



# AILO

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad  
*The Problem Solvers' Challenge*

## National Final, Team Question Booklet

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dublin City University

2 Hours

Write your team's answers in the answer book provided.



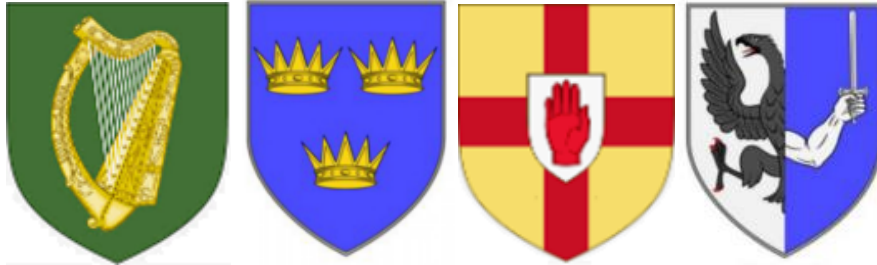
Engaging Content  
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## AILO 2019 Team question

Hark the Heraldry angels sing

Sam Ahmed & Harold Somers



You probably recognise the four coats of arms shown here. But would you recognise the descriptions of them, given below (not in the same order: you can figure out which is which for yourselves)?

*Azure three antique crowns Or two one*

*Per pale Argent and Azure dexter an eagle dimidiated and displayed Sable sinister issuant from the partition an arm embowed and vested the hand holding a sword erect all Argent*

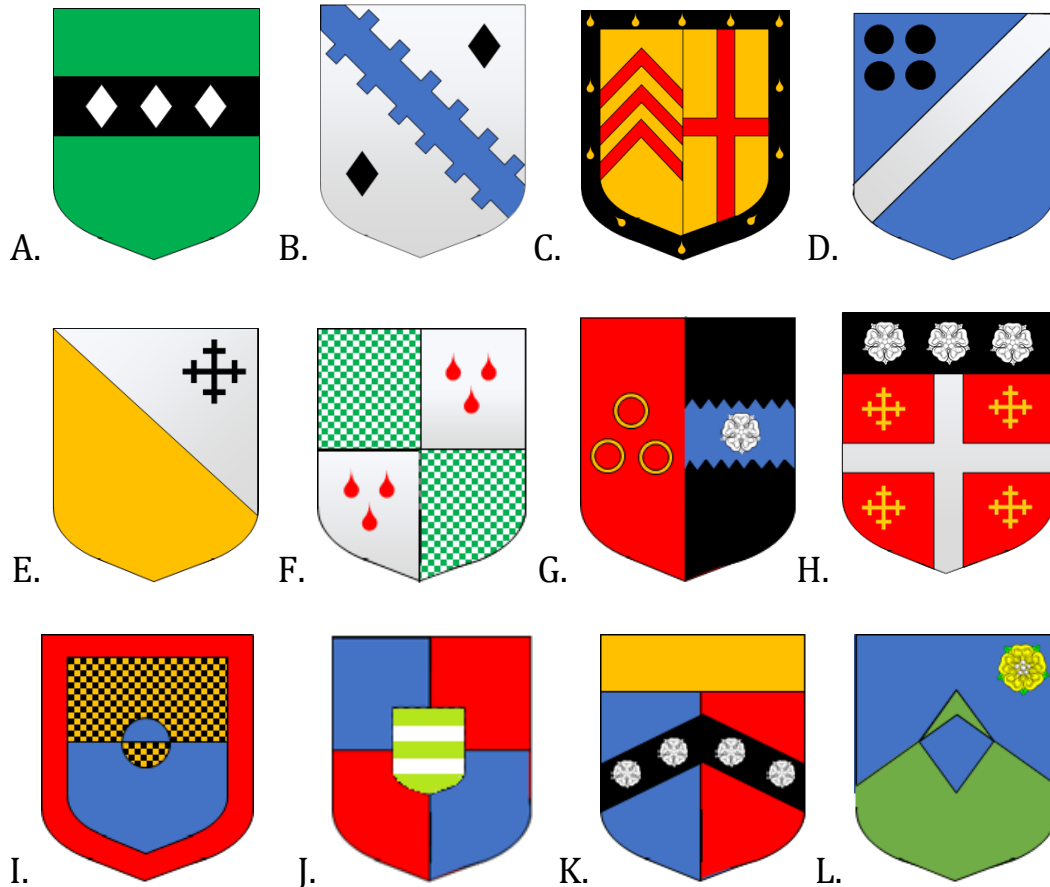
*Vert a Celtic harp Or stringed Argent*

*Or a cross Gules overall an escutcheon Argent charged with a dexter hand erect aupaumee and couped at the wrist Gules*

