Exercises on tonal development 2

Look at the following words in Middle Chinese. They are all from the píng平 tone category[[1]](#footnote-1).

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| 端straight | 團round | 湯soup | 溏pond | 歸return | 葵sunflower |
| tuɑn | duɑn | thɑŋ | dɑŋ | kwe̯i | gwi |

1. How is each pair of initials different in terms of their phonetic features?
2. Can you predict their tonal categories in Modern Standard Chinese?
3. What is your justification?
4. The rimes of these characters have not changed much from Middle Chinese to Modern Standard Chinese. Can you figure out their current pronunciations? Please indicate them by pinyin.
5. What is your justification?
6. What is the rule of thumb for the change from voiced stops in Middle Chinese to Modern Mandarin Chinese?
7. What is the rule of thumb for the split of tonal categories?

1. The Middle Chinese pronunciations are based on Wang Li’s system from Guo (1986) ［郭锡良1986 《汉字古音手册》，北京大学出版社］ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)