

Solution to Question 4: Maori loanwords

C1.

1	M	6	F	11	H	16	P
2	J	7	Q	12	S	17	N
3	C	8	A	13	D	18	T
4	L	9	K	14	G	19	I
5	R	10	O	15	E	20	B

C2.

- (a) *hekeretari* secretary
- (b) *pirinihehe* princess
- (c) *pirihimana* policeman
- (d) *tiati* judge

C3.

- (a) *Iharaira* Israel
- (b) *Kiupa* Cuba
- (c) *Peina* Spain
- (d) *Tiamani* Germany
- (e) *Tiapana* Japan

C4.

- (a) beef *pīwhi*
- (b) bull *pūru*
- (c) cart *kāta*
- (d) clock *karaka*
- (e) lease *rīhi*
- (f) meat *mīti*
- (g) seal *hīri*
- (h) street *tirīti*
- (i) time *taima*
- (j) watch *wāti*

Comment

The key to this question, after matching up the words, is to understand that when a language like Maori borrows words from another language, they are adapted to the sound system of the language, as was stated in the introduction.

This adaptation is usually quite systematic, so what was required for this problem was to figure out the correspondences between the English sounds (not spellings) and the Maori. Some of the things you should have noticed were ...

Words do not end in a consonant, so a vowel is added (harp = hāpa)

‘sh’ and ‘s’ become ‘h’

‘f’ and ‘ph’ become ‘wh’

‘j’ and ‘ch’ become ‘ti’

Consonant groups have to split up with a vowel, (bridge = piriti)