



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

CLASSICAL TRIPOS Part II
Group E Language

Friday 2 June 2006 9 to 12

Paper E1

ELEMENTS OF COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

*Answer **three** questions.*

Credit will be given for relevant plans and sketches.

Candidates who do not write legibly may find themselves at a grave disadvantage.

Irrelevance will be penalised.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 Page Booklet x 1

Rough Work Pad x 1

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

None

**You may not start to read the questions
printed on the subsequent pages of this
question paper until instructed that you
may do so by the Invigilator**

1 “The comparative method does not allow for a phonetic interpretation of linguistic reconstructions.” Do you agree?

2 Why do scholars think that sound change is exceptionless?

3 Explain the importance of four of the following pairs for the reconstruction of PIE laryngeals:

(a) Greek θυγάτηρ ‘daughter’	Vedic <i>duhitár-</i> ‘daughter’
(b) Greek ἔρυθρός ‘red’	Latin <i>ruber</i> ‘red’
(c) Greek δοτός ‘given’	Latin <i>datus</i> ‘given’
(d) Greek ζυγόν ‘yoke’	Latin <i>iugum</i> ‘yoke’
(e) Greek ἄημι ‘I blow’	Hittite <i>ḫuwant-</i> ‘wind’
(f) Vedic <i>paṛáca</i> ‘I cooked’	Vedic <i>paṛáca</i> ‘he/she cooked’
(g) Greek ἀνήρ ‘man’	Vedic <i>súnara-</i> ‘having good men’
(h) Old Latin <i>siēs</i> ‘may you be’	Latin <i>sīmus</i> ‘may we be’
(i) Vedic <i>krīṇāmi</i> ‘I buy’	Vedic <i>krīṇīmáh</i> ‘we buy’

4 **Either** (a) ‘Late PIE had eight paradigmatic cases.’ Discuss.

Or (b) How do you explain the existence of a distinct set of endings for the perfect in PIE?

5 ‘It is much easier to reconstruct a comparative than a superlative for PIE.’ Do you agree?

6 Discuss the significance of **three** of the following pairs of words for Indo-European morphological comparison:

(a) Latin <i>Iuppiter</i>	Vedic <i>dyaúh pitá</i>
(b) Latin <i>arātor</i>	Greek ἀροτήρ
(c) Latin <i>lupī</i>	Greek λύκοιο
(d) Latin <i>sequitur</i>	Greek ἔπεται
(e) Latin <i>nauibus</i>	Greek ναῦφι
(f) Greek κύκλοι	Greek κύκλα

7 Can the reconstruction of the PIE lexicon reveal anything to us about the likely homelands of its speakers or their social organisation?

8 Comment on the following Vedic passage, selecting elements of importance for the reconstruction of PIE nominal **and/or** verbal morphology:

*anamīvāsa īlayā mādanto,
mitájñavo várimann ā pṛthivyāḥ,
Ādityāsya vratám upakṣiyánto,
vayám Mitrásya sumatáu siāma.*

*ayám Mitró namasíah suśévo,
rájā suksatró ajaniṣṭa vedhāḥ:
tásya vayám sumatáu yajñíyasya,
ápi bhadré saumanasé siāma.*

END OF PAPER