

9 Bengali (25 marks)

Bengali (or Bangla, written বাংলা) is the official language of Bangladesh (literally "land of Bangla") and West Bengal, India, and is spoken by 230 million people. Here are some Bengali sentences (as spoken in Bangladesh) and their English translations:

1. Ami meyeñir alindañar nice thekechi.	I've stayed under the balcony of the girl.
2. Kobiñi goruñir kôtha lekhe.	The poet is writing about the cow
3. Tumi jhoñraña kôro.	You are making the basket.
4. Khiñi boñolokñir gañraña dekheche.	The maid has seen the car of the rich man.
5. Tumi bañraña theke khiñir sáthe aso.	You are coming from the house together with the maid.
6. Kukurñi khêlnaña ghôñtar modhye ane.	The dog is bringing the toy into the room.
7. Ami mondirña theke gañraña kore ghuri.	I'm traveling from the temple by car.
8. Se dinña dhore ghureche.	He has traveled during the day.
9. Ami khêlnaña cheleñir sáthe kori.	I'm making the toy together with the boy.
10. Kobiñi kukurñike bañrañar baire dêkhe.	The poet is seeing the dog outside the house.
11. Guruñi boñolokñir môto nace.	The teacher is dancing like the rich man.
12 Kobiñir dinña eseche.	The day of the poet has come.
13.Ami cheleñike bañrañar kache dhorechi.	I've held the girl near the house.
14 Meyeñi deññar kôtha pôñe.	The girl is reading about the land.

Note: ê and ô are wider versions of e and o. ś sounds like sh in shoe. ț and Ț are specific consonants. h after a consonant denotes aspiration.

Questions

9.1. If *jadukôr* is “wizard”, and *skul* is “school”, translate:

- Guruțir cheleți khițir śathe ghore.
- Tumi guruțir môtô likhecho.
- Jadukôrți jhořața ghôrța theke eneche.
- Se skulțar kache thake.

9.2. If “cat” is *biřal*, translate into Bengali:

- I'm seeing the house of the poet near the school.
- You've traveled from the house of the rich man.
- The teacher is holding the cat outside the car.

9.3. If ‘towards’ is *dike*, and ‘after’ is *pôre*, you should be able to translate one of the following sentences into Bengali, but a crucial gap in your information prevents you from translating the other. Decide which sentence you can translate with certainty, and translate it; and show why you can’t be sure how to translate the other.

- You travel towards the teacher.
- He's coming after the maid of the wizard.

9 Bengali [25 marks]

27 points:

- 9.1: 3 points per sentence fully correct.
 - 2 points for:
 - all lexical words correct and a single error in grammatical relations,
 - or vice versa – all grammatical relations correct but a single wrong lexical word
 - 1 point for just two errors.
 - Try not to penalise the same error more than once.
 - Accept:
 - simple present (e.g. *stays*) for present progressive (*is staying*)
 - simple past (e.g. *wrote*) or past progressive (e.g. *were writing*) for present perfect (*have written*) – but not for present progressive (*are writing*)
 - *the teacher's boy, travels with*
 - near synonyms, e.g. 'live' for 'stay', 'son' for 'boy', 'take' for 'bring'
 - 'girl' or 'child' for 'boy' – there's an error in the data at #13.
 - 'the' for 'a' or nothing, and vice versa;
- 9.2: 3 points per sentence fully correct.
 - 2 points for:
 - all lexical words correct and a single error in inflection or word order or spelling.
 - or vice versa – a single wrong lexical word, but correct inflections and word order.
 - 1 point for just two errors.
 - Require correct order for *kobiṭir baṛiṭa*,
 - Require correct diacritics, e.g. ṭ not t; but don't penalise for their omission in more than one word across all sentences.
 - If it's really illegible, mark it wrong.
- 9.3: 6 points:
 - 3 points for correct translation of sentence (i) (as in 9.2 above)
 - 3 points for explanation for why (h) can't be translated.
 - 1 point for 'travel' can't be translated because all examples are present progressive (another error in the data!).
 - See the full explanation of the grammatical background below the solutions.

9.1. a. The boy of the teacher is traveling together with the maid.
b. You have written like the teacher.
c. The wizard has brought the basket from the room.
d. He is staying near the school.
9.2. e. Ami kobiṭir baṛiṭa skulṭar kache dekhi.
f. Tumi boṛolokṭir baṛiṭa theke ghurecho.
g. Guruṭi biraṭiṭike gaṛiṭar baire dhore.
9.3. h. Tumi guruṭi/guruṭir dike ghorō. – untranslatable because of uncertainty about the form of guruṭi/guruṭir.
i. Se jadukōṭṭir khiṭir pōre ase.

Background grammar for Bengali

[provided by the problem's author, Bozhidar Bozhanov]

Bengali sentences have the following structure

<subject> <direct object> <indirect object> <verb>

All animate nouns end in -ti, and all inanimate nouns end in -ta (a definite article, in a way)

Animate direct objects also get -ke after the article. Possessors come before the possessed and end in -r. The same ending is present on nouns that are followed by: nice 'under', kôtha 'about', sâthe 'together with', modhye 'in', baire 'outside', môto 'like', kache 'near'. The ending is not added before theke 'from', kore 'with', dhore 'during'.

Verbs have the -ech suffix in the past tense, and end in -i, -o or -e for 1st, 2nd and 3rd person respectively. In addition to that, there is a vowel change in the root:

in pres.tense, 1st person, and in past tense (all persons) it is a narrow one, and in present tense, 2nd and 3rd person it is wide (i~e, e~ê and e~a; u~o, o~ô).

For question 9.3:

The 2nd group mentioned before, consisting of three special postpositions (theke, kore, dhore), requires the noun before them to be in the same form as the subject (nominative), and the rest of the postpositions require it to be in possessive form.

What separates these postpositions from the rest is the fact that they resemble verbs (stay, make, hold) with a 3rd person ending, but with a narrow vowel.

?Tumi mondir̥ta/mondir̥tar dīke ghoro.

Se jadukôr̥tir̥ khiṭir̥ pôre ase.

If translating one of the sentences is easy, then it is certain that one of the postpositions is not from the 2nd group. dīke (assuming root "dik~dek) could be from the 2nd group (though it is not, in fact). We can say that in the vowel system of Bengali the sound ô doesn't have a wider counterpart and then pôre can only be a member of the first group of postpositions (requiring possessive).