Question 31: Cippus Abellanus Answers
Author: Samul Ahmed

A1. Indicate (with a tick or cross) for each word whether it does or does not appear in the portion of the inscription shown. ½ mark for each correct, no mark for blank =8

- ✓ eisei
- x pússtis
- ✓ pidum
- ✓ púst
- ✓ fufans
- ✓ feihuís
- ✓ amfret
- ✓ terei
- ✓ fisnam
- ✓ púș
- x svai
- ✓ eimih
- ✓ púșt
- x anter
- x prúftú
- ✓ eisúd

A2. Give in both Oscan script and transliteration, the Oscan words for

(a) neither/nor

(b) inhabitants of Abella (one word)

(c) inhabitants of Nola (one word)

The writing in the inscription runs right-to-left, top-to-bottom, and words run across lines. The dots at mid-height indicate gaps between words. Many letters are mirror-images of their Roman/English or Greek equivalents. Vowels are sometimes joined to their following or preceding consonants. This explains the ei in feihuís. A dot above the letter u indicates an accent.

2. (a) neither/nor - nep
(b) inhabitants of Abella – Abellanús (the letter l is easily “guessable” by analogy with the other mirror-reversed letters)
(c) inhabitants of Nola – Nuclanús (actually it is Nuvlanús, but again the “reversible” analogy would suggest a letter c). Source: http://www.sanniti.info/smcippus.html