

Problem 4. Swedish Runes (10 marks)

The Vikings spoke Old Norse, and wrote it using runes. There are several different versions of the Nordic runes; this problem uses the so-called Younger Futhark, which consists of 16 different runes. Unfortunately, the Old Norse had more sounds than that, which means that many of the runes were used for several different (although similar) sounds.



The Vikings are best known for their travels, and many rune inscriptions tell of their adventurous journeys to different places. The words (a)-(e) below are Old Norse place names taken from runestones in Sweden, and (i)-(v) are their modern English names in a random order.

Note that the names may not be exactly the same in Old Norse as in modern English – for example, the Vikings called Greece *Grikland*.

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|--|----|----------|------|----------------|
| | a) | ᚢᚷᚦᚦ | i) | <i>England</i> |
| | b) | ᚢᚢᚦᚦᚢᚦᚦ | ii) | <i>Greece</i> |
| | c) | ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ | iii) | <i>London</i> |
| | d) | ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ | iv) | <i>Uppsala</i> |
| | e) | ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ | v) | <i>Saxony</i> |

Q 4.1 Match the modern English names to their Old Norse equivalent. Please write the corresponding **roman numeral** in the boxes.

Most inscriptions are memorials to people who have died, and some of them also mention who actually inscribed the text. Inscriptions (f)-(j) each contain a name, and the modern versions of those names (vi)-(x) are given in a random order.

- | | | | | |
|--|----|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| | f) | ᚦᚢᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚢᚦ ᚦᚦᚢᚦᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ | vi) | <i>Harald</i> |
| | g) | ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ | vii) | <i>Knut</i> |
| | h) | ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚢᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ | viii) | <i>Thorsten</i> |
| | i) | ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚢᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ | ix) | <i>Gunnar</i> |
| | j) | ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ ᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦᚦ | x) | <i>Björn</i> |

Q 4.2 Match the modern names to the inscription that contains them.

Q 4.3 Old Norse is related to English, and many words are similar in the two languages. The five inscriptions (f)-(j) contain two words for male relatives. Write those two words in runes.

Problem 4. Swedish Runes Answers and Explanation (1/1)

Total: 12 points

Q 4.1 1pt per match. Max 5.

iv	a)	ᚱᚸᚵᚠᚦ	i)	England
iii	b)	ᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠ	ii)	Greece
ii	c)	ᚠᚱᚱᚱᚠᚠᚠᚠ	iii)	London
v	d)	ᚵᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠ	iv)	Uppsala
i	e)	ᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠ	v)	Saxony

Q 4.2 1pt per match. Max 5.

vii	f)	ᚠᚠᚠ ᚵᚠᚠᚱᚱᚱ ᚠᚠᚠ <u>ᚠᚠᚠᚱᚱ</u> ᚱᚠᚱᚵᚠᚠ ᚵᚠᚠᚠᚠ	vi)	Harald
viii	g)	ᚵᚠᚠᚠᚠ ᚠᚱᚠᚠ ᚠᚠᚠᚠ <u>ᚠᚠᚱᚵᚠᚠᚠᚠ</u> ᚠᚠᚠᚠᚠᚱᚱ	vii)	Knut
ix	h)	ᚠᚱᚠᚠᚠᚠ ᚠᚠᚠᚠ <u>ᚠᚠᚠᚠᚱᚱ</u> ᚱᚠ ᚵᚠᚠᚠᚠ	viii)	Thorsten
x	i)	ᚠᚠᚠᚠᚱᚱ ᚠᚠᚠ <u>ᚸᚱᚠᚱᚠ</u> ᚠᚱᚠᚠ	ix)	Gunnar
vi	j)	<u>ᚠᚠᚱᚠᚠᚠ</u> ᚸᚱᚠᚠᚠᚱᚱ	x)	Björn

Q 4.3 1pt per word (Only needs the answer in Runes). Accept the whole rune phrase containing the target word. Reject proper nouns and Roman transcription. English translation on its own scores 0pt. Max 2.

ᚠᚠᚠᚠᚱᚱ [Note this means father]
ᚸᚱᚠᚠᚠᚱᚱ [Note this means brother]

Explanation

The Younger Futhark is an alphabet written left-to-right, just like the Latin alphabet – in fact, the two scripts are closely related.

The full list of letters and their sounds is given below.

Rune:	ᚠ	ᚢ	ᚦ	ᚱ	ᚱ	ᚴ	ᚠ	ᚠ	ᚵ	ᚠ	ᚸ	ᚠ	ᚠ
Name:	f	u	þ	ǫ	r	k	h	n	i	a	s	t	ᚱ
Usage:	f,v	o,u	th	o	r	k,g	h	n	i,e	a	s	t,d	p,b m l r