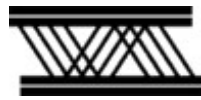


Problem 6. Adinkra Symbols (15 marks)

The Adinkra are symbols that represent concepts, originally created by the Bono people. They represent various concepts or proverbs and can be used to convey various morals or beliefs. Some are stylised representations of a physical object, such as the symbol **aya** meaning *fern*, which represents endurance and resourcefulness, or **ɔwɔ a ɔreforo adɔbɛ**, *snake climbing the raffia tree*, which represents persistence and diligence. Others are more abstract: **tamfo bebɛ** below represents the proverb *the enemy will stew in his own juice*, and is a symbol of jealousy, while **ɔdɔ nnyera fie kwan** represents *the power of love*.



aya



ɔwɔ a ɔreforo adɔbɛ



tamfo bebɛ



ɔdɔ nnyera fie kwan

On the next page you will see 18 more Adinkra symbols along with their names in the Twi variety of the Akan language. Note that the four symbols above are just illustrative of the system and are not directly helpful for solving the puzzle. It may be helpful to know that the word for *star* in Twi literally means *child of the heavens*.

Q 6.1 Match the symbol to the translation and meaning given below.

Name (in English)	Meaning
1. <i>God never dies, so I cannot die</i>	Immortality of the human soul
2. <i>War horn</i>	Vigilance, readiness, voluntarism
3. <i>God is king</i>	Majesty and supremacy of god
4. <i>Help me and let me help you</i>	Cooperation, interdependence
5. <i>Crocodile</i>	Adaptability, cleverness
6. <i>When you climb a good tree</i>	Support for good causes, encouragement
7. <i>God is in the heavens</i>	Hope, reminder that god hears prayers
8. <i>Spider's web</i>	Wisdom, creativity
9. <i>The moon and the star</i>	Love, faithfulness, harmony
10. <i>Tree of god or altar</i>	God's presence and protection
11. <i>Star</i>	Guardianship, dependence on god
12. <i>The teeth and the tongue</i>	Friendship, interdependence
13. <i>Good farmer</i>	Diligence, hard work, entrepreneurship
14. <i>Sword of war</i>	Authority, courage
15. <i>Good bed</i>	Good marriage
16. <i>Palm tree</i>	Wealth, resourcefulness
17. <i>Wooden comb</i>	Beauty, cleanliness, feminine goodness
18. <i>I will marry you</i>	Commitment, perseverance

Q 6.2 What are the Akan words for: *tree, god, you*?

Q 6.3 What do the Akan words **pa** and **ako** mean?

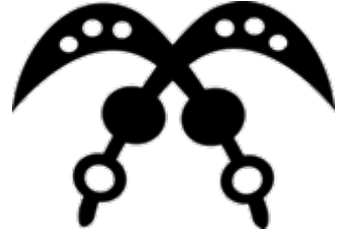
All the images used in this problem are used with permission from <http://adinkrasymbols.org/>.



a. abɛ dua



b. akobɛn



c. akofena



d. ananse ntontan



e. boa me na memmoa wo



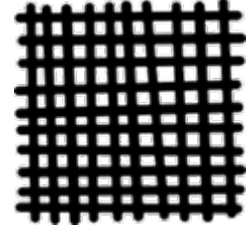
f. dɛnkyɛm



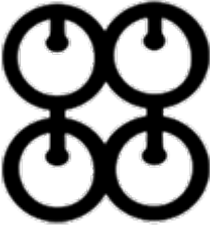
g. dua afe



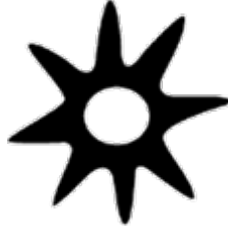
h. ɛsɛ ne tɛkyɛrɛma



i. ketɛ pa



j. mewarɛ wo



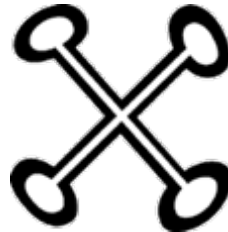
k. nsoromma



l. nyame bi wɔ soro



m. nyame dua



n. nyame nnwu na mawu



o. nyame yɛ ɔhene



p. okuafu pa



q. ɔsram ne nsoromma



r. woforo dua pa a

Problem 6. Adinkra Symbols Answers

For Q6.1 write the corresponding letter under each item.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
n	b	o	e	f	r	l	d	q	m	k	h	p	c	i	a	g	j

6.2	<i>tree</i> = dua
	<i>god</i> = nyame
	<i>you</i> = wo

6.3	<i>pa</i> = good
	<i>ako</i> = war

Q 6.1 Max 18. 1 pt per correct letter.

Q 6.2 Max 6. 2 pts per correct word.

Q 6.3 Max 4. 2 pts per correct word.

Problem 6. Adinkra Symbols Explanations

References and further reading:

- <http://www.adinkra.org/>
- <https://www.adinkrasymbols.org/>
- <https://learnakan.com/adinkra-symbols/>