always the same. Also, when two words combine, sometimes one of them changes slightly. Note that in these examples, 'mount' and 'mountain' are different words, as are 'field' and 'rice-field'.

Japanese	Translation
1 <i>Ōta</i>	A Big slope
2 <i>Nakayama</i>	B Tree river
3 <i>Kigawa</i>	C Slope of the mountain
4 <i>Kazan</i>	D Field village
5 <i>Murakami</i>	E Upper village
6 <i>Kagawa</i>	F Upper river
7 <i>Ono</i>	G Middle of the rice-field
8 <i>Fujisan</i>	H Little field
9 <i>Nomura</i>	I Middle mountain
10 <i>Tanaka</i>	J Original rice-field
11 <i>Sakuragi</i>	K Mountain road
12 <i>Nihon</i>	L Cherry tree
13 <i>Ōsaka</i>	M Fire mount (= volcano)
14 <i>Yamazaka</i>	N Big rice-field
15 <i>Kawakami</i>	O Mount Fuji
16 <i>Honda</i>	P Fire river
17 <i>Yamamichi</i>	Q Origin of the sun (= Japan)

Question D: Ye olde English problem

(20 pts)

English has changed a lot since the period in which Germanic languages were brought to these islands over 1500 years ago. In this problem, you will look at the way in which the use of pronouns in Old English (the variety of English that existed in Anglo-Saxon times) differs from the use of pronouns in the modern language. Watch out! The word order in Old English is sometimes not the same as in Modern English.

Look at the following Old English sentences and their Modern English translations then complete the exercises that follow. Note: the letter *þ* is pronounced like 'th'.

<i>wit lufodon þæt mægden</i>	we both loved the girl
<i>þæt mægden unc lufode</i>	the girl loved us both
<i>ge lufodon þone cyning</i>	you all loved the king
<i>se cyning inc lufode</i>	the king loved you both
<i>þæt mægden we lufodon</i>	we all loved the girl
<i>we inc lufodon</i>	we all loved you both
<i>wit eow lufodon</i>	we both loved you all

D1. Translate the following into modern English. (6 pts)

- (a) *se cyning eow lufode*
- (b) *ge lufodon þæt mægden*
- (c) *wit inc lufodon*

D2. When they function as subject, the Old English phrases for 'the prince' and 'the child' are *se æþeling* and *þæt cild*, respectively. Using this information, translate from the following from Modern English into Old English. (14 pts)

- (a) The prince loved the child
- (b) The child loved the prince
- (c) We all loved the child
- (d) The child loved you both
- (e) The girl loved you all

Question E: It's all Greek to me (25 pts)

In the table below are some Greek place names, written in the Greek alphabet (without marking stress), together with their pronunciations in both ancient and modern Greek. All you have to do is fill in the blanks (in the answer sheet)

The pronunciations are shown using the International Phonetic Association (IPA). The IPA symbols have their expected values, except as follows:

θ is pronounced like *th* in *think*, ð is like *th* in *then*

x is the *ch* sound in German *Bach*, Scottish *loch*, or in Irish broad *ch* as in *chara*

γ is a voiced x, like the *g* in Spanish *avogado*, or in Irish the broad *dh* in *dhorn*

ç is the softer *ch* sound in German *ich*, or in Irish slender *ch* as in *oíche*

ǰ is a voiced ç, like the slender *dh* in *dhearg*

ɔ is like the vowel in *caught*, ε is like the vowel in *fair*

the : symbol after a vowel indicates that it is long

the raised ^h after a consonant denotes that it is aspirated (pronounced with additional breath)

	Ancient Greek	Modern Greek	English
Αθως	/at ^h ɔ:s/	/aθos/	Athos
Θουριοι	/t ^h ourioi/	/θurii/	Thurii
Αργος	/argos/	/arγos/	Argos
Φρεγγελλα	/p ^h regella/	/frejella/	Fregellae
Χρυση	/k ^h ruse:/	/xrisi/	Chryse
Γολγοθα	/golgot ^h a/	/γολγοθα/	Golgotha
Δελφοι	/delp ^h oi/	/ðelfi/	Delphi
Εφεσος	/ep ^h esos/	/efesos/	Ephesus
Θεοδωσια	/t ^h eodɔ:sia/	/θεοδοσια/	Theodosia
Αιγινα	/aigina/	/ejina/	Aegina
Καληδονια	/kalɛ:donia/	/kaliðonia/	Caledonia
Καδμεια	/kadmeia/	/kaðmia/	Cadmea
Σαρδεις	/sardeis/	/sarðis/	Sardis
Φθια	/p ^h t ^h ia/	/fθia/	Phthia
Αχερων	/ak ^h ero:n/	/açeron/	Acheron
Χιος	/k ^h ios/	/çios/	Chios
Θυμαйна	/t ^h umaina/	/θimena/	Thymaina
Χαονια	/k ^h aonia/	/xaonia/	Chaonia
Μοσχα	/mosk ^h a/	/mosxa/	Moscow *
Βλαχια	(a)	(b)	(c)
Φλεγεθων	(d)	(e)	Phlegethon
Βηρυτος	(f)	(g)	Beirut
(h)	(i)	/frijiɑ/	Phrygia
Βαβυλωνια	(j)	(k)	(l)

* Note that Moscow was unknown in ancient Greece, but the table shows how the name would have been pronounced at that time.