

Linguistic Geography Bee – Final Round (HS)

Regulation Tossups

(1) **Pre-European contact versions of this language are preserved in the texts of the Borgia Group. This language is part of a family with the Ute [[YOOT]] languages of Utah, and the most widely spoken variety of this language is the (+) Huasteca group. Historically, upper-class people across Mesoamerica considered the Tenochtitlan [[teh-NOK-teet-LAHN] dialect of this language to be a prestige language. (*)** For the points, name this group of languages spoken by the indigenous people who once ruled an empire in Mexico.

ANSWER: **Nahuatl** [[NAH-wah-(tuhl)]] (or **Nahuan**; or **Aztecan**; or Uto-**Aztecan**; or **Mexicano**; or **Mexcatl**)

(2) **English linguist Malcolm Guthrie divided members of this language family into lettered geographic zones. The so-called “Narrow” form of this language family has been challenged by the existence of the (+) Jarawan language. This language family makes up the largest branch of the proposed Niger [[nee-ZHER]]-Congo languages. The lingua franca of most of East (*) Africa, Swahili, is part of, for the points, what Sub-Saharan language family, whose examples include Shona and Zulu?**

ANSWER: **Bantu** (accept **Bantoid** languages; prompt on “Atlantic-Congo” languages of “Niger-Congo” languages)

(3) **In Liberia, speakers of the Vai language use one of these systems invented by Momolu Duwalu Bukele [[boo-KAY-lay]]. The eastern Mediterranean is home to an undeciphered Bronze Age Cypro-Minoan example of these systems, one of which was invented by (+) Sequoyah [[suh-KWOY-uh]] for the Cherokee language. Kana, including the surviving Hiragana and Katakana, are examples of these writing systems used in Japan. (*)** For the points, name this type of writing system, contrasted with an abjad and an alphabet.

ANSWER: **syllabary** (prompt on “writing system”; do NOT accept “alphabet”)

(4) **The Pakistani language Brahui is controversially used to link this language family to the extinct Elamite language of Mesopotamia as part of the proposed Zagrosian family. Despite not being part of the same family, many languages in this family adopt (+) Sanskrit pronunciations for deities. One language in this family is the traditional language of the Saint Thomas Christians (*) of Kerala. For the points, name this language family from southern India that includes Malayalam, Telugu, and Tamil.**

ANSWER: **Dravidian**

(5) According to one theory, this is the only surviving Vasconic language. In the 1600s, whalers who spoke this language spread it to the North Atlantic and as far as Brazil. This language, whose official standard form was developed by the Euskaltzaindia known as the (+) Euskara Batua, is spoken in a region containing the city of Bilbao. The only extant language isolate in Europe, (*) for the points, what is this language spoken in a region spanning the western border of France and Spain?

ANSWER: Basque (or Euskara)

(6) Archaic Scots, Gaelic, and a variety of this language blended to create the mixed language, Scottish Cant. Despite being spoken in Iran, Zargari is classed with this language's Balkaniko branch, (+) while this language's Sinte variety contains many German loanwords and is spoken in parts of the Alpine region. This Indo-Aryan macrolanguage originated in South Asia (*) but is now spoken primarily in Europe. For the points, identify this language of a namesake nomadic ethnic group.

ANSWER: Romani (or Romany; or Romanes; accept Balkaniko Romanes or Sinte Romani; prompt on "Gypsy language")

(7) This language, along with the closely related Zaza language, is commonly written with the Hawar alphabet. The Sorani dialect of this language uses a modified (+) Perso-Arabic script. This language is further divided into Kurmanji, Xwarîn [[khwah-REEM]], and Palewani dialects. The use of the letters X, W, and Q in writing is illegal in (*) Turkey due to their association with, for the points, what Iranian dialect continuum spoken by a stateless ethnic group from Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Turkey?

ANSWER: Kurdish (or Kurdî; accept Northern Kurdish)

(8) This system replaced Idu, which used Chinese characters to transliterate sounds. Users of this system frequently precede ranges of dates or numbers with a tilde [[TIL-duh]], and it arranges letters into a (+) syllable block built around an initial consonant, a vowel, and an optional final consonant. The first treatise on this writing system was created by scholars in the Hall of Worthies under the orders of (*) King Sejong the Great. For the points, name this alphabet script used to write Korean.

ANSWER: Hangul (accept Chosŏn'gŭl; accept Hunminjeongeum; prompt on "Korean alphabet")

(9) The Denedeh region of this country is home to the Slavey language. One territory in this country uses the qaniujaaqpait [[kah-nyoo-JAAHK-payt]] abugida to write an indigenous official language. This is the only country in the world where any territories recognize (+) Mi'kmaq [[MIG-maw]] as an official language, and this is the northernmost country in which Plains Cree is spoken. (*) For the points, name this country where Inuit [[IH-noo-it]] is an official language in the territory of Nunavut.

ANSWER: Canada

(10) **Speakers of this language operate the hospitality exchange program Pasporta Servo. This language is governed by the Universala Kongreso, whose first conference was held near (+) Boulogne-sur-Mer. This language, symbolized by a flag with a green star representing the five continents, was first published under a pseudonym meaning “Doctor Hopeful” (*) in the book *Unua Libro*. For the points, name this Indo-European constructed language, invented by L. L. Zamenhof.**

ANSWER: **Esperanto** (prompt on “Lingva Internacia”)