

Name: _____

Date : _____

Language Part I

PREVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What do you think is the primary function of having a language?

2. How do you think the first language come about?

3. Do you think it's possible to have a homogeneous language, one that everyone in the world can understand and utilise? Explain.

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CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

Fill in the missing words to the best of your capacity.

Language is undoubtedly the co[] of civilisation. While its or[] are, and will likely remain, unknown, the ad[] of a common spoken word would lay the fo[] to the specialisation found in early ci[]. In schools worldwide, the na[] language is bound to be a compulsory su[], along with mathematics and science.

Used primarily to co[] thought, there is beauty and el[] to be found in the application of language. Flowery prose and poetry li[] the landscape of history, and every legal organisation maintains written re[] of transactions and laws. Entirely fl[] in its use, languages spring up as creoles and dialects, providing a unique cu[] aspect to diverse regions.

AFTERTHOUGHTS

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CHAPTER 2: TYPES OF LANGUAGE

Fill in the missing words to the best of your capacity.

Many languages can be classified into families based on similarity. Some may originate from the same ancestor, or proto-language while others may be considered isolates. There exists a middle ground of creoles that grew separately with influence of others.

For example, French, Spanish and Italian not only share a written script, but also place heavy emphasis on verb conjugation. It is therefore evident that they shared a common proto-language, namely Latin, resulting in the term 'romance language'. Similarly, the Germanic languages share common traits, and though the specific proto-language is unknown, it is clear that they stemmed from the same root.

By understanding the origins of languages, it can be made apparent its cultural importance.

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CHAPTER 3: BIRTH OF LANGUAGE

Fill in the missing words to the best of your capacity.

As far back as Ba[] and the Indus Valley civilisation, written records e[]. Epics like that of *Gilgamesh* still exist, down to mundane statements of ac[], and even cr[] graffiti. It is also evident that sp[] language existed even before its written co[]. In fact, some cultures such as the Xhosa adopted the Latin s[] even though the tonal and guttural nature of speech tr[] poorly to written text.

While it is evidenced that oral tradition far pr[] written word (and indeed many written accounts have been lost to t[]), the b[] of some written scripts can still be tr[], as detailed below.