An important part of Heraldry is the part which looks particularly at the way that coats of arms and shields are put together. Coats of arms must all be registered (and if you invent a new coat of arms, it must be sufficiently different from all others already registered). In order to do this, the coats of arms are described in an official “language” known as *blazon*. It is basically English, but derives many of its terms from Old French. The aim of blazon is to describe heraldic arms unambiguously and as concisely as possible.

### **Part 1.**

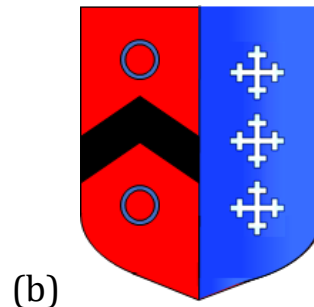
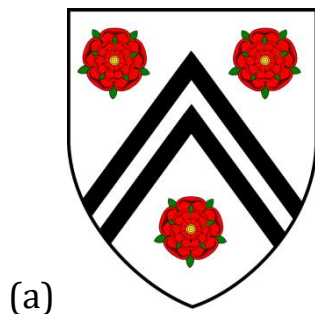
Depicted here are some shields (escutcheons) A-L followed by blazon descriptions 1-12 that correspond to them. However, the descriptions and the shields are not in the same order.



1. Quarterly 1st & 4th chequy Vert and Argent 2nd & 3rd Argent three gouttes Gules two one
2. Azure a bend sinister Argent in dexter chief four roundels Sable
3. Per pale Azure and Gules a chevron Sable four roses Argent a chief Or
4. Per fess chequy Or and Sable and Azure overall a roundel counterchanged a bordure Gules
5. Per chevron Azure and Vert overall a lozenge counterchanged in sinister chief a rose Or
6. Quarterly Azure and Gules overall an escutcheon Barry Vert and Argent
7. Vert on a fess Sable three lozenges Argent
8. Gules three annulets Or one two impaling Sable on a fess indented Azure a rose Argent
9. Argent a bend embattled Azure between two lozenges Sable
10. Per bend Or and Argent in sinister chief a cross crosslet Sable
11. Gules a cross Argent between four crosses crosslet Or on a chief Sable three roses Argent
12. Or three chevrons Gules impaling Or a cross Gules a bordure Sable twelve gouttes Or

**Task 1.1.** Match up the escutcheons A-L with their blazon descriptions.

**Task 1.2.** Write the blazon descriptions of these two escutcheons:



**Task 1.3.** Draw the escutcheons described by the following blazons:

(c) Quarterly Azure and Or overall five roses Sable three one one a bordure Vert.

(d) Per chevron Sable and Argent in sinister chief an annulet Or in dexter chief a roundel Vert.

Your drawing isn't a test of artistic skills, but of how well you understand blazon, so don't worry about graphic quality.

## Part 2.

Those escutcheons were mostly made up ones. Let's look at some real coats of arms. All the samples here have an Irish connection, being either Irish family crests, or those of Irish places. The three tasks are the same: matching up the shields with their descriptions, describing a few given shields, then drawing a few based on their description. For your interest, the family/place names are given, though they are not relevant to the solution.

**Task 2.1.** Match up the escutcheons M-X with their blazon descriptions 13-24. Unfortunately, two of them contain mistakes. What are they, and what should be written instead?



