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# English Intermediate-Task Training Improves Zero-Shot Cross-Lingual Transfer Too

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## Abstract

Intermediate-task training—fine-tuning a pre-trained model on an *intermediate* task before fine-tuning again on the target task—often improves model performance substantially on language understanding tasks in monolingual English settings. We investigate whether English intermediate-task training is still helpful on *non-English* target tasks. Using nine intermediate language-understanding tasks, we evaluate intermediate-task transfer in a zero-shot cross-lingual setting on the XTREME benchmark. We see large improvements from intermediate training on the BUCC and Tatoeba sentence retrieval tasks and moderate improvements on question-answering target tasks. MNLI, SQuAD and HellaSwag achieve the best overall results as intermediate tasks, while multi-task intermediate offers small additional improvements. Using our best intermediate-task models for each target task, we obtain a 5.4 point improvement over XLM-R Large on the XTREME benchmark, setting the state of the art<sup>1</sup> as of June 2020. We also investigate continuing multilingual MLM during intermediate-task training and using machine-translated intermediate-task data, but neither consistently outperforms simply performing English intermediate-task training.

## 1 Introduction

Zero-shot cross-lingual transfer involves training a model on task data in one set of languages (or language pairs, in the case of translation) and evaluating the model on the same task in unseen languages (or pairs). In the context of natural language understanding tasks, this is generally done using a pretrained multilingual language-encoding model

such as mBERT (Devlin et al., 2019a), XLM (Conneau and Lample, 2019) or XLM-R (Conneau et al., 2020) that has been pretrained with a masked language modeling (MLM) objective on large corpora of multilingual data, fine-tune it on task data in one language, and evaluate the tuned model on the same task in other languages.

Intermediate-task training (STILTs; Phang et al., 2018) consists of fine-tuning a pretrained model on a data-rich *intermediate* task, before fine-tuning a second time on the target task. Despite its simplicity, this two-phase training setup has been shown to be helpful across a range of Transformer models and target tasks (Wang et al., 2019a; Pruksachatkun et al., 2020), at least within English settings.

In this work, we propose to use intermediate training on English tasks to improve zero-shot cross-lingual transfer performance. Starting with a pretrained multilingual language encoder, we perform intermediate-task training on one or more English tasks, then fine-tune on the target task in English, and finally evaluate zero-shot on the same task in other languages.

Intermediate-task training on English data introduces a potential issue: We train the pretrained multilingual model extensively on only English data before evaluating it on non-English target task data, potentially causing the model to lose the knowledge of the other languages that was acquired during pretraining (Kirkpatrick et al., 2017; Yogatama et al., 2019). To mitigate this issue, we experiment with mixing in multilingual MLM training updates during the intermediate-task training. In the same vein, we also conduct a case study where we machine-translate intermediate task data from English into three other languages (German, Russian and Swahili) to investigate whether intermediate training on these languages improves target task performance in the same languages.

Concretely, we use the pretrained XLM-R (Con-

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<sup>1</sup>The state of art on XTREME at the time of final publication in September 2020 is held by Fang et al. (2020), who introduce an orthogonal method.

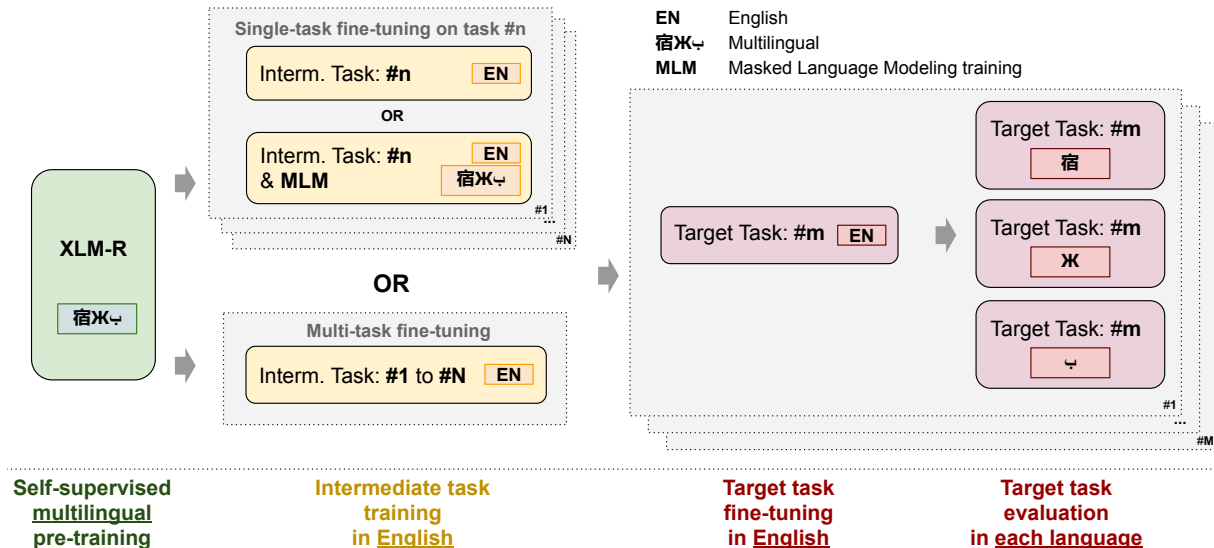


Figure 1: We investigate the benefit of injecting an additional phase of intermediate-task training on English language task data. We also consider variants using multi-task intermediate-task training, as well as continuing multilingual MLM during intermediate-task training. Best viewed in color.

neau et al., 2020) encoder and perform experiments on 9 target tasks from the recently introduced XTREME benchmark (Hu et al., 2020), which aims to evaluate zero-shot cross-lingual transfer performance across diverse target tasks across up to 40 languages each. We investigate how training on 9 different intermediate tasks, including question answering, sentence tagging, sentence completion, paraphrase detection, and natural language inference impacts zero-shot cross-lingual transfer performance. We find the following:

- Intermediate-task training on SQuAD, MNLI, and HellaSwag yields large target-task improvements of 8.2, 7.5, and 7.0 points on the development set, respectively. Multi-task intermediate-task training on all 9 tasks performs best, improving by 8.7 points.
- Applying intermediate-task training to BUCC and Tatoeba, the two sentence retrieval target tasks that have no training data of their own, yields dramatic improvements with almost every intermediate training configuration. TyDiQA shows consistent improvements with many intermediate tasks, whereas XNLI does not see benefits from intermediate training.
- Evaluating our best performing models for each target task on the XTREME benchmark yields an average improvement of **5.4 points**, setting the state of the art as of writing.

- Training on English intermediate tasks outperforms the more complex alternatives of (i) continuing multilingual MLM during intermediate-task training, and (ii) using machine-translated intermediate-task data.

## 2 Approach

We follow a three-phase approach to training, illustrated in Figure 1: (i) we use a publicly available model pretrained on raw multilingual text using MLM; (ii) we perform intermediate-task training on one or more English intermediate tasks; and (iii) we fine-tune the model on English target-task training data, before evaluating it on target-task test data in each target language.

In phase (ii), our intermediate tasks have English input data. In Section 2.4, we investigate an alternative where we machine-translate intermediate-task data to other languages, which we use for training. We experiment with both single- and multi-task training for intermediate-task training. We use target tasks from the recent XTREME benchmark for zero-shot cross-lingual transfer.

### 2.1 Intermediate Tasks

We study the effect of intermediate-task training (STILTs; Phang et al., 2018) with nine different English intermediate tasks, described in Table 1.

We choose the tasks below based to cover a variety of task formats (classification, question answering, and multiple choice) and based on evidence

Name	Train	Dev	Test	Task	Genre/Source
<b>Intermediate tasks</b>					
ANLI <sup>+</sup>	1,104,934	22,857	–	natural language inference	Misc.
MNLI	392,702	20,000	–	natural language inference	Misc.
QQP	363,846	40,430	–	paraphrase detection	Quora questions
SQuAD v2.0	130,319	11,873	–	span extraction	Wikipedia
SQuAD v1.1	87,599	10,570	–	span extraction	Wikipedia
HellaSwag	39,905	10,042	–	sentence completion	Video captions & Wikihow
CCG	38,015	5,484	–	tagging	Wall Street Journal
Cosmos QA	25,588	3,000	–	question answering	Blogs
CommonsenseQA	9,741	1,221	–	question answering	Crowdsourced responses
<b>Target tasks (XTREME Benchmark)</b>					
XNLI	392,702	2,490	5,010	natural language inference	Misc.
PAWS-X	49,401	2,000	2,000	paraphrase detection	Wiki/Quora
POS	21,253	3,974	47–20,436	tagging	Misc.
NER	20,000	10,000	1,000–10,000	named entity recognition	Wikipedia
XQuAD	87,599	34,726	1,190	question answering	Wikipedia
MLQA	87,599	34,726	4,517–11,590	question answering	Wikipedia
TyDiQA-GoldP	3,696	634	323–2,719	question answering	Wikipedia
BUCC	–	–	1,896–14,330	sentence retrieval	Wiki / news
Tatoeba	–	–	1,000	sentence retrieval	Misc.

