

## Problem 9. K'iche' (25 marks)

K'iche' is a Mayan language, spoken by over a million people in Guatemala. It is the most-widely spoken indigenous language in Mesoamerica, and the second most spoken language in Guatemala behind Spanish.

Below are some sentences in K'iche' language with their English translations.



<b>maj nume's pa le che'</b>	<i>My cat isn't in the tree.</i>
<b>sib'alaj nim le b'e</b>	<i>The road is very big.</i>
<b>k'o kaqal pa le raqan</b>	<i>There is a rash on his leg.</i>
<b>na kinloq' ta le je'l me's</b>	<i>I am not buying the pretty cat.</i>
<b>na xatinwiye'j ta pa le kaq awo'ch</b>	<i>I didn't wait for you in your red house.</i>
<b>xinutzukuj le nimaqan ajtij</b>	<i>The tall teacher looked for me.</i>
<b>maj rachi'il pa le kitijob'al</b>	<i>He doesn't have a friend at their school.</i>
<b>la k'o utz awa</b>	<i>Do you have good food?</i>
<b>na xub'an ta le q'aq' pa le ko'ch</b>	<i>He didn't make the fire in their house.</i>
<b>xatkitijoj</b>	<i>They taught you.</i>
<b>maj wa pa le nutijob'al</b>	<i>There is no food in my school.</i>
<b>kinkitzukuj</b>	<i>They are looking for me.</i>
<b>k'o sib'alaj utz awuj</b>	<i>You have a very good book.</i>

**Q 9.1** Translate the following into English. If you think a sentence has two possible meanings, give both.

- maj me's pa le ro'ch**
- na kutzukuj ta le kiwuj**
- sib'alaj nimaqan le awachi'il**
- la sib'alaj je'l le nuche'**
- kinb'an le nuwa**

**Q 9.2** Translate the following into K'iche'.

- He has a good teacher.*
- He waited for you.*
- Is my red book in their tree?*
- You didn't teach me in your school.*

## Problem 9. K'iche' Answers and Explanation (1/1)

Total: 44 points

### Problem 9. K'iche'

9.1	a <i>The cat isn't in his house.</i> <i>There isn't a cat in his house.</i>	9.2	a <b>k'o utz r+ajtij (4)</b>
	b <i>He isn't looking for their book.</i>		b <b>x+at+u+wiye'j (4)</b>
	c <i>Your friend is very tall.</i>		c <b>la k'o kaq nu+wuj pa le ki+che' (9)</b>
	d <i>Is my tree very pretty?</i>		d <b>na x+in+at+tijoj ta pa le a+tijob'al (10)</b>
	e <i>I am making my food.</i>		

**Q 9.1** Max 3pt for each (a)-(e). Deduct 1pt for any mistake [e.g., swapping subject and object, wrong tense, missing/incorrect possessor, ...], down to a minimum of 0. Accept: synonyms (e.g. *home* for *house*), *is not* for *isn't*, *there is no* for *there isn't any*; ignore extra sentences but not extra letters (e.g. **awtijobal** scores 1, not 2).

If more than one sentence is given, mark the best as above, and award 2pt for a fully correct second sentence in (a). Max 17.

**Q 9.2** 1pt for each word, or word-part separated by a space or +. Insist on correct word boundaries, e.g. for 9.2a, reject **utz** embedded in a longer word. If two words are correct but incorrectly ordered, deduct 1pt.

Award a minimum of 0pts per answer. Max 27. [NB 9.2c actually scores only 9 points, and 10 reflects an error in an earlier version of the solution.]

#### Explanation

- Word order is as follows:
  - Verb – Subject – Object – Location
- Verbs are built as follows:
  - Tense: **k-** = present, **x-** = past
  - Arguments: object then subject
  - Negative: **na ... ta**
  - k'o** (negative **maj**) can express position, existence or availability to the possessor (who is shown by the marker on the object possessed).
- Nouns phrases are built as follows:
  - Word order: **le** - Intensifier – Adjective – Nouns
  - Le** disappears whenever the noun phrase is the argument of **k'o** / **maj**.
  - Nouns can take possessive markers as shown.
  - Pa** before a noun phrase means *in / at*.

	Object	Subject	Possessive
1 <sup>st</sup> sing.	<b>-in-</b>		<b>nu-</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> (sing.)	<b>-at-</b>		<b>a(w)-</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> sing.	<b>-Ø-</b>	<b>-r-</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> pl.	<b>-ki-</b>		<b>k(i)-</b>