M. Kinsella



N. Connolly



O. Gibson



P. Leach



Q. O'Doherty



R. O'Connell



S. Teague



T. O'Hara



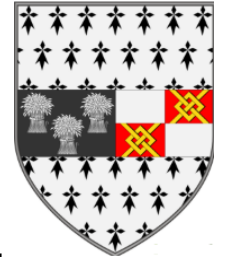
U. Harrington



V. Kerry



W. Laois



X. Kilkenny

13. Sable a fret Argent

14. Or on a chevron Gules seven ermine spots Argent in chief two annulets barry undy Argent and Azure in base a lion rampant Sable

15. Barry Ermine and Sable a lion rampant Or in canton Gules a castle Or

16. Argent a stag springing Gules on a chief Vert three mullets Or

17. Per fess tierced indented dancetty Azure and Argent between in chief Vert an antique crown Or between two crosses crosslet fitchy Argent in base Or the boat of St Brendan Vert

18. Per chevron embattled Argent and Sable in chief five crosses crosslet Sable two one two in base four crosses crosslet Argent one two one

19. Ermine on a fess per pale dexter Sable three garbs Argent two one sinister per quarterly 1st & 4th Gules a fret Or 2nd & 3rd Argent

20. Per fess Argent and Vert overall a stag statant Proper in chief two shamrocks Vert in base a shamrock Argent

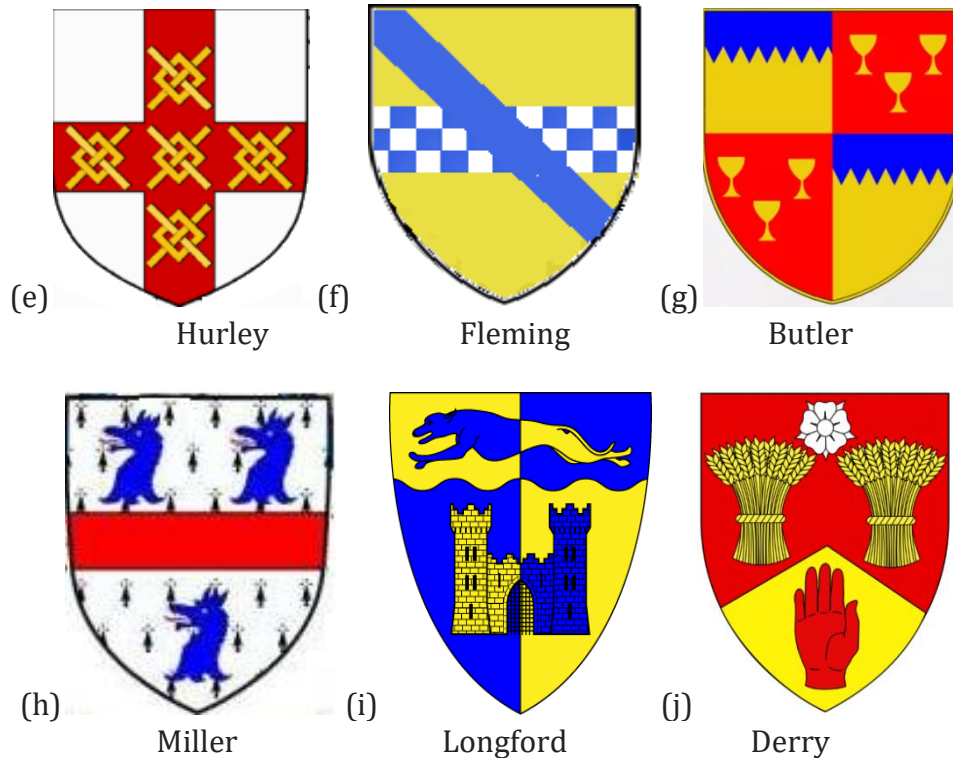
21. Argent per saltire Sable five escallops Argent two one two

22. Ermine a shamrock Vert on a chief indented Gules three crowns Or

23. Argent a fess Gules in chief two garbs Gules in base a lion passant Sable

24. Vert on a pale indented Or a lion rampant Sable

**Task 2.2.** Write the blazon descriptions of these six escutcheons:



**Task 2.3.** Draw the escutcheons described by the following blazons:

- (k) Or three lozenges Azure two one [Costello]
- (l) Sable per saltire indented Argent overall an escutcheon Or a cross Gules [Fitzmorris]
- (m) Argent a chevron Gules on a bordure Sable twenty-four roundels Or [Beehan]
- (n) Per fess Sable and Argent a wild boar passant counterchanged on a chief Azure three mullets Argent [Doran]
- (o) Per fess Or in chief Azure a swan statant its wings displayed and elevated Argent in base Vert a tortoise couchant Or [Conlon]

**Task 3 (the most important one)**

Explain the rules of the language of blazon. Include a glossary of the terms used. Extra credit will be given for a good organisation of this information, e.g. listing all the colours together.