Table 1: Overview of the intermediate tasks (top) and target tasks (bottom) in our experiments. For target tasks, *Train* and *Dev* correspond to the English training and development sets, while *Test* shows the range of sizes for the target-language test sets for each task. XQuAD, TyDiQA and Tatoeba do not have separate held-out development sets.

of positive transfer from literature. Pruksachatkun et al. (2020) shows that MNLI (of which ANLI<sup>+</sup> is a superset), CommonsenseQA, Cosmos QA and HellaSwag yield positive transfer to a range of downstream English-language tasks in intermediate training. CCG involves token-wise prediction and is similar to the POS and NER target tasks. Both versions of SQuAD are widely-used question-answering tasks, while QQP is semantically similar to sentence retrieval target tasks (BUCC and Tatoeba) as well as PAWS-X, another paraphrase-detection task.

**ANLI + MNLI + SNLI (ANLI<sup>+</sup>)** The Adversarial Natural Language Inference dataset (Nie et al., 2020) is collected using model-in-the-loop crowdsourcing as an extension of the Stanford Natural Language Inference (SNLI; Bowman et al., 2015) and Multi-Genre Natural Language Inference (MNLI; Williams et al., 2018) corpora. We follow Nie et al. (2020) and use the concatenated ANLI, MNLI and SNLI training sets, which we refer to as ANLI<sup>+</sup>. For all three natural language inference tasks, examples consist of premise and hypothesis sentence pairs, and the task is to classify the relationship between the premise and hypothesis as entailment, contradiction, or neutral.

**CCG** CCGbank (Hockenmaier and Steedman, 2007) is a conversion of the Penn Treebank into Combinatory Categorical Grammar (CCG) derivations. The CCG supertagging task that we use consists of assigning lexical categories to individual word tokens, which together roughly determine a full parse.<sup>2</sup>

**CommonsenseQA** CommonsenseQA (Talmor et al., 2019) is a multiple-choice QA dataset generated by crowdworkers based on clusters of concepts from ConceptNet (Speer et al., 2017).

**Cosmos QA** Cosmos QA is multiple-choice commonsense-based *reading comprehension* dataset (Huang et al., 2019b) generated by crowdworkers, with a focus on the causes and effects of events.

**HellaSwag** HellaSwag (Zellers et al., 2019) is a commonsense reasoning dataset framed as a four-way multiple choice task, where examples consist of an incomplete paragraph and four choices of spans, only one of which is a plausible continuation of the scenario. It is built using adversarial filtering (Zellers et al., 2018; Le Bras et al., 2020) with BERT.

<sup>2</sup>If a word is tokenized into sub-word tokens, we use the representation of the first token for the tag prediction for that word as in Devlin et al. (2019a).

**MNLI** In addition to the full ANLI<sup>+</sup>, we also consider the MNLI task as a standalone intermediate task because of its already large and diverse training set.

**QQP** Quora Question Pairs<sup>3</sup> is a paraphrase detection dataset. Examples in the dataset consist of two questions, labeled for whether they are semantically equivalent.

**SQuAD** Stanford Question Answering Dataset (Rajpurkar et al., 2016, 2018) is a question-answering dataset consisting of passages extracted from Wikipedia articles and crowd-sourced questions and answers. In SQuAD version 1.1, each example consists of a context passage and a question, and the answer is a text span from the context. SQuAD version 2.0 includes additional questions with no answers, written adversarially by crowdworkers. We use both versions in our experiments.

## 2.2 Target Tasks

We use the 9 target tasks from the XTREME benchmark, which span 40 different languages (hereafter referred to as the *target languages*): Cross-lingual Question Answering (**XQuAD**; Artetxe et al., 2020b); Multilingual Question Answering (**MLQA**; Lewis et al., 2020); Typologically Diverse Question Answering (**TyDiQA-GoldP**; Clark et al., 2020); Cross-lingual Natural Language Inference (**XNLI**; Conneau et al., 2018); Cross-lingual Paraphrase Adversaries from Word Scrambling (**PAWS-X**; Yang et al., 2019); Universal Dependencies v2.5 (Nivre et al., 2018) **POS** tagging; Wikian **NER** (Pan et al., 2017); **BUCC** (Zweigenbaum et al., 2017, 2018), which requires identifying parallel sentences from corpora of different languages; and **Tatoeba** (Artetxe and Schwenk, 2019), which involves aligning pairs of sentences with the same meaning.

Among the 9 tasks, BUCC and Tatoeba are sentence retrieval tasks that do not include training sets, and are scored based on the similarity of learned representations (see Appendix A). XQuAD, TyDiQA and Tatoeba do not include development sets separate from the test sets.<sup>4</sup> For all XTREME tasks, we follow the training and evaluation protocol described in the benchmark paper (Hu et al., 2020)

<sup>3</sup><http://data.quora.com/First-Quora-Dataset-Release-Question-Pairs>

<sup>4</sup>UDPOS also does not include development sets for Kazakh, Thai, Tagalog or Yoruba.

and their sample implementation.<sup>5</sup> Intermediate- and target-task statistics are shown in Table 1.

## 2.3 Multilingual Masked Language Modeling

Our setup requires that we train the pretrained multilingual model extensively on English data before using it on a non-English target task, which can lead to the catastrophic forgetting of other languages acquired during pretraining. We investigate whether continuing to train on the multilingual MLM pretraining objective while fine-tuning on an English intermediate task can prevent catastrophic forgetting of the target languages and improve downstream transfer performance.

We construct a multilingual corpus across the 40 languages covered by the XTREME benchmark using Wikipedia dumps from April 14, 2020 for each language and the MLM data creation scripts from the `jiant` 1.3 library (Phang et al., 2020). In total, we use 2 million sentences sampled across all 40 languages using the sampling ratio from Conneau and Lample (2019) with  $\alpha = 0.3$ .

## 2.4 Translated Intermediate-Task Training

Large-scale labeled datasets are rarely available in languages other than English for most language-understanding benchmark tasks. Given the availability of increasingly performant machine translation models, we investigate if using machine-translated intermediate-task data can improve same-language transfer performance, compared to using English intermediate task data.

We translate training and validation data of three intermediate tasks: QQP, HellaSwag, and MNLI. We choose these tasks based on the size of the training sets and because their example-level (rather than word-level) labels can be easily mapped onto translated data. To translate QQP and HellaSwag, we use pretrained machine translation models from OPUS-MT (Tiedemann and Thottingal, 2020). These models are trained with Marian-NMT (Junczys-Dowmunt et al., 2018) on OPUS data (Tiedemann, 2012), which integrates several resources depending on the available corpora for the language pair. For MNLI, we use the publicly available machine-translated training data of XNLI provided by the XNLI authors.<sup>6</sup> We use German, Russian, and Swahili translations of

<sup>5</sup><https://github.com/google-research/xtreme>

<sup>6</sup>According to Conneau et al. (2018), these data are translated using a Facebook internal machine translation system.

all three datasets instead of English data for the intermediate-task training.

### 3 Experiments and Results

#### 3.1 Models

We use the pretrained XLM-R Large model (Conneau et al., 2020) as a starting point for all our experiments, as it currently achieves state-of-the-art performance on many zero-shot cross-lingual transfer tasks.<sup>7</sup> Details on intermediate- and target-task training can be found in Appendix A.

**XLM-R** For our baseline, we directly fine-tune the pretrained XLM-R model on each target task’s English training data (if available) and evaluate zero-shot on non-English data, closely following the sample implementation for the XTREME benchmark.

**XLM-R + Intermediate Task** In our main approach, as described in Figure 1, we include an additional intermediate-task training phase before training and evaluating on the target tasks as described above.

We also experiment with multi-task training on all available intermediate tasks. We follow Rafel et al. (2020) and sample batches of examples for each task with probability  $r_m = \frac{\min(e_m, K)}{\sum(\min(e_m, K))}$ , where  $e_m$  is the number of examples in task  $m$  and the constant  $K = 2^{17}$  limits the oversampling of data-rich tasks.

**XLM-R + Intermediate Task + MLM** To incorporate multilingual MLM into the intermediate-task training, we treat multilingual MLM as an additional task for intermediate training, using the same multi-task sampling strategy as above.

**XLM-R + Translated Intermediate Task** We translate intermediate-task training and validation data for three tasks and fine-tune XLM-R on translated intermediate-task data before we train and evaluate on the target tasks.

#### 3.2 Software

Experiments were carried out using the *jiant* (Phang et al., 2020) library (2.0 alpha), based on PyTorch (Paszke et al., 2019) and Transformers (Wolf et al., 2019).

<sup>7</sup>XLM-R Large (Conneau et al., 2020) is a 550m-parameter variant of the RoBERTa masked language model (Liu et al., 2019b) trained on a cleaned version of CommonCrawl on 100 languages. Notably, Yoruba is used in the POS and NER XTREME tasks but not in the set of 100 languages.

#### 3.3 Results

We train three versions of each intermediate-task model with different random seeds. For each run, we compute the average target-task performance across languages, and report the median performance across the three random seeds.

**Intermediate-Task Training** As shown in Table 2, no single intermediate task yields positive transfer across all target tasks. The target tasks TyDiQA, BUCC and Tatoeba see consistent gains from most or all intermediate tasks. In particular, BUCC and Tatoeba, the two sentence retrieval tasks with no training data, benefit universally from intermediate-task training. PAWS-X, NER, XQuAD and MLQA also exhibit gains with the additional intermediate-task training on some intermediate tasks. On the other hand, we find generally no or negative transfer to XNLI and POS.