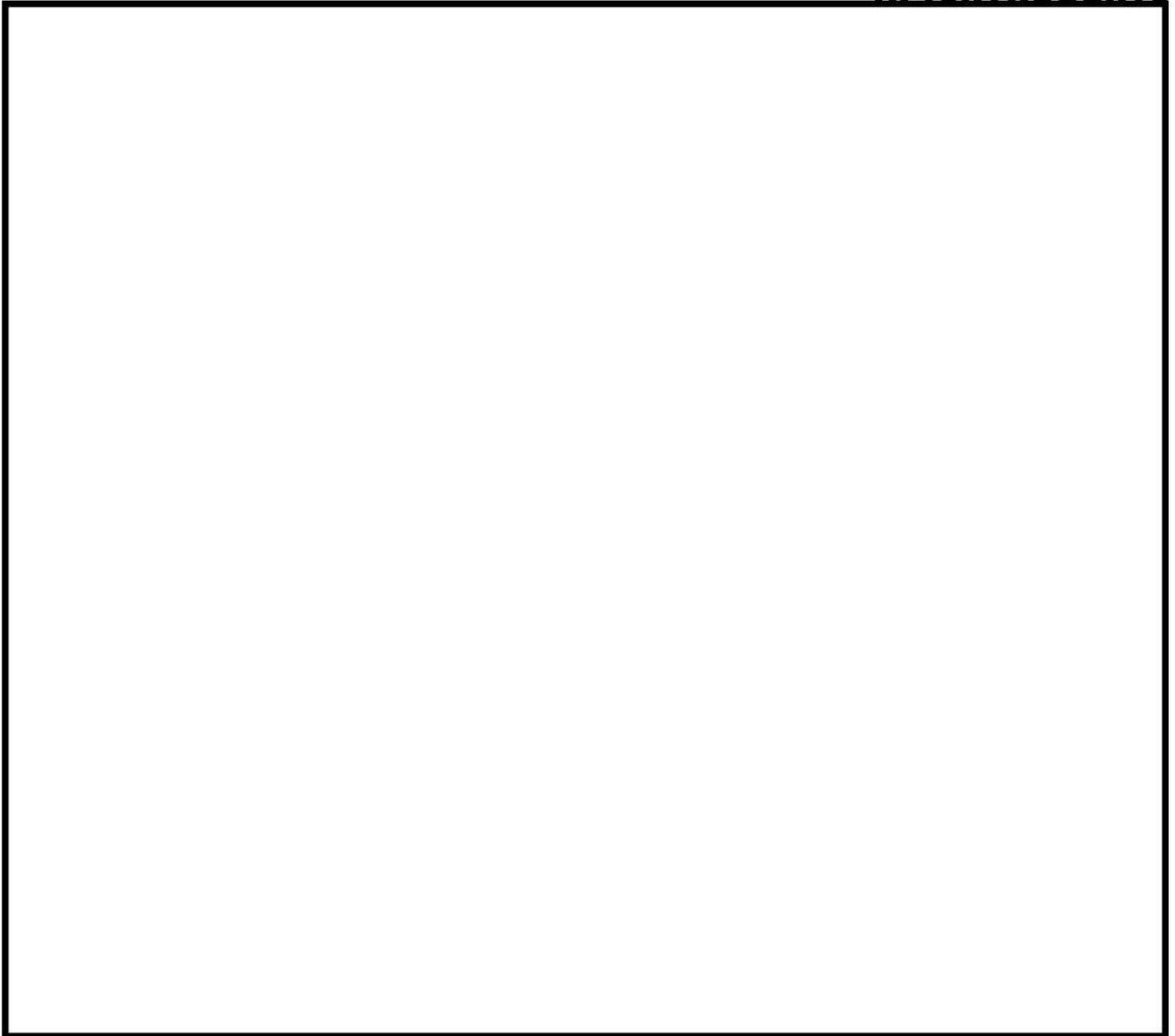
Language	Origin	Implications
Korean	<p>The Korean script we know today, Hangeul, draws origin from previous Korean va[]. The script revolved around phonetic scripts such as <i>idu</i> and <i>gugyeol</i>.</p> <p>To improve li[], King Sejong sought to create a simpler, alphabetic system. With the help of his Jade Scholars, Hangeul was invented, drawing ins[] from Chinese, as evident from the square structure of syllables.</p> <p>Much like Chinese, numerous words share a pro[], and meaning can only be gl[] through context of compounded words.</p>	<p>Learning the language is con[] easier, as students can be confident in their ability to read any syllable, given their kn[] of the alphabet. The difficulty lies in knowing which groups of syllables are me[] to be together.</p>

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Language	Origin	Implications
<p>Latin</p>	<p>Latin draws from 'four Latins', spoken before the birth of R[]. The origin of the language of Latin is steeped heavily in m[], with figures of Janus and Saturn featuring in it. As indicated, though the claim is that Latin ex[] before Rome, the earliest written work in Latin dates back to the 3rd century BC, some four hundred years after the fo[] of Rome.</p>	<p>Besides laying the foundation for ro[] languages as mentioned, the Latin alphabet is also the most commonly used today. Based on Etruscan (Greek) alphabets, the Romans also adapted the s[] to read left to right, as opposed to right to left.</p> <p>The Latin le[] is so great that even after the 'death' of its language, it has been re[] through academics poring through old texts. Indeed, Latin is still common in fields such as biology (in official names) and law (habeas corpus and other legal terms). Latin is even used in d[] life, such as ante me[] (a.m. which means 'before noon') and emeritus (veteran).</p>
<p>Arabic</p>	<p>Arabic is today spoken by over 1.7 billion Muslims, and can be tr[] to be the p[]-language for similar languages such as Malay, Hindi and Ta[].</p> <p>Classical Arabic, in which the Quran was written originated in the 6th century as a poetic language shared between di[] of the area. It attracted artists and orators alike.</p> <p>With the later spread of Islam, Arabic gained pro[] in the medieval world from Spain to the Far East. As by the Dark Ages many Latin speakers had become il[], it would be Islamic scholars translating Greco-Roman texts that would p[] the way for further translation to European languages, arguably paving the way for the Renaissance.</p>	<p>Counting itself amongst the six official languages of the United Nations, Arabic maintains a strong gl[] influence, further strengthened by being a co[] language among Muslims around the world.</p>

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A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for students to write their afterthoughts.