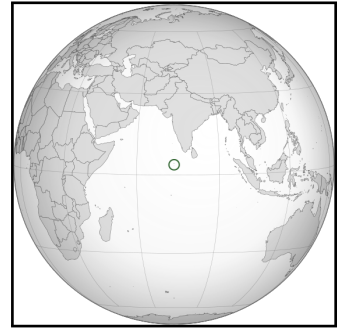


Problem 6. Thaana (15 marks)

Dhivehi, the official language of the Maldives (an island nation in the Indian Ocean, circled in the map), has been written with its own writing systems for over 2000 years. Today, it is written using the Thaana script. The Thaana script has very unusual origins – the first 9 letters are derived from the Arabic numerals, and the next 9 are derived from the Brahmic numerals!

Below are twelve words in Dhivehi written in Thaana, with by their equivalents in the Latin alphabet given in random order. Their English translations are also given, but are not relevant to the problem. Note that the symbol $\bar{\text{~}}$ over a vowel indicates a long vowel; **!** and **§** are specific Dhivehi consonants.



- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. اُشْرُءُشْر | a. abaduves (<i>always</i>) |
| 2. اُشْرُءُشْر | b. assērifaṣ (<i>coast</i>) |
| 3. اُشْرُءُشْر | c. buḷā (<i>cat</i>) |
| 4. اُشْرُءُشْر | d. enmen (<i>everyone</i>) |
| 5. اُشْرُءُشْر | e. fenverun (<i>shower</i>) |
| 6. اُشْرُءُشْر | f. haquu (<i>right</i>) |
| 7. اُشْرُءُشْر | g. irugeali (<i>sunshine</i>) |
| 8. اُشْرُءُشْر | h. menduru (<i>afternoon</i>) |
| 9. اُشْرُءُشْر | i. namādeve (<i>prayer</i>) |
| 10. اُشْرُءُشْر | j. salāmdinun (<i>greet</i>) |
| 11. اُشْرُءُشْر | k. vārē (<i>rain</i>) |
| 12. اُشْرُءُشْر | l. vikkanī (<i>for sale</i>) |

Q 6.1 Determine the correct correspondences.

Q 6.2 Write the following words in the Dhivehi script:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 13. māddā (<i>substance</i>) | 15. kemikal (<i>chemical</i>) |
| 14. haḷēllevun (<i>shout</i>) | 16. ufāveri (<i>merry</i>) |

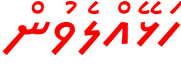
Q 6.3 The word اُشْرُءُشْر , meaning *to/for them*, is not written in the way Dhivehi script would be expected to write this word.

- How would this word be written using the Latin alphabet?
- How would you expect this word to be written in the Dhivehi script, based on the words above?

Problem 6. Thaana Answers

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

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

6.2	13. 	15. 
	14. 	16. 
6.3	a. emīhunnaṣ	b. 

Maximum 24 pts.

Q 6.1 Max 12. 1 pt per correct correspondence.

Q 6.2 Max 9. For 13, 15, 16: 2 pts each if correct; 1 pt with one mistake. For 14: 3 pts if correct; 2 pts with one mistake; 1 pt with two mistakes. A mistake is any of a correct/extra/missing consonant+vowel mark combination. E.g. both  and  score 1 pt for 13.

Q 6.3 Max 3. For (a): 2 pts if correct; 1 pt with one extra/missing/incorrect letter or diacritic. For (b): 1 pt if correct.

Problem 6. Thaana Commentary

The Thaana script has features of both the Brahmic scripts of India, and of Arabic.

- Thaana is read right-to-left, like Arabic.
- Each large symbol corresponds to a consonant, with vowels being written with diacritics either above or below, like Brahmic scripts.
- A long vowel is indicated by doubling the vowel mark.
- If a vowel appears without a preceding consonant, the vowel mark is placed over the 'alifu' .
- If a consonant is not followed by a vowel, it appears with the 'sukun', e.g.  = ṣ.
- A doubled consonant is usually marked by a preceding 'alifu+sukun', e.g.  = dd.

References and further reading:

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

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