Among the intermediate tasks, we find that MNLI performs best; with meaningful improvements across the PAWS-X, TyDiQA, BUCC and Tatoeba tasks. ANLI<sup>+</sup>, SQuAD v1.1, SQuAD v2.0 and HellaSwag also show strong positive transfer performance: SQuAD v1.1 shows strong positive transfer across all three QA tasks, SQuAD v2.0 shows the most positive transfer to TyDiQA, while HellaSwag shows the most positive transfer to NER and BUCC tasks. ANLI<sup>+</sup> does not show any improvement over MNLI (of which it is a superset), even on XNLI for which it offers additional directly relevant training data. This mirrors negative findings from Nie et al. (2020) on NLI evaluations and Bowman et al. (2020) on transfer within English. QQP significantly improves sentence retrieval-task performance, but has broadly negative transfer to the other target tasks.<sup>8</sup> CCG also has relatively poor transfer performance, consistent with Puk-sachatkun et al. (2020).

Among our intermediate tasks, both SQuAD v1.1 and MNLI also serve as training sets for target tasks (for XNLI and XQuAD/MLQA respectively). While both tasks show overall positive transfer, SQuAD v1.1 actually markedly improves the performance in XQuAD and MLQA, while MNLI slightly hurts XNLI performance. We hypothesize that the somewhat surprising improvements to XQuAD and MLQA performance from SQuAD v1.1 arise due to the baseline XQuAD and MLQA

<sup>8</sup>For QQP, on 2 of the 3 random seeds the NER model performed extremely poorly, leading to the large negative transfer of -45.4.

		Target tasks									
Metric	XNLI	PAWS-X	POS	NER	XQuAD	MLQA	TyDiQA	BUCC	Tatoeba	Avg.	
# langs.	acc.	acc.	F1	F1	F1/EM	F1/EM	F1/EM	F1	acc.	-	-
	15	7	33	40	11	7	9	5	37		
<b>XLM-R</b>	<b>80.1</b>	86.5	75.7	62.8	76.1/60.0	70.1/51.5	65.6/48.2	71.5	31.0	67.2	
Without MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	-0.8	-0.0	-1.4	-3.5	-1.1/-0.5	-0.6/-0.8	-0.6/-3.0	+19.9	+48.2	+6.6
	MNLI	-1.2	+1.4	-0.7	+0.5	-0.3/-0.1	+0.2/+0.2	-1.0/-1.6	+20.0	+48.8	+7.5
	QQP	-4.4	-4.8	-6.5	-45.4	-3.8/-3.8	-3.9/-4.4	-11.1/-10.2	+17.1	+49.5	-1.5
	SQuADv1.1	-1.9	+1.2	-0.8	-0.4	<u>+1.8/+2.5</u>	<u>+2.2/+2.6</u>	+9.7/+10.8	+18.9	+41.3	+8.1
	SQuADv2	-1.6	<u>+1.9</u>	-1.1	+0.8	-0.5/+0.7	-0.4/+0.1	<b>+10.4/+11.3</b>	+19.3	+43.4	+8.2
	HellaSwag	-7.1	+1.8	-0.7	+1.6	-0.0/+0.5	-0.1/+0.2	-0.0/-1.0	<u>+20.3</u>	+47.6	+7.0
	CCG	-2.6	-3.4	-2.0	-1.5	-1.5/-1.3	-1.6/-1.5	-2.8/-6.2	+11.7	+41.9	+4.1
	CosmosQA	-2.1	-0.3	-1.4	-1.5	-0.9/-1.3	-1.5/-2.0	+0.5/-0.6	+19.2	+43.9	+6.1
	CSQA	-2.9	-2.8	-1.7	-1.6	-1.0/-1.8	-1.0/-0.6	+3.5/+2.9	+18.1	+48.6	+6.5
	Multi-task	<b>-0.9</b>	+1.7	-1.0	<u>+1.8</u>	+0.3/+0.9	+0.2/+0.5	+5.8/+6.0	+19.6	<b>+49.9</b>	<b>+8.7</b>
With MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	-1.1	+1.4	<u>+0.0</u>	+0.4	-1.9/-1.7	-0.7/-0.6	+0.9/+0.5	+18.6	+46.2	+7.1
	MNLI	-0.7	+1.6	-1.6	+1.0	-0.7/+0.1	+0.4/+0.8	-1.8/-3.2	+17.1	+44.3	+6.6
	QQP	-1.3	-1.1	-2.4	-0.9	-0.3/-0.2	+0.0/+0.2	-1.6/-4.2	+14.4	+39.8	+5.0
	SQuADv1.1	-2.6	+0.3	-2.0	-0.9	<u>+0.2/+1.6</u>	+0.1/+1.1	+8.5/+9.5	+16.0	+40.3	+6.8
	SQuADv2	-1.7	<u>+2.1</u>	-1.4	+1.0	-0.8/+0.1	-0.8/-0.5	+8.3/+8.9	+15.6	+31.3	+6.1
	HellaSwag	-3.3	+2.0	-0.7	+0.8	-0.8/-0.0	+0.1/+0.6	+0.3/+1.0	+6.3	+22.3	+3.1
	CCG	-1.0	-1.3	-1.2	-1.9	-1.9/-2.2	-2.1/-2.6	-5.5/-6.2	+8.8	+36.1	+3.3
	CosmosQA	-1.0	-1.0	-1.6	-3.8	-3.1/-3.3	-3.7/-4.2	-0.6/-3.2	+15.5	+42.7	+4.7
	CSQA	<u>-0.5</u>	+0.3	-1.0	-0.7	-0.9/-1.0	-0.7/-0.6	+2.1/+0.4	+11.6	+17.2	+2.9
	<b>XTREME Benchmark Scores<sup>†</sup></b>										
XLM-R (Hu et al., 2020)	79.2	86.4	72.6	<b>65.4</b>	76.6/60.8	71.6/53.2	65.1/45.0	66.0	57.3	68.1	
XLM-R (Ours)	79.5	86.2	74.0	62.6	76.1/60.0	70.2/51.2	65.6/48.2	64.5	31.0	64.8	
<b>Our Best Models<sup>‡</sup></b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>74.4</b>	64.0	<b>78.7/63.3</b>	<b>72.4/53.7</b>	<b>76.0/59.5</b>	<b>71.9</b>	<b>81.2</b>	<b>73.5</b>	
Human (Hu et al., 2020)	92.8	97.5	97.0	-	91.2/82.3	91.2/82.3	90.1/-	-	-	-	

Table 2: Intermediate-task training results. We compute the average target task performance across all languages, and report the median over 3 separate runs with different random seeds. Multi-task experiments use all intermediate tasks. We underline the best results per target task with and without intermediate MLM co-training, and bold-face the best overall scores for each target task. <sup>†</sup>: XQuAD, TyDiQA and Tatoeba do not have held-out test data and are scored using development sets in the benchmark. <sup>‡</sup>: Results obtained with our best-performing intermediate task configuration for each target task, selected based on the development set. The results for individual languages can be found in Appendix B.

models being under-trained. For all target-task fine-tuning, we follow the sample implementation for target task training in the XTREME benchmark, which trains on SQuAD for only 2 epochs. This may explain why an additional phase of SQuAD training can improve performance. Conversely, the MNLI-to-XNLI model might be over-trained, given the MNLI training set is approximately 4 times as large as the SQuAD v1.1 training set.

**Multi-Task Training** Multi-task training on all intermediate tasks attains the best overall average performance on the XTREME tasks, and has the most positive transfer to NER and Tatoeba tasks. However, the overall margin of improvement over the best single intermediate-task model is relatively small (only 0.3, over MNLI), while requiring significantly more training resources. Many single intermediate-task models also outperform the multi-task model in individual target tasks. Wang et al. (2019b) also found more mixed results from a having an initial phase of multi-task training, albeit

only among English language tasks across a different set of tasks. On the other hand, multi-task training precludes the need to do intermediate-task model selection, and is a useful method for incorporating multiple, diverse intermediate tasks.

**MLM** Incorporating MLM during intermediate-task training shows no clear trend. It reduces negative transfer, as seen in the cases of CommonsenseQA and QQP, but it also tends to somewhat reduce positive transfer. The reductions in positive transfer are particularly significant for the BUCC and Tatoeba tasks, although the impact on TyDiQA is more mixed. On balance, we do not see that incorporating MLM improves transfer performance.

