2013 Brevet de fin d'études moyennes (BFEM)
Épreuve d'anglais LV1

I. Reading comprehension (8 points)

1. Child labor in Africa is the employment of children in a manner that deprives them of their childhood, and is harmful to their physical and mental development. Africa has the world highest incidence rates of child labor. The problem is severe in sub-Saharan Africa where more than 48 million children aged 5 - 14 labor for survival. In northern part of sub-Saharan Africa, Islam is a major influence. Begging is considered as a service in exchange for quranic education. These children aged 7 - 13, for example, are called almudos in the Gambia, or talibés, in Senega1. The parents place their children with a marabout or serigne, a quranic teacher. Here, they split their time between begging and studying the Quran.

2. In Morocco, it is estimated that about 150,000 children aged 5 - 14 were working in 2010.
Agriculture and domestic services are the predominant employers. Young girls, locally called petites bonnes (little maids), are sent to work and live as domestic servants; many aged 10 or less. These petites bonnes who come from very poor families face conditions of involuntary servitude including long hours of hard work without breaks, physical, verbal and sexual abuse, withheld wages and even restrictions on their movement.

3. [...] Studies commissioned by the Morocco government find poverty and lack of school, often in cornbination, are primary causes of the little maids phenomenon in Morocco. Additionally, rural parents do not believe that an education or a diploma of any sort can help their girls find a job.

4. Even where income generation is necessary, we rnight like to think that these forms of work are unnecessary. An alternative basis for the argument that child labor is unambiguously bad is that it is the result of decisions taken by parents or employers rather than by children themselves.
[….] In any society that respects human rights, children should be able to seek the protection of the state when forced to work.

Adapted from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_labour_in_Africa

ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE la francophonie

A. Read the text and tick off (V) the correct answer (0,5 pt)

1) A good title for the text could be ...

a. The problem of education in Senegal
b. Child labor in Africa
c. 'The violations of children's rights in the Gambia
d. The difficulties of domestic servants in Africa

B. Write True or False after these statements, then justify with elements from the text (3 pts)

2. Making children work positively contributes to their health.......................................
3. Young children are taught the Quran gratuitously ………………………………………
4. The majority of Moroccan little maids are teenagers...

C. Read the text and complete the following table (2 pts)

5. Three local names given to young workers	…....................................
6. The two major causes of child employment in Morocco	…....................................

D. Find in the text appropriate words to complete the following passage (2,5 pts)

The employment of young (7)......................is very common in Africa. It is a phenomenon that puts them in danger. In countries like Senegal and the Gambia, child labor is paradoxically influenced by (8).........................which is supposed to provide education for the learners. Unfortunately, they spend most of their time (9)....................on the streets. In Morocco, (10)............................and (11)................. are the two sectors that mostly employ the little girls.

II. Communicative competence (6 points)

E. A journalist is interviewing a UNICEF agent. Complete his questions or tags coherently (2 pts.)

Journalist: You've been fighting for children's rights in your organization, (12) …... ?

UNICEF agent: Yes, we have.

Journalist: Is (13).. ?

UNICEF agent: Of course, it is. The problem of young talibés has always been among our priorities.

Journalist: (14).. ?

UNICEF agent: We've been campaigning against their exploitation for many years now.

Journalist: Your organization called for a better implication of governments last week, (15) ….. ?

UNICEF agent: That's right! What we expect them to do is to show more concern about the UNICEF charter on children 's rights.

Journalist: Thank you, sir.

F. The paragraph below is an extract from an article by the same journalist. Complete it meaningfully by circling the most suitable words (2pts)

(16) Nobody - nothing - anything can deny the efforts of organizations like UNICEF to fight against the exploitation of young talibés. However, for their efforts to bear fruit the government
(17) Needn't - must - can be concerned about those children's conditions. Young talibés deserve more consideration and protection from the State authorities **(18) who - which - whose** inaction has aggravated their difficulties. It is high time our leaders **(19) design - designed - designing** coherent strategies to stop this phenomenon.

G. As a reaction to the article above, a minister has sent a letter of protest to the journalist. Fill in the blanks will, the appropriate words in the following list (2 pts)

because - that is why - despite - although - whereas - however – if

"**Dear journalist**

In reply to the article you published in your newspaper last week, I regret that some journalists keep writing articles like that one (20)……………the efforts of the government to protect children.

I am sure that you would not have written this article (21)...............you had got in touch with my services for the right information.

(22)..............I do not appreciate such an article, we have decided not to take any action against your newspaper (23) .... I believe in the freedom of speech.

Sincerely"

The Minister of Family and Childhood

Writing (6 points)

Choose ONE topic and write about 80-120 words

Topic 1 : Write a **letter** to the Minister of Solidarity to protest against the difficult living conditions of young talibés and propose him/her some rneasures to stop this phenomenon.

Topic 2 : Some people think that the debate on children's rights is not important. They believe that making children work hard is a way to prepare them to a brighter future. Do you share this view? Why or why not?

Topic 3 : Mr Diop wants to send his 4-year-old son to a marabout living very far. His wife does not agree. Write their **discussion**.