

History and Modern Languages (applicants for *ab initio* language only)

ADMISSIONS ASSESSMENT specimen paper

SECTION B SOLUTION

The following exercises require you to:

- i) translate between English and an invented language, Qazju;
- ii) work out some basic aspects of Qazju's grammar, using the provided English translations to help you.

Please note the following observations about Qazju:

- 1) like English, Qazju has a fixed word order (e.g. only "I love John" not "John love I" or "John I love");**
- 2) like English, Qazju has singular ("cat") and plural ("cats") nouns;**
- 3) like English, Qazju differentiates between different ways of expressing the past tense, for example "I ate" and "I have eaten";**
- 4) partly like English, Qazju adds endings to a basic syllable to change its grammar (e.g. "cat" > "cats", "love" > "loved")**
- 5) however, Qazju is different from English in that it does not have words for "the", "a" or "an". There is no way to distinguish between indefinite (e.g. "a cat") and definite ("the cat") nouns.**

You will be given a set of sample sentences in Qazju with their English translation. In order to translate between the two languages, you will need to **examine and compare the sample Qazju sentences and their English translation** in order to work out Qazju's vocabulary and how its words and sentences are put together.

Be very careful when translating that you

- i) put the words in the correct order;
- ii) choose the appropriate verb tense;
- iii) use the correct noun form (i.e. singular or plural).

You may find it helpful to compile a 'vocabulary list' for Qazju as you go along (this will not be assessed) – a grid is provided for you at the end of the test paper.

Total marks available for the test: **16** marks.

You should spend 20-30 minutes on this section.

Sample sentences:

Qazju

kalama gadzu fadnuk
nedunu fadnuk zedgen
felmu kennu qakfuzu
jefuna zedgenen gadzuzu
vefama nuzen gidnek
jefna fadnuk kafqukuk

English

*the girl cuddled a goat
the goat ate the beetle
the waiter has brought a meal
the beetles saw the girls
the bear stole a sandwich
a goat has seen the children*

Q1. What is the Qazju for:

- (a) girl **gadzu** [gadzuzu elsewhere as the plural] (½ mark)
- (b) beetles **zedgenen** [plural formed by repeating last two letters] (½ mark)
- (c) child **kafquk** [removal of *uk* from plural given] (½ mark)
- (d) meals **qakfuzuzu** [plural formed repeating last two letters] (½ mark)
- (e) has stolen **vefma** [formed by removal of middle vowel – see *jefna* and *jefuna*] (½ mark)
- (f) waiters **kennunu** [plural formed repeating last two letters] (½ mark)

Q2. Translate into English:

- (a) nedunu fadnukuk qakfuzu. **The goats ate a/the meal.**
_____ j(3 marks)
- (b) kalma kennu nuzen. **The waiter has cuddled a/the bear.**
_____ (3 marks)

Q3. Each item in a sentence has a grammatical role. The following sentences each contain:

- a subject (the 'agent'/participant doing the action)
- a verb
- an object (the 'undergoer'/participant who the action is done to)

In the following Qazju sentences, which word corresponds to the subject, the verb, and the object? Give the answer **in Qazju**:

- (a) In the sentence **kalma gadzu kennu**, which word is the **verb**?

_____ **kalma** _____ (½ mark)

- (b) In the sentence **vefama nuzen gidnek**, which word is the **object**?

_____gidnek_____ (½ mark)

Q4. Translate into Qazju:

The girls have eaten the sandwich.

Nednu gadzuzu gidnek

(3 marks)

Q5. Can you describe/make a generalisation about how Qazju differentiates between the two forms of forming the past tense (e.g. “I ate” and “I have eaten”)?

How does Qazju form the plural of nouns, for example in the Qazju for “girl” and “girls”?

It does not matter if you do not use technical terms in your answer.

The simple past, e.g. “I ate” has a vowel as the fourth letter which is removed to form

the other version of the past tense.

The last two letters of the singular noun are repeated to form the plural.

(3 marks)