**XTREME Benchmark Results** At the bottom of Table 2, we show results obtained by XLM-R on the XTREME benchmark as reported by Hu et al. (2020), results obtained with our implementation of XLM-R (i.e. our baseline), and results obtained with our best models, which use intermediate-task configuration selected according

TL	Model	XNLI	PAWS-X	POS	NER	XQuAD	MLQA	TyDiQA	BUCC	Tatoeba
English	XLM-R	<b>89.3</b>	93.4	95.9	81.6	<b>86.3 / 74.2</b>	81.6 / 68.6	70.4 / 56.6	-	-
	MNLI <sub>en</sub>	-1.2	+1.6	+0.3	+2.6	-2.1 / -1.6	+1.1 / +1.4	+1.1 / +1.1	-	-
	QQP <sub>en</sub>	-3.2	-0.4	-2.2	-5.8	-4.0 / -3.6	-2.6 / -2.6	-6.2 / -5.0	-	-
	HellaSwag <sub>en</sub>	-0.8	+1.5	+0.6	+2.7	-0.2 / +1.4	+1.8 / +2.3	+1.7 / +2.5	-	-
German	XLM-R	<b>83.8</b>	88.1	88.6	78.6	77.7 / 61.2	<b>69.1 / 52.0</b>	-	77.7	63.9
	MNLI <sub>en</sub>	-0.8	+0.9	-0.1	-0.8	-0.3 / -1.0	-1.0 / -0.2	-	+16.5	+32.7
	MNLI <sub>de</sub>	-0.4	+0.5	-0.3	-0.9	+0.2 / -0.3	-2.4 / -2.0	-	+17.0	+33.7
	QQP <sub>en</sub>	-2.2	-4.2	-3.2	-7.3	-4.5 / -4.7	-6.7 / -6.4	-	+16.5	+32.6
	QQP <sub>de</sub>	-2.6	-9.1	-3.2	-22.9	-6.6 / -5.9	-7.7 / -6.6	-	+16.0	+33.5
	HellaSwag <sub>en</sub>	-0.3	+0.3	+0.1	+0.5	+1.0 / +0.2	-0.3 / +0.4	-	+16.9	+33.8
HellaSwag <sub>de</sub>	-0.2	+0.2	-0.4	-0.4	+0.2 / -0.2	-3.5 / -2.5	-	+16.3	+33.5	
Russian	XLM-R	79.2	-	<b>89.5</b>	69.3	77.7 / 59.8	-	65.4 / 43.6	79.2	42.1
	MNLI <sub>en</sub>	+0.3	-	-0.0	+0.8	+0.1 / +1.5	-	-1.5 / -4.6	+14.3	+47.1
	MNLI <sub>ru</sub>	-0.6	-	-0.3	+1.9	-0.4 / +1.3	-	+11.2 / +16.1	+13.1	+48.3
	QQP <sub>en</sub>	-0.7	-	-2.9	-18.6	-3.5 / -2.4	-	-8.1 / -5.4	+14.1	+49.5
	QQP <sub>ru</sub>	-3.0	-	-10.6	-59.1	-5.2 / -3.9	-	-14.4 / -12.1	+13.3	+46.7
	HellaSwag <sub>en</sub>	-0.9	-	-0.0	+1.4	+0.8 / +2.9	-	-4.0 / -10.6	+14.7	+49.9
HellaSwag <sub>ru</sub>	-0.3	-	-0.4	+2.8	+0.2 / +0.2	-	+8.5 / +13.2	-71.6	-23.5	
Swahili	XLM-R	<b>72.4</b>	-	-	69.8	-	-	67.2 / 48.7	-	7.9
	MNLI <sub>en</sub>	-3.0	-	-	+0.6	-	-	-0.3 / -0.2	-	+24.9
	MNLI <sub>sw</sub>	-1.1	-	-	-2.4	-	-	+13.8 / +23.4	-	+47.9
	QQP <sub>en</sub>	-2.8	-	-	-4.6	-	-	-12.7 / -12.2	-	+27.2
	QQP <sub>sw</sub>	-7.1	-	-	-32.1	-	-	-7.0 / -0.4	-	+41.8
	HellaSwag <sub>en</sub>	-0.4	-	-	+0.1	-	-	-0.9 / -0.4	-	+27.2
HellaSwag <sub>sw</sub>	-9.8	-	-	+0.4	-	-	+15.6 / +26.3	-	-0.5	

Table 3: Experiments with translated intermediate-task training and validation data evaluated on all XTREME target tasks. In each target language (TL) block, models are evaluated on a single target language. We show results for models trained on original intermediate-task training data (en) and compare it to models trained on translated data {de, ru, sw}. ‘-’ indicates that target task data is not available for that target language.

to development set performance on each target task. Based on the results in Table 2, which reflect the median over 3 runs, we pick the best intermediate-task configuration for each target task, and then choose the best model out of the 3 runs. Scores on the XTREME benchmark are computed based on the respective test sets where available, and based on development sets for target tasks without separate held-out test sets. We are generally able to replicate the best reported XLM-R baseline results, except for Tatoeba, where our implementation significantly underperforms the reported scores in Hu et al. (2020), and TyDiQA, where our implementation outperforms the reported scores. We also highlight that there is a large margin of difference between development and test set scores for BUCC—this is likely because BUCC is evaluated based on sentence retrieval over the given set of input sentences, and the test sets for BUCC are generally much larger than the development sets.

Our best models show gains in 8 out of the 9 XTREME tasks relative to both baseline implementations, attaining an average score of 73.5 across target tasks, a 5.4 point improvement over the pre-

vious best reported average score of 68.1. We set the state of the art on the XTREME benchmark as of June 2020, though Fang et al. (2020) achieve higher results and hold the state of the art using an orthogonal approach at the time of our final publication in September 2020.

### Translated Intermediate-Task Training Data

In Table 3, we show results for experiments using machine-translated intermediate-training data, and evaluated on the available target-task languages. Surprisingly, even when evaluating in-language, using target-language intermediate-task data does not consistently outperform using English intermediate-task data in any of the intermediate tasks on average.

In general, cross-lingual transfer to XNLI is negative regardless of the intermediate-task or the target language. In contrast, we observe mostly positive transfer on BUCC, and Tatoeba, with a few notable exceptions where models fail catastrophically. TyDiQA exhibits positive transfer where the intermediate- and target-task languages aligned: intermediate training on Russian or German helps TyDiQA performance in that respective language,



whereas intermediate training on English hurts non-English performance somewhat. For the remaining tasks, there appears to be little correlation between performance and the alignment of intermediate- and target-task languages. English language QQP already has mostly negative transfer to all target tasks except for BUCC and Tatoeba (see Table 2), and also shows a similar trend when translated into any of the three target languages.

We note that the quality of translations may affect the transfer performance. While validation performance on the translated intermediate tasks (Table 15) for MNLI and QQP is only slightly worse than the original English versions, the performance for the Russian and Swahili HellaSwag is much worse and close to chance. Despite this, intermediate-task training on Russian and Swahili HellaSwag improve performance on PAN-X and TyDiQA, while we see generally poor transfer performance from QQP. The interaction between translated intermediate-task data and transfer performance continues to be a complex open question. Artetxe et al. (2020a) found that translating or back-translating training data for a task can improve zero-shot cross-lingual performance for tasks such as XNLI depending on how the multilingual datasets are created. In contrast, we train on translated intermediate-task data and then fine-tune on a target task with English training data (excluding BUCC2018 and Tatoeba). The authors of the XTREME benchmark have also recently released translated versions of all the XTREME task training data, which we hope will prompt further investigation into this matter.

## 4 Related work

Sequential transfer learning using pretrained Transformer-based encoders (Phang et al., 2018) has been shown to be effective for many text classification tasks. This setup generally involves fine-tuning on a single task (Pruksachatkun et al., 2020; Vu et al., 2020) or multiple tasks (Liu et al., 2019a; Wang et al., 2019b; Raffel et al., 2020), sometimes referred to as the intermediate task(s), before fine-tuning on the target task. We build upon this line of work, focusing on intermediate-task training for improving cross-lingual transfer.

Early work on cross-lingual transfer mostly relies on the availability of parallel data, where one can perform translation (Mayhew et al., 2017) or project annotations from one language into another

(Hwa et al., 2005; Agić et al., 2016). For dependency parsing, McDonald et al. (2011) use delexicalized parsers trained on source languages and labeled training data for parsing target-language data. Agić (2017) proposes a parser selection method to select the single best parser for a target language.

For large-scale cross-lingual transfer outside NLU, Johnson et al. (2017) train a single multilingual neural machine translation system with up to 7 languages and perform zero-shot translation without explicit bridging between the source and target languages. Aharoni et al. (2019) expand this approach to cover over 100 languages in a single model. Recent works on extending pretrained Transformer-based encoders to multilingual settings show that these models are effective for cross-lingual tasks and competitive with strong monolingual models on the XNLI benchmark (Devlin et al., 2019b; Conneau and Lample, 2019; Conneau et al., 2020; Huang et al., 2019a). More recently, Artetxe et al. (2020a) showed that cross-lingual transfer performance can be sensitive to translation artifacts arising from a multilingual datasets’ creation procedure.

Finally, Pfeiffer et al. (2020) propose adapter modules that learn language and task representations for cross-lingual transfer, which allow adaptation to languages not seen during pretraining.

## 5 Conclusion

We evaluate the impact of intermediate-task training on zero-shot cross-lingual transfer. We investigate 9 intermediate tasks and how intermediate-task training impacts the zero-shot cross-lingual transfer to the 9 target tasks in the XTREME benchmark.

Overall, intermediate-task training significantly improves the performance on BUCC and Tatoeba, the two sentence retrieval target tasks in the XTREME benchmark, across almost every intermediate-task configuration. Our best models obtain 5.9 and 23.9 point gains on BUCC and Tatoeba, respectively, compared to the best available XLM-R baseline scores (Hu et al., 2020). We also observed gains in question-answering tasks, particularly using SQuAD v1.1 and v2.0 as intermediate tasks, with absolute gains of 2.1 F1 for XQuAD, 0.8 F1 for MLQA, and 10.4 for F1 TyDiQA, again over the best available baseline scores. We improve over XLM-R by 5.4 points on average on the XTREME benchmark. Additionally, we found multi-task training on all 9 intermedi-

ate tasks to slightly outperform individual intermediate training. On the other hand, we found that neither incorporating multilingual MLM into the intermediate-task training phase nor translating intermediate-task data consistently led to improved transfer performance.

