

Your name:



# The UK Linguistics Olympiad 2022 - Round 1

## Problem 6. Back And Forth In Bislama (15 marks)

The Avoiuli writing system is used on Pentecost Island in Vanuatu, a Pacific island country in the Pacific region of Melanesia. With a design inspired by traditional sand drawings, Avoiuli was developed over fourteen years by Chief Viraleo Boborenvanua, as part of a movement he leads to revitalize Melanesian culture and language.

One of the languages that Avoiuli is used to write is Bislama, one of the official languages of Vanuatu. As you will see, Bislama is a creole language – many of its words come from English, some come from French, and others from the indigenous languages of Vanuatu.

Below is a sign written in Bislama, using the Avoiuli script, on the front of a college on Pentecost Island. For the purposes of this problem, each of the words in the script below has been allotted a number:

1 𐀀𐀁 2 𐀀𐀂𐀃𐀄 3 𐀀𐀅𐀆𐀇

4 𐀀𐀈𐀉𐀊𐀋𐀌𐀍 5 𐀀𐀎𐀏𐀐𐀑𐀒𐀓𐀔

6 𐀀𐀕𐀖𐀗 7 𐀀𐀘𐀙𐀚 8 𐀀𐀛𐀜𐀝 9 𐀀𐀞𐀟𐀠𐀡𐀢

10 𐀀𐀣𐀤𐀥𐀦𐀧𐀨𐀩 11 𐀀𐀪 12 𐀀𐀫𐀬𐀭𐀮𐀯

13 𐀀𐀰𐀱 14 𐀀𐀲𐀳𐀴𐀵 15 𐀀𐀶𐀷𐀸𐀹𐀺𐀻



**Q 6.1** Give the number of a word (any one, if there are multiple) which corresponds to these Bislama words:

(a) filosofi		(c) blong	
(b) institiut			

**Q 6.2** Give the number of a word (any one, if there are multiple) which means:

(a) village		(d) technology	
(b) centre		(e) humanity	
(c) teach			

**Q 6.3** Which geographical area of the Pacific is mentioned in the text?

Your name:

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## Solution and marking.

Scoring: (max 9)

- Q6.1-3: 1 point per word or number (max 3 + 5 + 1 = 9)

### Q6.1

(a) filosofi	9	(c) blong	3 or 6
(b) instituit	4		

### Q6.2

(a) village	14 (vilij)	(d) technology	10 (teknoloji)
(b) centre	2 (senta)	(e) humanity	12 (hiumaniti)
(c) teach	7 (tijim)		

### Q6.3

**Melanesia** (word number 5)

Accept alternative spellings and forms, e.g. Melenesia, Melenesian, Melanesian, Melenisian, Melenisia

Your name:



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## Commentary

The full inscription reads: sab senta blong melenisian instituit blong tijim saen filosofi hiumaniti mo teknoloji lisa vilij lolovini

Sap Centre of the Melanesian Institute for teaching science, philosophy, humanity and technology, Lisaa village, Central Pentecost

	A		G		K		NG		T
	B		NGG		L		O		U
	D		H		M		R		V
	E		I		N		S		W

Source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avoiuli>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avoiuli#/media/File:Notice\\_in\\_Avoiuli\\_script\\_at\\_a\\_custom\\_school,\\_Pentcost\\_Island,\\_2014.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avoiuli#/media/File:Notice_in_Avoiuli_script_at_a_custom_school,_Pentcost_Island,_2014.jpg)



Chief Viraleo Boborevanua, Founder of the Avoiuli writing system