

Your name:

The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2019

Round 1



Solution and marking.

Scoring (max 14)

- Q.1: 1 for each correct word, and deduct 1 for each wrong word. (max 8, min 0)
- Q.2: 2 for each correct word, 1 with a wrong letter. The question asks for our alphabet, so only give 1 if the answer is written in Oscan script (also shown in the solution below), with or without the dots for word boundaries. (max 6)

Q.1 eisei fufans feihúis amfret pússtis terei
 svai ehtrad pidum fisnam pús inim
 púst anter prúftú eisúd

Q.2	a. nep ·ΠΞ·	b. Abellanús ·ΒΕΛΛΑΝÚΣ·
	c. Nuclanús (accept Nuvlanús)	·ΝΥΚΛΑΝÚΣ·

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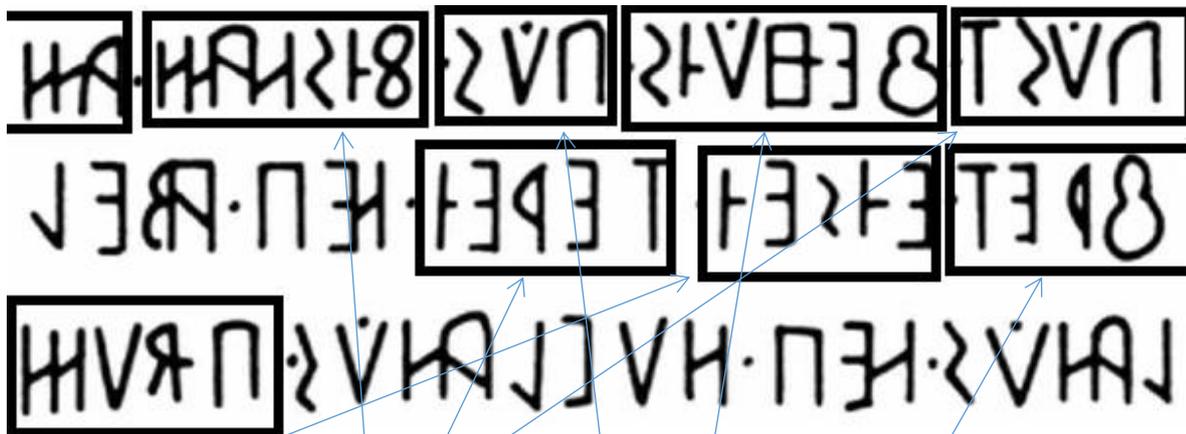
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Commentary

- 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 feihúis.
- A dot above the letter u indicates an accent.

The eight words appear as follows:



eisei	fufans	feihúis	amfret
pússtis	terei	svai	ehtrad
pidum	fisnam	pús	inim
púst	anter	prúftú	eisúd

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>