While we have explored the extent to which English intermediate-task training can improve cross-lingual transfer, a clear next avenue of investigation for future work is how the choice of intermediate- and target-task languages influences transfer across different tasks.

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## A Implementation Details

### A.1 Intermediate Tasks

For intermediate-task training, we use a learning rate of  $1e-5$  without MLM, and  $5e-6$  with MLM. Hyperparameters in the Table 4 were chosen based on intermediate task validation performance in an preliminary search. We use a warmup of 10% of the total number of steps, and perform early stopping based on the first 500 development set examples of each task with a patience of 30. For CCG, where tags are assigned for each word, we use the representation of first sub-word token of each word for prediction.

Task	Batch size	# Epochs
ANLI <sup>+</sup>	24	2
MNLI	24	2
CCG	24	15
CommonsenseQA	4	10
Cosmos QA	4	15
HellaSwag	24	7
QQP	24	3
SQuAD	8	3
MLM	8	-
Multi-task	Mixed	3

Table 4: Intermediate-task training configuration.

### A.2 XTREME Benchmark Target Tasks

We follow the sample implementation for the XTREME benchmark unless otherwise stated. We use a learning rate of  $3e-6$ , and use the same optimization procedure as for intermediate tasks. Hyperparameters in the Table 5 follow the sample implementation. For POS and NER, we use the same strategy as for CCG for matching tags to tokens. For BUCC and Tatoeba, we extract the representations for each token from the 13th self-attention layer, and use the mean-pooled representation as the embedding for that example, as in the sample implementation. Similarly, we follow the sample implementation and set an optimal threshold for each language sub-task for BUCC as a similarity score cut-off for extracting parallel sentences based on the development set and applied to the test set.

We randomly initialize the corresponding output heads for each task, regardless of the similarity between intermediate and target tasks (e.g. even if both the intermediate and target tasks train on SQuAD, we randomly initialize the output head in between phases).

Task	Batch size	# Epochs
XNLI (MNLI)	4	2
PAWS-X	32	5
XQuAD (SQuAD)	16	2
MLQA (SQuAD)	16	2
TyDiQA	16	2
POS	32	10
NER	32	10
BUCC	-	-
Tatoeba	-	-

Table 5: Target-task training configuration.

## B Per-Language Results

	ar	bg	de	el	en	es	fr	hi	ru	sw	th	tr	ur	vi	zh	Avg	
XLM-R	<b>79.8</b>	82.7	<b>83.8</b>	81.3	89.3	84.4	83.7	77.3	79.2	72.4	77.1	78.9	72.6	80.0	79.6	80.1	
Without MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	77.5	82.5	82.3	80.8	87.6	83.5	<u>83.6</u>	76.5	79.1	70.4	77.3	78.0	73.5	79.2	79.3	79.4
	MNLI	78.4	<u>82.8</u>	83.0	81.3	88.2	<u>84.0</u>	<u>83.6</u>	77.2	<u>79.5</u>	69.4	77.6	77.9	73.2	79.8	79.1	79.7
	QQP	77.1	81.0	81.6	<u>81.6</u>	86.1	83.6	82.0	75.4	<u>78.5</u>	69.6	76.9	77.1	72.7	79.2	78.6	78.7
	SQuAD v2.0	77.9	81.3	81.7	<u>79.9</u>	85.6	83.5	81.8	75.5	78.5	70.6	77.2	77.2	<u>73.7</u>	78.9	<u>79.6</u>	78.9
	SQuAD v1.1	77.1	82.1	81.8	79.9	87.1	82.8	82.7	75.5	78.6	71.3	76.3	77.3	71.2	79.2	78.6	78.8
	HellaSwag	<u>78.6</u>	82.6	<u>83.5</u>	80.6	<u>88.5</u>	83.7	83.1	<u>77.4</u>	78.2	<u>72.0</u>	<u>77.4</u>	<u>78.7</u>	73.5	<u>80.0</u>	79.4	<u>79.8</u>
	CCG	77.3	81.9	81.7	79.8	88.1	82.9	83.2	75.4	78.8	69.9	76.5	76.9	71.4	79.7	78.6	78.8
	Cosmos QA	77.1	81.1	81.7	80.1	87.4	83.2	81.7	74.3	77.7	<u>72.0</u>	75.2	76.7	71.1	78.3	78.4	78.4
	CSQA	77.3	80.8	81.9	80.0	87.5	83.5	82.5	76.3	78.4	70.6	76.3	77.5	72.5	79.6	78.5	78.9
	Multi-task	76.9	82.2	82.9	81.0	88.5	84.4	82.5	75.8	79.1	71.1	77.1	79.1	72.0	79.6	79.2	79.4
With MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	78.5	82.8	<b>83.8</b>	81.5	89.2	84.1	82.5	76.5	79.2	72.7	77.4	78.6	72.7	80.7	80.1	80.0
	MNLI	78.0	82.9	83.1	81.1	88.8	84.3	83.4	76.7	<b>80.3</b>	72.2	<b>78.4</b>	79.3	73.4	80.5	80.2	80.2
	QQP	78.0	81.7	83.3	80.8	88.6	<b>84.5</b>	82.9	75.9	78.3	72.2	77.7	78.6	72.7	79.9	78.9	79.6
	SQuAD v2.0	77.5	82.8	83.3	80.4	88.8	83.6	82.7	76.0	79.6	71.6	77.0	78.7	72.9	79.9	78.9	79.6
	SQuAD v1.1	77.9	81.7	82.2	79.7	87.0	82.8	82.1	74.4	78.4	71.2	76.6	78.1	71.3	79.0	78.6	78.7
	HellaSwag	79.3	<b>83.5</b>	83.7	<b>81.8</b>	<b>89.6</b>	<b>84.5</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>78.2</b>	79.9	72.9	78.1	<b>80.1</b>	<b>74.5</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>80.7</b>	<b>80.8</b>
	CCG	77.9	82.5	82.4	80.8	87.1	83.8	82.6	76.6	78.9	72.0	76.7	78.2	72.2	80.2	78.4	79.4
	Cosmos QA	78.1	82.7	82.7	80.4	87.6	83.9	82.9	76.2	79.5	<b>73.7</b>	77.8	79.0	72.7	80.4	79.6	79.8
	CSQA	79.0	83.4	83.7	81.2	89.0	83.8	83.3	76.9	79.9	72.3	78.0	79.1	73.3	80.4	80.6	80.2

Table 6: Full XNLI Results

	de	en	es	fr	ja	ko	zh	Avg	
XLM-R	88.1	93.4	89.2	89.3	81.8	81.8	82.0	86.5	
Without MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	88.0	94.1	89.6	90.7	82.0	81.9	87.0	
	MNLI	89.0	95.0	90.7	90.9	82.9	83.8	84.2	88.1
	QQP	83.9	93.0	87.7	88.7	79.2	78.6	79.7	84.4
	SQuADv2.0	88.9	<u>95.2</u>	<b>91.7</b>	<u>91.3</u>	84.7	84.5	<b>85.4</b>	<u>88.8</u>
	SQuADv1.1	<u>89.4</u>	94.2	91.1	91.1	83.8	83.5	83.9	88.1
	HellaSwag	88.4	95.0	90.2	91.1	<u>84.8</u>	<u>84.6</u>	84.5	88.4
	CCG	83.5	92.3	86.5	88.1	78.0	77.0	78.6	83.5
	Cosmos QA	88.4	93.8	90.4	90.3	84.3	84.3	85.0	88.1
	CSQA	85.9	93.7	88.6	89.8	81.7	80.4	81.5	86.0
	Multi-task	89.0	95.0	90.2	91.1	83.8	83.5	85.5	88.3
With MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	88.1	94.5	90.1	90.4	84.0	84.2	84.2	87.9
	MNLI	90.1	<b>95.5</b>	91.3	91.3	84.4	84.1	84.5	88.7
	QQP	88.6	94.3	89.8	90.6	81.7	82.8	82.3	87.1
	SQuADv2.0	88.9	95.0	<b>91.7</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>85.2</b>	83.9	84.7	88.8
	SQuADv1.1	89.0	93.8	90.3	88.9	82.7	82.2	82.2	87.0
	HellaSwag	<b>90.3</b>	95.0	91.0	90.5	84.9	<b>85.9</b>	<u>84.8</u>	<b>88.9</b>
	CCG	87.5	93.3	88.3	88.4	81.5	81.2	81.3	85.9
	Cosmos QA	88.1	94.0	89.4	90.0	82.5	82.4	82.3	87.0
	CSQA	88.7	94.1	89.1	89.8	82.5	82.9	82.2	87.0

