

**Language Family Handout**  
**M. Robinson**

**Sample AP Exam Language Test Question:**

- Q. Which of the following correctly sequences the continuum from language family to dialect?
- (A) Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Arabic, Berber
  - (B) Sino-Tibetan, Sinitic, Mandarin, Chinese
  - (C) Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Hindi, Bengali
  - (D) Indo-European, Baltic-Slavic, Russian, Ukrainian
  - (E) Indo-European, Germanic, English, Midland-Northern

**Complete the path for the following language / dialects:**

*Example: Harauti, Hindi, Indic (Sanskrit), Indo-Iranian, Indo-European*

1. Appalachian dialect
2. Bravarian dialect
3. Hausa
4. Danish
5. Serbo-Croatian

**Complete a path for the following language families:**

*Example: Indo-European, Celtic, Gaulish, Irish*

1. Sino-Tibetan
2. Niger-Congo
3. Afro-Asiatic
4. Indo-European
5. Austronesian

**Which one does not belong?**

**Directions:** Circle the one which does not belong and write in lines below the four choices the reason it does not belong.

Turkish	Arabic	English	Spanish	Punjabi
Uzbek	Berber	German	Polish	Urdu
Magyar	Hebrew	Dutch	Czech	Bengali
Tatar	Tamil	Swedish	Slovak	Persian
Romance	Indo-European	Russian	Bengali	Japanese
Burmanese	Altaic	English	Spanish	Korean
Indo-Iranian	Austronesian	Hindi	Mandarin	Caucasian
Germanic	Semeitic	Indo-European	English	Dravidian
Javanese	Finnish	Berber	Swahili	Burmese
Tagalog	Icelandic	Somali	Nilo-Saharan	Turkish
Vietnamese	Norwegian	Hausa	Yoruba	Cantonese
Malay-Indonesian	Danish	Armenian	Ibo	Thai

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Example: *Hausa, Hindi, Indic (Sanskrit), Indo-Iranian, Indo-European*

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Figure 6.8

Indo-European Branches of the Language Tree. Adapted with permission from: T. V. Gamkrelidze and V. V. Ivanov. "The Early History of Indo-European Languages," *Scientific American*, March 1990, p. 111.

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# **Appalachian dialect**



# **Appalachian dialect**



## **English**



# **Appalachian dialect**



## **English**



## **Germanic (West Germanic)**



# **Appalachian dialect**



## **English**



## **Germanic (West Germanic)**



## **Indo-European**

**Turkish  
Uzbek  
Magyar  
Kazakh**

Turkish  
Uzbek  
Magyar  
Kazakh

**Answer: Magyar is not part  
of the Altaic Family. It is  
Uralic.**