

### Question 3 Doubling in Caterpillar Country (11 marks)

**Arrernte** is an Australian Aboriginal language, spoken mainly in the centre of the country in and around Alice Springs. It is one of the largest Aboriginal languages, spoken by both adults and children and taught in schools such as the Yipirinya<sup>1</sup> School in Alice Springs. When written, Arrernte uses the same alphabet we use for English. Some combinations of letters signal special sounds, in the same way that English 'th' represents a sound that is not a combination of the 't' and 'h' sounds. For example, 'rr' represents the single sound of a rolled r and 'th' indicates a t-like sound with the tongue further forward, touching the back of the upper teeth.

Use the (slightly simplified) examples of Arrernte verbs in the following table to answer the questions below, writing your answers in the answer sheet.

Arrernte	English gloss	Arrernte	English gloss
<i>atherreme</i>	'is laughing'	<i>areme</i>	'is looking'
<i>atherreke</i>	'was laughing'	<i>areke</i>	'was looking'
<i>atherreperreme</i>	'keeps laughing'	<i>arelpareme</i>	'starts to look'
<i>atheme</i>	'is grinding'	<i>atakeme</i>	'demolish'
<i>atheke</i>	'was grinding'	<i>atakepakeme</i>	'keeps demolishing'
<i>athelpatheme</i>	'starts to grind'	<i>atelpatakeme</i>	'starts to demolish'
<i>mpwareme</i>	'is making'	<i>untheme</i>	'is going along'
<i>mpwareke</i>	'was making'	<i>unthepuntheme</i>	'keeps going along'
<i>mpwarepareme</i>	'keeps making'	<i>unthepuntheke</i>	'kept going along'
<i>mpwelpempwareme</i>	'starts to make'		

**3.1** (1 mark) What meaning is expressed by the ending *-eme* or *-eke*?

**3.2** (3 marks) Arrernte speakers show that an action is frequent ('keeps on doing X') by adding an extra element ('affix') to the verb and by doubling selected vowels and consonants in the word's basic form (its 'stem'). State the rule as clearly as you can; make sure you specify how the affix and the stem's parts are arranged within a word.

**3.3** (3 marks) Speakers also show that an action is commencing ('starts to do X') by adding an affix and repeating selected vowels and consonants of the stem. State the rule as clearly as you can.

**3.4** (1 mark) Which 'commencing' verb in the above list needs a slight addition to the rule?

**3.5** (3 marks) Here are three new words in Arrernte: *arlkweme* 'is eating', *kwerneme* 'is swallowing', *itirreme* 'is thinking'. How would you say the following?

- (a) was eating
- (ii) kept swallowing
- (iii) starts to think

<sup>1</sup> *Yipirinya* is the Arrernte word for 'caterpillar', the symbol of the of the Arrernte people of Alice Springs.

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<b>3.1</b>				
<b>3.2</b>				
<b>3.3</b>				
<b>3.4</b>				
<b>3.5</b>	<b>a.</b>	<b>b.</b>	<b>c.</b>	

## Solutions

### Question 3 Doubling in Caterpillar Country (11 marks)

<b>3.1</b>	Tense – past (eke) or present (eme). Accept ‘Time past/present’; just ‘tense’ or ‘past/present’ or ‘present/imperfect’ ½ for ‘is/was’	1
<b>3.2</b>	1: Stem first Accept: ‘add ep after the stem’; ½ for just mentioning stem 1: Add ‘ep’ 1: Then add a copy of the stem’s last vowel and consonant Accept: ... the stem’s last syllable; repeat; ‘add ... again’; ‘doubled’; ½ for any hint of repetition, e.g. ‘the last two/three letters’, ‘the first syllable is knocked off if there are two syllables’	3
<b>3.3</b>	1: Stem last 1: Start with a copy of the stem’s first consonant (and any vowel before it). Accept: ‘repeat’, ‘add ... again’; ½ for ‘first syllable’, ‘first half’ 1: Then ‘elp’, before the stem.	3
<b>3.4</b>	mpwelpempwareme ‘starts to make’ Accept either Arrernte or English or both.	1
<b>3.5</b>	<b>a.</b> arlkweke <b>b.</b> kwerneperneke <b>c.</b> itelpitirreme	@1 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> ½ for any answer where just one phoneme or character is wrong.