Table 7: Full PAWS-X Results

		af	ar	bg	de	el	en	es	et	eu	fa	fi	fr	he	hi	hu	id	it
	XLM-R	87.7	56.3	87.9	88.6	85.6	95.9	89.8	87.6	72.8	70.0	84.9	<b>65.5</b>	68.1	73.2	81.3	<b>81.7</b>	88.8
Without MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	87.9	57.6	88.3	88.8	85.6	95.7	89.4	87.3	73.4	<u>72.0</u>	84.9	<u>65.4</u>	70.9	70.1	<b>82.9</b>	81.0	88.3
	MNLI	87.9	56.6	87.8	88.5	84.6	96.2	88.9	86.9	70.4	<u>69.5</u>	84.1	51.8	70.1	72.4	81.2	81.1	88.6
	QQP	83.9	52.6	86.0	85.3	81.7	93.7	87.7	82.1	70.1	<u>66.7</u>	79.3	62.5	61.1	62.5	78.3	79.2	86.8
	SQuADv2.0	87.5	58.0	88.0	87.9	83.6	96.2	88.7	86.6	69.9	69.1	83.9	51.8	<b>71.3</b>	69.7	82.6	81.0	89.0
	SQuADv1.1	87.7	<u>58.1</u>	<b>88.6</b>	88.4	85.8	95.7	<u>89.4</u>	87.2	73.4	70.1	84.3	65.1	<u>70.9</u>	72.2	81.8	<u>81.3</u>	88.5
	HellaSwag	88.3	57.3	88.5	88.7	85.6	<b>96.5</b>	89.2	87.6	72.6	69.5	84.7	52.5	69.6	74.8	81.6	81.1	<b>89.6</b>
	CCG	88.2	56.2	86.5	<b>89.4</b>	<u>85.9</u>	95.8	87.8	<u>87.9</u>	73.7	69.1	<b>85.6</b>	53.5	68.8	75.1	81.8	80.8	<b>86.8</b>
	Cosmos QA	<u>88.4</u>	56.4	86.2	<u>88.0</u>	<u>84.4</u>	95.9	88.9	87.1	73.5	71.2	<u>84.5</u>	65.3	67.5	<u>75.6</u>	81.1	81.0	88.8
	CSQA	87.1	55.7	87.6	87.8	85.8	95.4	88.6	87.3	<b>76.4</b>	69.3	84.7	64.6	65.3	67.6	81.2	80.9	86.6
	Multi-task	87.7	58.5	89.7	88.8	85.2	96.3	89.4	87.1	67.7	71.6	84.7	52.7	71.0	68.2	81.5	80.7	89.8
With MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	87.9	<b>58.4</b>	88.3	88.9	<b>86.3</b>	95.8	<b>90.3</b>	87.8	<b>76.4</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<u>85.1</u>	53.3	69.0	72.5	<u>82.4</u>	80.7	88.6
	MNLI	<b>89.1</b>	57.2	87.6	88.6	85.1	96.2	88.8	88.0	73.4	69.5	<u>85.1</u>	52.7	68.0	76.9	80.6	80.4	88.7
	QQP	87.7	56.3	87.6	88.6	84.2	95.9	89.6	<b>88.1</b>	76.3	71.2	84.5	59.7	67.5	<b>78.0</b>	81.8	81.2	88.8
	SQuADv2.0	88.5	57.8	87.8	88.5	85.8	96.2	89.0	86.1	74.7	71.0	84.6	49.1	68.2	73.2	81.4	80.8	85.8
	SQuADv1.1	88.0	55.1	<b>88.6</b>	88.9	85.3	95.7	89.7	85.7	73.5	70.2	83.5	64.5	66.7	74.4	79.7	<u>81.5</u>	86.8
	HellaSwag	88.3	58.0	87.8	88.3	85.7	<u>96.4</u>	87.2	86.8	74.0	70.2	84.3	51.5	<u>70.9</u>	74.8	79.9	81.0	88.4
	CCG	88.1	54.5	86.7	<u>89.2</u>	<b>86.3</b>	95.9	87.5	87.6	77.2	71.4	84.0	64.4	66.3	76.7	81.1	81.4	89.0
	Cosmos QA	87.5	57.8	87.7	<u>88.6</u>	85.5	95.8	89.5	<b>88.1</b>	71.7	70.1	84.9	64.4	68.9	76.6	81.0	80.0	88.3
	CSQA	87.6	55.9	87.4	88.7	85.1	95.6	88.5	87.2	<b>76.4</b>	70.4	84.2	<u>65.1</u>	68.2	68.3	81.6	81.2	88.4
			ja	kk	ko	mr	nl	pt	ru	ta	te	th	tl	tr	ur	vi	yo	zh
	XLM-R	31.9	-	50.4	80.0	90.1	<b>90.2</b>	89.5	67.1	<b>90.0</b>	-	-	76.0	65.6	56.4	-	40.9	75.7
Without MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	19.4	-	50.7	79.6	90.1	89.7	<b>90.0</b>	69.2	86.6	-	-	75.0	66.2	55.3	-	27.2	74.8
	MNLI	38.1	-	50.7	79.1	90.4	89.7	89.4	69.4	86.7	-	-	74.8	67.6	54.4	-	<b>48.6</b>	<u>75.4</u>
	QQP	6.2	-	45.9	73.5	88.4	88.2	86.6	65.1	81.7	-	-	71.5	59.1	54.5	-	12.0	70.1
	SQuADv2.0	<b>39.4</b>	-	<u>50.8</u>	80.5	90.3	<u>90.1</u>	89.1	68.5	86.1	-	-	74.1	60.6	54.1	-	45.3	75.0
	SQuADv1.1	30.9	-	49.7	78.7	<b>90.5</b>	89.7	89.3	66.8	84.9	-	-	74.4	65.4	56.2	-	37.7	75.3
	HellaSwag	31.1	-	50.5	83.7	90.1	89.8	89.5	<b>69.7</b>	86.2	-	-	74.2	67.4	54.5	-	35.1	75.2
	CCG	17.8	-	50.3	81.0	90.1	88.0	88.9	66.8	88.4	-	-	75.9	70.7	55.5	-	23.1	74.1
	Cosmos QA	16.4	-	50.3	77.7	89.9	89.7	89.4	67.9	88.1	-	-	<b>76.5</b>	<u>69.2</u>	<u>56.3</u>	-	23.2	74.4
	CSQA	32.4	-	49.3	<u>82.8</u>	89.4	88.5	88.5	66.9	86.3	-	-	74.5	63.5	56.0	-	29.6	74.5
	Multi-task	36.4	-	50.7	79.6	90.0	89.8	88.9	68.4	86.2	-	-	74.4	62.2	55.5	-	44.3	75.1
With MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	<u>39.0</u>	-	51.2	80.7	90.2	<b>90.0</b>	89.8	68.7	87.6	-	-	<u>76.4</u>	66.2	56.7	-	<u>45.7</u>	<b>76.1</b>
	MNLI	30.1	-	51.0	80.1	90.0	88.8	89.1	<u>68.8</u>	85.5	-	-	75.1	69.6	55.4	-	38.4	75.1
	QQP	27.6	-	50.8	81.0	90.1	89.5	89.4	<u>67.2</u>	<u>88.0</u>	-	-	76.2	<b>70.3</b>	56.5	-	34.0	75.4
	SQuADv2.0	35.3	-	51.0	80.2	89.9	88.1	89.3	67.1	84.3	-	-	75.5	68.8	56.9	-	39.0	75.0
	SQuADv1.1	16.3	-	49.7	79.4	90.2	<u>90.0</u>	89.2	68.0	83.3	-	-	75.8	64.6	<b>57.3</b>	-	19.0	73.8
	HellaSwag	35.4	-	50.9	78.4	90.0	<u>87.9</u>	89.3	68.7	86.4	-	-	75.4	69.3	54.8	-	43.6	75.3
	CCG	25.7	-	50.7	<b>86.1</b>	89.8	88.8	88.4	68.0	86.6	-	-	76.2	68.2	55.5	-	23.9	75.0
	Cosmos QA	16.5	-	51.0	80.9	89.7	88.9	89.0	67.4	87.9	-	-	76.3	70.1	56.0	-	19.6	74.5
	CSQA	30.8	-	<b>51.8</b>	80.5	<b>90.5</b>	89.6	89.0	66.8	86.5	-	-	74.8	61.9	56.3	-	31.3	74.8

Table 8: Full POS Results. kk, th, tl and yo do not have development set data.





