



Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad

香港語言學奧林匹克

en

Eighth Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad

February 8th, 2026

Solutions

Problem 1.

1. The system is written top to bottom.
2. Left half forms initial, right half forms final.
3. Tone indicated by dots in corners: tone 2 = top-left, tone 3 = top-right, tone 4 = no dot
4. Diacritics:
 - Triangle on the left half = aspiration (add **h** to the initial)
 - Straight top line on the right half = adding **i-** to the final.
 - Single stroke on the right half = **-ŋ**
 - Double stroke on the right half = **-ʔ**
 - Single stroke on the bottom of central column = adding voice.

(a) 1-A, 2-C, 3-E, 4-F, 5-D, 6-B

(b)

8. 7.

𪛗 𪛘
𪛙 𪛚
𪛛 𪛜
𪛝 𪛞
𪛟 𪛠
𪛡 𪛢

(c) 9. luŋ³ tsuŋ² tah⁴ le⁴ kâ⁴ de²

10. hâ² the^{ʔ4} ya⁴ su⁴ sian⁴ we³

Problem 2.

- Sentence structure: S V O Adv Loc ([**ha** = *and*] V O Adv Loc)
 - NP structure: POSS/DEM/[**heta** = *a lot of*] X-ROOT-PL-Loc/O Adj
 - POSS: * 1SG = **che**, 2SG = **nde** / **ne** (nasal), 1PL = **ñande** / **ñane** (nasal)
 - DEM: **pe** = *that*, **umi** = *those*
 - X:

Non-possessed	Possessed, possessor = <i>his</i> or <i>their</i>	Possessed, otherwise
t-	h-	r-
o-	ho-	ro-
 - PL: **
 - * **-kuéra** / **-nguéra** (nasal)
 - * Not used with *those* or *a lot of*.
 - Loc/O: **
 - * **-pe** / **-me** (nasal)
 - * $V \rightarrow \acute{V}$ for last vowel of ROOT if it is not nasal and the ROOT does not already have a stress marker.
 - * Object markers are used only for animate objects, but verbs like *to be* and *to have* do not use object markers.
 - V structure: S-ROOT [**heta** = *a lot*]
 - S: * 1SG = **a-**, 2SG = **re-**, 3 = **o-**, 1PL = **ja-** / **ña-** (nasal)
 - Special verbs:
 - * *to be* Adj. = **i**-Adj (without S marker)
 - * *to be* (before Loc) = **-ĩ**
 - Nasal spread:
 - *Nasal variety used if the following word/root contains nasal C/V;
 - **Nasal variety used if last syllable of the preceding root contains nasal C/V
- (a) 13. *His family is in our tree.*
 14. *Our door is beautiful.*
 15. *You_{sg} bark a lot there.*
 16. *I read your_{sg} woman and help his road.*
 17. *We help the horses in those mothers' country.*
- (b) 18. **Ñande jahecha memoranduha hógape.**
 19. **Che aguereko hetyma pe ogayguápe.**
 20. **Sykuéra omoñe'ẽ heta oñondive.**
 21. **Umi mitã ohecha kavajúpe nde rapépe.**
 22. **Kuimba'e rogaygua oipytyvõ mitãme ha hai.**

Problem 3.

1. Consonant correspondence:

Arabic	Maltese
ʔ	gh
x	ħ
y	j
z	ż

2. Vowel correspondences:

- ...CR# > ...CV₂R#
- a...i > i...i
- a...u > u...u
- V₁...V₂ > V₁...V₁

Arabic	Maltese	
	Not next to back consonant	Next to back consonant
a	e	a
i (first syllable)	i	e
i (second syllable)		e
u		o

3. Verb morphology:

Arabic		Maltese			
Past	Present	Past		Present	
		$x \neq \text{back}$	$x = \text{back}$	$x \neq \text{back}$	$x = \text{back}$
XaYaZ	yaXYiZ		XaYeZ	jiXYeZ	jaXYeZ
XaYiZ	yaXYaZ	XiYeZ	XeYeZ	jiXYeZ	jeXYeZ
XaYuZ	yaXYuZ	XoYoZ		joXYoZ	
back = { q , x , ħ , ʔ , gh }					

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|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| (a) (1) <i>he is approaching</i> | (5) yaʕlibu | (9) sikek |
| (2) <i>he marked</i> | (6) lawm | (10) qafel |
| (3) yandam | (7) ghelk | (11) jaqfel |
| (4) <i>he is repenting</i> | (8) ghomor | (12) yaqfil |

(b) Present tense

Problem 4.

- (a) 1-F, 2-I, 3-V, 4-U, 5-C, 6-G, 7-O, 8-N, 9-T, 10-D, 11-U, 12-M, 13-L, 14-A, 15-M, 16-H, 17-S, 18-Q, 19-W, 20-E, 21-J, 22-K, 23-R, 24-B, 25-X, 26-P

(b) 27. *skin/leather*

28. *very*

(c) 29. **kuri**

30. **hóchó nipia**

31. **tiaki pakaurch**

(d) 32. **tipich, notipich**

33. **avaich na tipich**

34. **kukuvitchiórch**

(e) **notaanurch**



Hong Kong Linguistics Olympiad

香港語言學奧林匹克

zh-tr

第八屆香港語言學奧林匹克選拔賽

2026年2月8日

解答

第一題

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8. 7.

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- **a...u** > **u...u**
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		X ≠ back	X = back	X ≠ back	X = back
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XaYiZ	yaXYaZ	XiYeZ	XeYeZ	jiXYeZ	jeXYeZ
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(b) Present tense

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