

Question 24. It's all Greek to me Solution

Βλαχία	(a) / <i>blak^hia</i> /	(b) / <i>vlaçia</i> /	(c) <i>Vlachia</i>
Φλεγεθων	(d) / <i>p^hlegeth^o:n</i> /	(e) / <i>flejeθon</i> /	Phlegethon
Βηρυτος	(f) / <i>be:rutos</i> /	(g) / <i>viritos</i> /	Beirut
(h) Φρυγία	(i) / <i>p^hrugia</i> /	/frijia/	Phrygia
Βαβυλωνία	(j) / <i>babul^o:nia</i> /	(k) / <i>vavilonia</i> /	(l) <i>Babylon</i>

Accept 'β' for 'v' in (b), (g) and (k)

Accept 'Babylonia' for (l)

Explanation

This is a fairly straightforward task of noticing regular correspondences across the four columns, as follows:

	Ancient Greek	Modern Greek	English
A, α	a	a	A, a, (ae) [1]
Αι, αι	ai	e	Ae, ai [2]
Β, β [3]		[4]	B
Γ, γ	g	γ, j [5]	G, g
Δ, δ	d	ð	D, d
Ε, ε	e	e	E, e
ει	ei	i	e, i
η	ε:	i	e
Θ, θ	t ^h	θ	Th, th
ι	i	i	i
Κ	k	k	C
λ	l	l	l
Μ, μ	m	m	m
ν	n	n	n
ο	o	o	o, (u) [6]
οι	oi	i	i
ου	ou	u	u
ρ	r	r	r
ς [7]	s	s	s
Σ, σ	s	s	S, s
υ	u	i	y
Φ, φ	p ^h	f	Ph, ph, (F) [8]
Χ, χ	k ^h	x, ç [9]	Ch, ch
ω	ο:	o	o

- [1] 'ae' was seen in only one example (Fregellae), so insufficient data to know the conditions for this realisation
- [2] 'Ae' when at the start of the name, otherwise 'ai'
- [3] β did not actually appear in the data, so it was slightly unfair to expect students to know that this was a lower-case B. Quite a few students thought this was an 'ss', presumably if they knew German.
- [4] Noticing that plosives γ /g/, δ /d/ and χ /k^h/ in Ancient Greek became fricatives /ɣ/, /ð/ and /x/ in Modern Greek would tell you that β /b/ should become /v/, but this is a big step, especially given [3], so we allow 'b' in the Modern Greek.
- [5] /ɣ/ before /o/, /j/ before /e/ or /i/
- [6] 'u' was seen in only one example (Ephesus), so insufficient data to know the conditions for this realisation; what is more, in Argos and Chios, with a similar ending, it is 'os'.
- [7] Always word-final
- [8] 'F' was seen in only one example (Fregellae), so insufficient data to know the conditions for this realisation
- [9] /ç/ before /e/, otherwise /x/

Average score: 34%. Students who knew Greek, or the Greek alphabet, have a bit of an advantage, and it was slightly unfair not to make explicit the upper and lower case letter pairs – especially perhaps Ββ, Γγ, Δδ, Μμ, Σσ: this should be rectified if this question is reused.

Two place names are anglicized: Beirut should, following the tables, be Berytos, and Babylon should be Babylonia.