		ar	de	en	es	hi	vi	zh	Avg
	XLM-R	62.7 / 42.4	69.1 / 52.0	81.6 / 68.6	72.2 / 53.0	68.0 / 50.7	69.5 / 47.6	67.9 / 46.2	70.1 / 51.5
Without MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	64.1 / 43.9	66.8 / 49.8	82.5 / 69.4	71.9 / 52.6	69.2 / 50.5	70.5 / 49.7	66.9 / 44.8	70.3 / 51.5
	MNLI	64.2 / 43.5	68.1 / 51.8	82.7 / 70.0	73.7 / 54.8	70.3 / 52.7	68.9 / 49.5	67.1 / 46.0	70.7 / 52.6
	QQP	60.5 / 39.7	62.4 / 45.5	79.0 / 66.0	70.7 / 51.6	62.9 / 45.4	67.0 / 47.6	63.5 / 41.1	66.6 / 48.1
	SQuADv2.0	66.1 / 45.3	68.2 / 50.2	83.5 / <b>71.1</b>	73.6 / 55.4	68.5 / 51.5	71.7 / <b>52.4</b>	68.2 / 46.4	71.4 / 53.2
	SQuADv1.1	<b>67.4 / 46.4</b>	<b>69.6 / 52.9</b>	<b>84.1 / 70.8</b>	<b>75.3 / 56.8</b>	<b>72.5 / 54.8</b>	70.9 / 51.7	<b>69.4 / 47.0</b>	<b>72.8 / 54.4</b>
	HellaSwag	64.2 / 43.1	68.8 / 52.3	83.5 / 70.9	73.0 / 53.6	69.2 / 51.7	69.8 / 48.7	68.5 / 46.2	71.0 / 52.4
	CCG	62.7 / 41.6	67.5 / 50.4	82.9 / 70.0	72.9 / 54.6	66.1 / 50.1	68.9 / 48.9	66.4 / 45.6	69.6 / 51.6
	Cosmos QA	63.8 / 43.9	68.2 / 50.4	82.2 / 69.0	72.9 / 54.2	69.4 / 51.7	70.8 / 50.1	66.6 / 44.4	70.6 / 52.0
	CSQA	64.0 / 43.9	68.8 / 52.0	83.4 / 70.6	75.2 / 55.0	69.1 / 51.5	<b>72.6 / 52.1</b>	69.2 / 46.6	71.8 / 53.1
	Multi-task	65.1 / 44.1	70.2 / 54.9	82.9 / 69.4	75.2 / 56.4	70.1 / 52.3	72.0 / 51.7	68.6 / 46.2	72.0 / 53.6
With MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	62.7 / 41.8	68.5 / 51.4	82.1 / 69.0	73.6 / 54.2	66.7 / 48.7	69.5 / 49.3	66.2 / 44.2	69.9 / 51.2
	MNLI	62.9 / 41.0	69.2 / <b>53.5</b>	82.6 / 69.4	74.3 / 54.4	68.0 / 50.7	70.5 / 50.5	68.0 / 45.8	70.8 / 52.2
	QQP	64.6 / 44.9	68.1 / 51.2	83.2 / 70.4	74.0 / 55.6	70.4 / 53.1	69.1 / 49.3	68.3 / 45.6	71.1 / 52.9
	SQuADv2.0	64.7 / 43.9	66.6 / 51.0	82.1 / 69.6	73.1 / 55.2	70.2 / 53.1	69.0 / 51.1	68.6 / <b>47.2</b>	70.6 / 53.0
	SQuADv1.1	64.4 / 43.3	68.0 / 50.0	83.1 / 70.0	75.2 / 56.2	68.5 / 51.9	71.2 / 51.9	66.8 / 44.6	71.0 / 52.6
	HellaSwag	64.7 / 44.3	68.4 / 52.3	83.3 / 70.4	73.9 / 55.0	69.5 / 52.1	69.9 / 47.9	67.7 / 44.8	71.1 / 52.4
	CCG	60.4 / 41.4	66.5 / 50.8	81.8 / 68.6	72.8 / 54.2	66.2 / 48.7	67.7 / 46.2	64.5 / 44.6	68.6 / 50.7
	Cosmos QA	63.4 / 43.1	69.0 / 51.0	81.9 / 68.9	72.3 / 53.6	66.3 / 48.9	69.1 / 47.6	66.0 / 45.2	69.7 / 51.2
	CSQA	64.3 / 43.7	69.5 / 51.8	82.6 / 69.4	73.4 / 54.4	68.0 / 50.7	70.9 / 48.7	67.7 / 45.8	70.9 / 52.1

Table 11: Full MLQA Results

		ar	bn	en	fi	id	ko	ru	sw	te	Avg
	XLM-R	64.5 / 46.9	59.5 / 41.6	70.4 / 56.6	64.9 / 49.2	75.1 / 59.8	54.7 / 39.5	65.4 / 43.6	67.2 / 48.7	68.8 / 48.3	65.6 / 48.2
Without MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	67.3 / 47.8	54.9 / 37.2	71.0 / 57.3	64.7 / 47.8	74.9 / 57.5	54.5 / 41.3	62.4 / 33.0	67.2 / 47.3	68.2 / 46.9	65.0 / 46.2
	MNLI	67.8 / 49.7	60.6 / 40.7	71.6 / 57.7	66.5 / 48.6	76.6 / 61.9	55.3 / 42.4	63.9 / 39.0	66.9 / 48.5	71.0 / 51.4	66.7 / 48.9
	QQP	63.2 / 44.4	43.8 / 26.5	64.4 / 52.7	56.3 / 39.9	71.6 / 57.0	47.5 / 32.6	57.4 / 38.2	54.5 / 36.5	45.5 / 26.2	56.0 / 39.3
	SQuADv2.0	76.5 / 59.8	77.7 / 63.7	76.1 / 63.2	78.3 / 64.3	83.1 / 69.9	68.1 / 56.5	73.0 / 51.5	79.1 / 67.1	79.2 / 61.1	76.8 / 61.9
	SQuADv1.1	76.1 / 60.0	75.6 / 61.9	77.6 / 66.6	76.0 / 61.3	82.5 / 68.3	63.7 / 51.4	71.1 / 44.7	76.5 / 63.5	79.0 / 61.6	75.3 / 59.9
	HellaSwag	69.9 / 49.4	60.6 / 42.5	72.2 / 59.1	63.0 / 44.1	76.7 / 60.4	54.7 / 39.1	61.4 / 33.0	66.3 / 48.3	70.6 / 47.8	66.1 / 47.1
	CCG	63.6 / 41.8	54.1 / 37.2	68.5 / 55.9	59.6 / 41.7	73.2 / 57.5	50.8 / 37.7	60.2 / 33.4	66.8 / 49.7	66.2 / 43.8	62.6 / 44.3
	Cosmos QA	71.7 / 51.9	65.9 / 48.7	73.3 / 61.6	66.7 / 50.9	78.5 / 63.4	52.6 / 36.6	66.2 / 44.1	68.0 / 51.3	74.5 / 54.7	68.6 / 51.5
	CSQA	70.9 / 52.1	67.8 / 49.6	74.6 / 60.9	69.6 / 52.6	77.0 / 60.2	60.8 / 46.4	63.6 / 36.0	70.8 / 53.5	73.3 / 54.7	69.8 / 51.8
	Multi-task	73.3 / 52.3	66.7 / 48.7	75.6 / 63.6	74.7 / 59.6	81.7 / 67.3	60.2 / 46.4	71.0 / 43.0	76.0 / 64.3	77.2 / 58.4	72.9 / 56.0
With MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	67.1 / 48.9	59.5 / 42.5	72.2 / 58.9	67.2 / 51.4	76.8 / 60.7	54.9 / 42.0	62.4 / 35.3	70.3 / 52.1	70.4 / 53.1	66.8 / 49.4
	MNLI	67.3 / 49.7	60.0 / 41.6	71.2 / 59.3	66.8 / 50.4	78.1 / 62.1	56.4 / 42.0	62.2 / 33.9	68.5 / 50.7	70.0 / 48.4	66.7 / 48.7
	QQP	67.8 / 49.0	55.7 / 37.2	69.8 / 56.1	64.1 / 47.1	74.2 / 58.6	49.0 / 34.4	60.0 / 34.5	64.5 / 45.7	70.1 / 45.6	63.9 / 45.3
	SQuADv2.0	76.9 / 60.5	70.1 / 54.9	76.6 / 64.5	74.4 / 59.6	83.4 / 69.7	61.6 / 48.6	71.3 / 45.2	74.0 / 61.5	76.7 / 59.3	73.9 / 58.2
	SQuADv1.1	77.0 / 59.3	68.5 / 51.3	75.4 / 64.3	77.2 / 63.4	83.3 / 71.0	63.7 / 51.8	71.7 / 47.9	73.1 / 56.5	76.4 / 59.0	74.0 / 58.3
	HellaSwag	68.8 / 50.4	62.6 / 47.8	70.9 / 56.8	64.0 / 48.6	77.4 / 61.8	54.6 / 40.9	61.2 / 31.7	68.2 / 49.5	71.4 / 50.5	66.6 / 48.7
	CCG	68.1 / 49.1	57.5 / 39.8	69.0 / 55.9	65.9 / 48.6	76.5 / 61.9	55.0 / 39.9	61.6 / 31.9	67.5 / 49.3	56.3 / 30.3	64.2 / 45.2
	Cosmos QA	66.6 / 46.6	56.8 / 37.2	71.5 / 58.0	64.2 / 45.0	75.0 / 57.0	56.3 / 41.3	63.6 / 39.0	69.0 / 51.1	63.6 / 46.3	65.2 / 46.8
	CSQA	68.8 / 50.4	60.2 / 43.4	71.3 / 59.1	67.6 / 50.5	76.9 / 59.8	54.0 / 41.3	63.5 / 38.1	69.5 / 52.9	72.8 / 54.1	67.2 / 49.9

Table 12: Full TyDiQA Results

		de	fr	ru	zh	Avg
XLM-R		77.7	62.7	79.2	66.5	71.5
Without MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	94.6	89.8	93.5	88.6	91.6
	MNLI	94.2	90.2	93.5	<b>89.9</b>	92.0
	QQP	94.2	91.0	93.3	88.5	91.8
	SQuADv2.0	94.0	89.8	93.0	<b>89.9</b>	91.7
	SQuADv1.1	94.2	90.5	93.1	87.0	91.2
	HellaSwag	94.6	<b>91.9</b>	<b>93.9</b>	88.9	<b>92.3</b>
	CCG	88.3	82.9	86.6	78.0	83.9
	Cosmos QA	94.1	90.2	93.2	88.6	91.5
	CSQA	<b>95.1</b>	90.6	93.5	89.1	92.1
	Multi-task	94.3	90.4	93.4	87.0	91.3
With MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	93.4	88.0	92.9	86.5	90.2
	MNLI	92.7	89.0	93.2	86.1	90.3
	QQP	90.8	86.9	90.6	83.6	88.0
	SQuADv2.0	92.8	87.0	91.4	85.8	89.2
	SQuADv1.1	92.9	89.5	92.7	85.3	90.1
	HellaSwag	92.6	87.5	91.4	86.6	89.5
	CCG	87.6	78.5	87.6	75.7	82.4
	Cosmos QA	91.8	86.9	91.7	88.4	89.7
	CSQA	86.1	80.8	87.9	81.6	84.1

