

**Problem 5. Romanian (15 marks)**

Romanian is the official and main language of Romania and Moldova. Romanian is part of the Eastern Romance sub-branch of Romance languages. It is also spoken as a minority language by stable communities in the countries surrounding Romania (Bulgaria, Hungary, Serbia, and Ukraine), and by the large Romanian diaspora. In total, it is spoken by 25 million people as a first language.

Here are some phrases in Romanian and their English translations. **ă** = *ea* in *pearl*, **â** ≈ *u* in *but*, **ș** = *sh* in *shop*, **ț** = *ts* in *cats*. The letter **i** in the end of words is not a full vowel, but it marks the palatalisation of the previous sound.



|                                                        |                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>albină</b>                                          | <i>bee</i>                |
| <b>un an</b>                                           | <i>1 year</i>             |
| <b>o pâine</b>                                         | <i>1 loaf of bread</i>    |
| <b>un actor</b>                                        | <i>1 actor</i>            |
| <b>o capră</b>                                         | <i>1 goat</i>             |
| <b>două nopți</b>                                      | <i>2 nights</i>           |
| <b>zece ani</b>                                        | <i>10 years</i>           |
| <b>o mie patruzeci de lupi</b>                         | <i>1040 wolves</i>        |
| <b>o mie două sute nouăsprezece gândaci</b>            | <i>1219 cockroaches</i>   |
| <b>două sute una plăceri</b>                           | <i>201 pleasures</i>      |
| <b>două mii optzeci și una de case</b>                 | <i>2081 houses</i>        |
| <b>douăzeci și trei de pâini</b>                       | <i>23 loaves of bread</i> |
| <b>două mii patru sute șase ore</b>                    | <i>2406 hours</i>         |
| <b>treizeci și unu de ani</b>                          | <i>31 years</i>           |
| <b>trei sute optzeci și doi de lupi</b>                | <i>382 wolves</i>         |
| <b>patru mii trei case</b>                             | <i>4003 houses</i>        |
| <b>patru sute cincizeci și una de capre</b>            | <i>451 goats</i>          |
| <b>patru mii șapte sute nouăzeci și unu de englezi</b> | <i>4791 Englishmen</i>    |
| <b>cinci sute doisprezece actori</b>                   | <i>512 actors</i>         |
| <b>cinci sute douăzeci de capre</b>                    | <i>520 goats</i>          |
| <b>șase mii cincizeci și cinci de salate</b>           | <i>6055 salads</i>        |
| <b>șase sute cincizeci și patru de minuni</b>          | <i>654 wonders</i>        |
| <b>șaptezeci și două de pâini</b>                      | <i>72 loaves of bread</i> |
| <b>opt mii trei sute cincisprezece albine</b>          | <i>8315 bees</i>          |
| <b>nouăzeci și doi de gândaci</b>                      | <i>92 cockroaches</i>     |
| <b>nouă mii șase sute treizeci și două de albine</b>   | <i>9632 bees</i>          |
| <b>nouă sute șaptezeci de actori</b>                   | <i>970 actors</i>         |

[This problem continues on the next page.]

**Q 5.1** Translate into English:

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. <b>șase capre</b>                | 3. <b>șapte sute de actori</b> |
| 2. <b>treizeci și opt de salate</b> | 4. <b>șase mii una minuni</b>  |

**Q 5.2** Translate into Romanian:

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 5. <i>1 house</i>        | 8. <i>218 hours</i>    |
| 6. <i>17 years</i>       | 9. <i>3601 bees</i>    |
| 7. <i>152 Englishmen</i> | 10. <i>5127 salads</i> |

**Q 5.3** Here are two more plural nouns in Romanian. For each of them, write the singular form. If you think multiple options are possible, provide them all.

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 11. <b>pilote</b> ( <i>duvets</i> ) | 12. <b>pitici</b> ( <i>dwarfs</i> ) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

**Q 5.4** The Romanian title of the famous *One Thousand and One Nights* is **O mie și una de nopți**. However, this title is not grammatically correct. What would the correct form be?

**Problem 5. Romanian Answers**

|            |                                                    |                                                                               |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5.1</b> | 1. <i>6 goats</i>                                  | 3. <i>700 actors</i>                                                          |
|            | 2. <i>38 salads</i>                                | 4. <i>6001 wonders</i>                                                        |
| <b>5.2</b> | 5. <i>o + casă</i>                                 | 8. <i>două sute + optsprezece + ore</i>                                       |
|            | 6. <i>şaptesprezece + ani</i>                      | 9. <i>trei mii + şase sute + una + albine</i>                                 |
|            | 7. <i>o sută + cincizeci + şi doi + de englezi</i> | 10. <i>cinci mii + o sută + douăzeci + şi şapte + de salate</i>               |
| <b>5.3</b> | 11. <i>pilotă</i>                                  | 12. <i>pitic, pitice</i> (we don't know if the noun is masculine or feminine) |
| <b>5.4</b> | <i>O mie + una + nopţi</i>                         |                                                                               |

Maximum 33 pts.

**Q 5.1** Max 4. 1 pt each. Allow minor miscopying, e.g. *6 goat* for *6 goats*, and misspellings, as long as it is clear what is intended.

**Q 5.2** Max 20. 1 pt for each correct region separated by + in the correct order. Insist on fully correct spellings, including diacritics. Additional words such as **de** or **şi** count as a mistake in the following region.

E.g. **saptesprezece de ani** scores 0 pts.

**Q 5.3** Max 6. For both: 3 pts if correct; 1 pt if at least one correct answer is given, and at most one incorrect answer is given. Insist on correct spellings.

**Q 5.4** Max 3. 1 pt for each correct region separated by + in the correct order. Insist on fully correct spellings, including diacritics. Additional words such as **de** or **şi** count as a mistake in the following region.

## Problem 5. Romanian Commentary

- Nouns in the problem can be classified into two classes:
  - Masculine: *actor*, *Englishman*, *cockroach*;
  - Feminine: *pleasure*, *house*, *goat*, *bread*, *bee*, *wonders*
  - In reality, Romanian has a third gender, the neuter gender, in which singular nouns behave as masculine and plural as feminine. However, this gender is not featured in this problem.
- Plural formation:
  - Masculine: add **-i**
  - Feminine:
    - \* if the singular form ends in **ă**, change it to **e**
    - \* if the singular form ends in **e**, change it to **i**
- Numerals 1 and 2 have different forms depending on gender:
 

|               | Masculine  | Feminine   |
|---------------|------------|------------|
| – 1: number 1 | <b>un</b>  | <b>o</b>   |
| – numbers > 1 | <b>unu</b> | <b>una</b> |

  - 2: **doi** (masculine), **două** (feminine)
- All the other numbers are invariable: 3 = **trei**, 4 = **patru**, 5 = **cinci**, 6 = **şase**, 7 = **şapte**, 8 = **opt**, 9 = **nouă**.
- Forming large numbers:
  - $10 + X = X$ -**sprezece**
  - $10X(+Y) = X$ -**zeci** (**şi**  $Y$ )
  - $100X + Y = X$  **sute**  $Y$
  - $1000X + Y = X$  **mii**  $Y$
- The words for 10, 100, 1000 act as nouns and the numeral before agrees with these. They are all feminine.
- Particle **de** connects the numeral and the noun for numbers whose last two digits are > 19.

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