

Problem 5. Armenian (15 marks)

Armenian, the official language of Armenia, is part of the Indo-European language family, the language family that contains most European languages like English and Russian, as well as many South Asian languages like Punjabi and Hindi. Its alphabet, developed in the early 5th century CE, is also related to the Latin alphabet we use for English, since both descend from an archaic form of the Greek alphabet.

Below are the names of several of the world's countries in the Armenian script, and their English equivalents in a random order. Note that some of the names of countries are slightly different in the Armenian language.



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| 1. Ֆրանսիա | a. Canada |
| 2. Գերմանիա | b. Australia |
| 3. Կանադա | c. Israel |
| 4. Իտալիա | d. America |
| 5. Իսրայել | e. Peru |
| 6. Բուլղարիա | f. Russia |
| 7. Արգենտինա | g. England |
| 8. Ավստրալիա | h. Bulgaria |
| 9. Ֆինլանդիա | i. Libya |
| 10. Ռուսաստան | j. France |
| 11. Անգլիա | k. Germany |
| 12. Պերու | l. Finland |
| 13. Ամերիկա | m. Romania |
| 14. Լիբիա | n. Italy |
| 15. Ռումինիա | o. Argentina |

Q 5.1 Determine the correct correspondences.

Q 5.2 Write (in the Latin alphabet) how you think the Armenian names for *England* and *Russia* are pronounced.

Q 5.3 Write the names of the following countries in the Armenian script:

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| 16. Iran | 17. Pakistan | 18. Cameroon | 19. Burundi |
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The names of all of these are pronounced the same in Armenian as in English.

Problem 5. Armenian Answers

For Q5.1 write the corresponding letter under each item.

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

5.2	England = Anglia	Russia = Rusastan or Rosastan
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5.3	16. Իրան	18. Կամերուն
	17. Պակիստան	19. Բուրունդի

Maximum 27 pts.

Q 5.1 Max 15. 1 pt per correct correspondence.

Q 5.2 Max 4. 2 pt each. Allow 1 pt for a reasonable attempt, with at most 2 incorrect letters. Do not require capital letters.

Q 5.3 Max 8. 2 pt each. 1 pt with one or two letters wrong. Be generous - the letters do not have to look exactly like the print forms, so long as it is clear which Armenian letter was intended. Note that **nl** counts as a single Armenian letter.

Problem 5. Armenian Commentary

Armenian uses an alphabet (really two, as there are some differences between the Eastern and Western alphabets) very similar to the Latin alphabet, although adjusted to suit the Armenian language better. The main difficulty in this problem is seeing through the small differences in country names in Armenian and English, as in Q4.2, which makes the problem more than just matching letters. Although the difference between uppercase and lowercase letters is usually mostly size, such as Պ / p which makes the *g* sound in *Germany*, some have more difference, such as Ա / u A / a.

References and further reading:

- <https://www.omniglot.com/writing/armenian.htm>