Table 13: Full BUCC Results

		af	ar	bg	bn	de	el	es	et	eu	fa	fi	fr	he	hi	hu	id	it	ja	jv
XLM-R		30.5	20.4	39.0	13.3	63.9	18.9	48.0	25.8	19.9	42.0	41.5	48.1	28.0	38.3	42.5	47.0	42.3	41.8	10.2
Without MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	78.8	74.0	88.0	72.3	97.4	82.4	91.2	70.9	53.3	91.5	88.6	89.8	82.1	92.8	86.2	<b>92.1</b>	82.6	88.7	31.7
	MNLI	79.6	70.7	84.8	71.2	96.6	82.5	93.1	74.3	59.2	90.0	89.0	89.6	81.8	91.7	86.0	91.7	86.3	89.5	30.7
	QQP	<b>80.4</b>	74.9	87.3	74.3	96.5	84.1	<b>93.8</b>	74.7	60.2	91.0	90.3	89.9	<b>86.0</b>	93.3	88.4	<b>92.1</b>	86.3	89.9	35.6
	SQuADv2.0	73.7	67.7	84.2	63.2	96.0	74.3	89.2	70.5	54.0	87.9	85.5	87.1	77.1	88.0	83.5	89.5	80.2	86.4	32.2
	SQuADv1.1	76.9	68.9	85.7	65.7	96.4	76.3	89.5	76.9	58.4	88.0	88.5	88.5	77.3	89.9	84.0	90.4	83.0	88.7	30.2
	HellaSwag	78.9	<b>75.4</b>	<b>89.9</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>97.7</b>	<b>84.8</b>	93.1	<b>79.8</b>	64.8	<b>91.8</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>92.2</b>	84.9	<b>93.4</b>	<b>89.5</b>	<b>92.1</b>	<b>86.7</b>	<b>91.6</b>	<b>37.1</b>
	CCG	71.9	59.1	82.1	62.5	95.5	74.4	87.0	67.3	49.0	84.7	82.6	84.4	77.2	85.4	80.7	87.2	79.1	78.7	24.9
	Cosmos QA	78.6	70.6	86.6	71.0	96.4	80.5	91.8	77.6	60.7	89.8	91.3	89.4	83.0	91.5	87.7	91.4	83.7	88.2	37.1
	CSQA	79.5	74.5	87.7	74.0	96.9	83.6	92.9	79.1	65.8	90.0	<b>92.0</b>	90.7	83.1	92.2	88.4	91.8	85.4	88.9	33.7
	Multi-task	81.2	71.9	88.0	73.6	97.1	82.9	92.6	73.1	58.6	90.4	89.6	89.6	84.1	92.6	87.2	92.6	83.9	91.0	34.1
With MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	78.6	65.2	86.6	67.8	97.0	78.2	90.2	79.1	59.3	89.3	89.1	90.4	78.7	89.3	86.5	91.0	84.6	87.0	26.3
	MNLI	77.3	65.2	83.8	64.9	97.2	76.1	92.1	77.7	57.3	88.1	88.8	87.5	81.0	89.0	87.1	90.5	82.6	85.6	27.3
	QQP	74.4	61.3	83.7	64.6	96.2	75.7	88.1	76.7	59.4	86.3	87.0	86.9	76.6	85.9	84.2	89.8	79.8	84.0	28.8
	SQuADv2.0	70.8	57.6	80.9	52.7	96.6	63.4	84.5	71.5	47.4	85.4	86.9	85.1	71.9	85.2	83.9	90.4	78.1	83.2	16.1
	SQuADv1.1	79.2	67.7	86.5	71.4	96.7	80.4	91.6	83.1	<b>66.3</b>	90.8	91.1	89.8	77.5	92.3	87.4	91.8	84.6	87.4	26.3
	HellaSwag	57.1	45.2	69.4	40.4	89.7	57.8	73.4	64.0	42.2	77.1	76.4	76.5	62.6	75.1	76.2	82.5	69.7	77.5	22.0
	CCG	71.9	52.3	80.4	51.0	95.0	72.6	86.0	73.5	51.0	83.3	84.1	81.8	71.3	79.1	81.6	87.2	78.7	76.2	12.7
	Cosmos QA	69.7	63.7	84.0	58.8	95.1	74.2	84.6	76.5	58.6	85.7	85.2	84.5	76.2	87.1	84.7	88.5	81.4	85.5	24.9
	CSQA	54.3	45.3	63.6	33.5	87.0	50.5	70.0	58.8	35.7	74.1	71.0	70.7	58.2	70.2	72.5	80.4	64.2	75.5	16.6
	XLM-R		11.8	17.4	35.5	19.4	15.2	52.6	47.2	42.1	7.9	9.1	19.7	27.4	10.3	37.8	22.5	38.3	41.2	31.0
Without MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	76.9	67.3	84.6	90.8	80.5	<b>93.6</b>	91.0	90.5	30.8	76.5	85.5	<b>91.2</b>	59.9	87.9	79.7	94.6	<b>93.0</b>	80.8	-
	MNLI	77.9	67.7	84.3	89.8	80.4	92.5	91.3	89.2	32.8	70.0	78.2	86.7	60.9	88.8	74.5	92.5	91.2	80.2	-
	QQP	78.7	69.4	86.4	<b>92.9</b>	<b>82.9</b>	93.3	<b>92.5</b>	91.6	35.1	<b>81.4</b>	<b>90.6</b>	90.0	64.6	<b>91.4</b>	81.7	95.0	92.3	82.7	-
	SQuADv2.0	67.0	63.0	80.8	82.8	71.6	89.7	90.4	86.9	27.7	60.9	74.4	80.7	54.2	85.9	70.6	92.5	89.3	76.1	-
	SQuADv1.1	70.9	63.7	83.3	87.3	74.7	91.7	90.2	89.1	31.5	60.6	77.8	82.3	59.3	88.3	68.3	92.8	90.8	77.9	-
	HellaSwag	<b>80.8</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>86.5</b>	92.1	81.1	93.2	91.9	<b>92.0</b>	35.1	79.2	87.2	89.6	64.5	90.6	<b>82.4</b>	<b>95.1</b>	92.6	<b>83.3</b>	-
	CCG	65.1	56.9	76.8	82.5	70.3	88.9	88.8	84.5	24.9	60.3	65.4	72.8	53.3	82.6	64.7	89.7	84.8	72.9	-
	Cosmos QA	75.7	69.9	83.6	90.1	78.7	92.0	91.3	89.7	34.1	72.3	84.6	89.1	59.7	89.6	79.8	93.3	90.9	80.9	-
	CSQA	<b>80.8</b>	70.3	85.5	91.7	82.7	93.3	91.4	90.4	<b>35.9</b>	73.3	84.6	89.4	<b>65.4</b>	90.2	77.1	94.8	92.9	82.2	-
	Multi-task	78.7	68.2	85.0	91.4	80.4	92.1	92.0	90.2	34.4	68.7	83.8	89.1	62.3	88.9	77.6	95.0	92.8	81.2	-
With MLM	ANLI <sup>+</sup>	70.6	64.7	83.6	88.9	75.6	92.0	91.0	88.1	29.0	70.0	76.9	84.7	51.6	88.0	71.7	93.6	91.6	78.5	-
	MNLI	67.7	63.3	81.8	84.3	75.0	90.8	90.5	87.8	29.7	62.2	73.5	85.2	53.4	87.6	71.2	93.3	88.5	77.4	-
	QQP	66.0	64.2	80.2	82.0	70.6	89.4	89.8	86.7	30.5	60.9	76.1	83.6	52.3	84.9	72.7	90.5	88.0	76.0	-
	SQuADv2.0	53.8	54.8	77.5	72.5	61.5	90.0	87.0	87.2	20.3	41.7	51.7	80.5	38.0	81.8	63.3	90.6	89.1	70.4	-
	SQuADv1.1	73.2	66.8	83.9	89.8	78.9	93.0	90.4	89.7	33.8	76.2	85.0	90.0	54.5	90.0	78.6	93.6	90.9	80.6	-
	HellaSwag	38.5	43.1	70.5	63.2	39.7	79.1	78.4	80.0	19.2	30.9	55.6	66.6	33.1	71.5	49.8	80.4	77.7	61.4	-
	CCG	58.3	51.3	74.6	76.3	58.4	89.0	86.9	82.9	23.3	46.9	60.3	72.6	40.9	82.5	55.8	87.9	80.3	69.4	-
	Cosmos QA	63.3	56.0	80.7	79.0	63.1	89.4	87.2	86.1	26.2	55.7	71.8	80.5	44.6	83.0	63.7	91.0	85.1	73.8	-
	CSQA	33.4	36.2	65.9	47.0	30.9	76.6	74.7	75.5	19.0	28.3	49.6	64.1	26.0	64.1	53.0	78.4	75.1	56.9	-

Table 14: Full Tatoeba Results

	MNLI	QQP	HellaSwag
en	87.1	88.0	71.6
Translated to de	82.2	84.6	55.1
Translated to ru	70.1	83.8	27.4
Translated to sw	70.8	79.3	25.1

Table 15: Intermediate task performance on trained and evaluated on translated data. We report the median result for English (original) task data.