Pembroke College, Cambridge

Classical Languages Aptitude Test for 4-year course applicants

Specimen paper (Time: 1 hour)

The indigenous language of Hawaii is Hawaiian, a Polynesian language belonging to the Austronesian language family. In the following examples, you will find seven English sentences with their Hawaiian translation:

He has seven older brothers.
 Mary has one brother.
 He has one younger brother.
 Mary has no older sisters.
 John has one sister.
 I have one canoe.
 Thiku ona kaikuaana.
 Ekahi ona kaikaina.
 Aohe o Mele kaikuaana.
 Ekahi o Keone kaikuahine.
 Ekahi ou waa.
 Ekahi ou waa.
 Ehiku ona kaikaina.

Tasks

- 1. Assess what each of the Hawaiian words means.
- 2. On the basis of what you can see, how would you characterise the main differences between English and Hawaiian?
- 3. What do the following Hawaiian sentences mean?
- a) Aohe ou kaikuaana.
- b) Aohe ou kaikuahine.
- 4. A lady from Oxford had a look at the task and then tried to translate three more English sentences into Hawaiian:

a) I have no sisters.
b) John has one brother.
c) She has seven older brothers.

Aohe ou kaikuahine.
Ekahi o Keone kaikunane.
Ehiku ona kaikuaana.

In each of these, the lady made a mistake: in one sentence there is a grammatical mistake while the other two are correct Hawaiian but not good translations of the English. Correct the mistake and say what the two correct Hawaiian sentences really mean.