

Q.29 A case of Pali

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Pali is a dead language, like Latin. It was a literary language related to Sanskrit, the ancestor of modern languages spoken in Northern India, such as Hindi; it is also distantly related to English. Pali was first written down around 100 BCE in Sri Lanka by Buddhist monks to preserve the teachings of the Buddha, and is usually written in a special script (which we replace here by our familiar Roman letters, using ā and ī for long vowels and without capital letters or punctuation).

Here are some sentences or phrases in Pali with their English

Pali translations:

English Translation

mahāmatto nisīdati

The minister sits down.

mahāmatam upasamkamanti

They visit the minister.

samano tathāgato hoti

The philosopher is enlightened.

samane attham pucchanti

They ask the philosophers the meaning.

upāsako pucchati

The disciple asks.

loko mahāmatassa

the minister's world

Here are a few more items of vocabulary:

rājo 'king', *devo* 'god', *gāmo* 'village'

Translate the following into English: (4 marks)

a. *rājo nisīdati* _____

b. *rājo gāmassa devo hoti* _____

Translate the following into Pali: (11 marks)

a. The minister asks the philosophers. _____

b. The philosopher sits down. _____

c. They sit down. _____

d. The minister asks the kings. _____

e. the disciple's village _____

f. The meaning of the world is god. _____