



# AILO

All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad  
*The Problem Solvers' Challenge*

AILO 2023 Sample  
Set One Solutions  
(Preliminary Round  
2016 level papers)

For examiner's use. Do not write in this area.

A	B	C	D	E	TOTAL
15	20	15	20	30	100

## Question A: I found and I was happy

15 points  
1 point each

- (a) I taught **baray** .....
- (b) He prevented **baajiday** .....
- (c) He destroyed **bi'iday** .....
- (d) He began **bilaabtay** .....
- (e) I ate **cunay**.....
- (f) He grazed **daaqday** .....
- (g) He fell **dhacday** .....
- (h) He was happy **faraxday** .....
- (i) He entered **gashay** .....
- (j) He cut **go'day** .....
- (k) I found **helay** .....
- (l) He rose **kacday** .....
- (m) He took **qaaday** .....
- (n) He closed **xhidhay** .....
- (o) He stirred **walaaqday** .....

*The part in bold must be absolutely correct. Ignore errors in the stems (eg a lot have put xidhay for (n) – that's OK)*

## Question B: Read and write Nepali

20 points

*This has turned out to be very hard, so you can be generous. But don't spend time poring over it where students have obviously not tried (I'll explain when we skype)*

### B1.

(7 points: ½ point each)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
G	K	A	F		B	J	E	L	H	M	N	C	I

*Don't mark 5 correct unless it is obviously a deliberate blank*

### B2. (a) Unmatched item transliteration **paanaa** ..... (1 point)

*Give ½ for anything close, as long as it has p – a – n*

### (b) Unmatched item in Devanagari

**सानो**

..... (2 points)

*Give ½ mark for each letter*

### B3. English transliteration:

(4 points: 1 point each)

- (a) **re** (b) **saakha** or **saakh** (c) **solii** (d) **lakkaa**  
 ½ mark for 'r'      ½ mark for s or kh      ½ for s or l or ii      ½ for l - k

### B4. Devanagari: *be generous here*

(6 points)

- (a) **ल** (b) **सेरने** (c) **पनिर** (d) **तीरन्नेर**  
 1                      1½                      1½                      2

## Question C: Adam Peterson's grandmother 15 points

Be absolutely strict about accented characters, as long as there is some mark there: accept *čé* etc, but

if they miss it off (or add it where not needed) that's **WRONG**.

**C1.**

11 points: multiply total by 11/18

- |                |                |                  |                 |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| (a) buffalo    | bivol .....    | (j) Paulson      | Pavlič (Paulič) |
| (b) small god  | božič .....    | (k) crab         | rak .....       |
| (c) small bush | grmič .....    | (l) Stephen      | Štefan .....    |
| (d) booklet    | knjižica ..... | (m) Thomson      | Tomažič .....   |
| (e) midge      | mužica .....   | (n) thorn        | trn .....       |
| (f) eaglet     | orlič .....    | (o) draught      | vetrič .....    |
| (g) she-donkey | oslica .....   | (p) small peak   | vršič .....     |
| (h) baby       | otročič .....  | (q) small wall   | zidič .....     |
| (i) lamb       | ovnič .....    | (r) small pocket | žepič .....     |

Handy conversion table:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
0.6	1.2	1.8	2.4	3.1	3.7	4.3	4.9	5.5	6.1	6.7	7.3	7.9	8.6	9.2	9.8	10.4	11

**C2.** TWO words for 'horn' ..... rož..... ..... rog ..... (1 point each)

**C3.** TWO words for 'boat' ..... čoln ..... ..... čolen .. (1 point each)

Other way round is OK; again no flexibility for nearly right.

## Question D: Trilingual characters

20 points

1½ points each right or wrong, must be exactly as shown – no marks for "nearly"; if in doubt (eg cant tell o or a) mark wrong; round up at end, e.g. 9 right = 14.

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) moku/boku must give both | (h) kaku .....            |
| (b) gol .....                | (i) yaku .....            |
| (c) saku .....               | (j) té (must have accent) |
| (d) mag .....                | (k) toku .....            |
| (e) mag .....                | (l) mil .....             |
| (f) roku (accept loku) ..... | (m) hatsu .....           |
| (g) tag .....                |                           |

## Question E: The house can't eat you

30 points

**E1.** Translate into English:

(12 points)

(a) **I can truly sleep** ..... (2)

Allow 1½ for *I can't truly sleep* which is very common

(b) **Don't (go (to)) sleep!** ..... (2)

Allow 1 for *Don't go*

(c) **Is she also unwilling to {build/do} {a/the} house?** ..... (4)

Allow statement rather than question and any paraphrase eg *She also doesn't want to ...* but deduct ½ if 'also' is missing.

(d) **She also went (to) (the) {house/home} just now** ..... (4)

Deduct 1 for *want* (instead of *went*), and ½ each if *also* and *just now* are missing

*Note: It's okay if the words in the English translation are somewhat out of order.*

*Wrong tense should not be penalised. Subtract ½ for each wrong word up to the total available for each sentence.*

**E2.** Translate into Nung.

(18 points)

*The important thing about this exercise is the word order, which most students have NOT respected. So you can mark up to 4 (or 5) errors (i.e. wrong word, or right word wrong place). You'll find there are students who are getting marks here, typically 2,3,3,2 respectively. Especially (c), plenty of students are getting this nearly right (only omitting **đày**)*

(a) **Cáu náhc-thày ca mi kihn**..... (4)

(b) **Mũhn ngám mi slày tảnh kihn pehn té.** ..... (5)

(c) **Hơn mi chảnh đày kihn mũhng.** ..... (4)

(d) **Mũhng náhc-thày chóng ca bô sạhm páy mi?** ..... (5)

Treat *bô sạhm* as a single word.