UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CLASSICAL TRIPOS   Part II
Group E   Language

Friday 1 June 2007   9 to 12

Paper E1

ELEMENTS OF COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

Answer **three** *questions.*

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   **Either** (*a*) 'Establishing sets of correspondences is the sole aim of linguistic comparison.' Do you agree?

       Or (*b*) Why do scholars think that sound change is exceptionless?

2   What are the main areas of difficulty in the reconstruction of the PIE stop system? How successful do you judge attempts at solving these problems to be?

3   'Reconstructing a laryngeal is legitimate only in those instances where Hittite shows a *ḫ*.' Do you agree?

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

       Or (*b*) Why have comparative philologists paid so much attention to the perfect when reconstructing the PIE verbal system?

5   Explain the significance of any **four** of the following pairs for the reconstruction of comparison of adjectives for PIE.

(*a*) Latin *maior*	Greek μείζων
(*b*) Latin *suauissimus*	Vedic *svādiṣṭhaḥ*
(*c*) Latin *melle dulcior*	Greek μέλιτος ἡδίων
(*d*) Attic Greek ἐλάττους	Ionic Greek ἐλάσσονες
(*e*) Latin *dexter*	Greek δεξιτερός
(*f*) Latin *ultimus*	Greek ὑπέρτατος

6   How many grammatical numbers should we reconstruct for PIE?

7   Is a lexical reconstruction of PIE possible? Illustrate your answer with examples.

8   Comment on the syntax of the following Vedic passage, concentrating on elements of importance for the syntactic reconstruction of PIE:

Agníḥ pūrvebhir ŕṣibhir
íḷio nūnatair utá,
sá devāṁ éhá vakṣati.

Ágne, yáṁ yajñám adhvaráṁ
viśvátaḥ paribhūr ási,
sá íd devéṣu gachati.

úpa tvāgne divédive,
dóṣāvastar, dhiyā́ vayám,
námo bháranta émasi.

END OF PAPER