

Mock Exam N° 1
Duration: 2 hours
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Academic year: 2011 / 2012
Level: 2nd Year Baccalaureate
Final Mark / 40

Name:
Class:

Despite fresh measures to tackle unemployment, Morocco continues to see a number of suicides of young unemployed people. A jobless Moroccan graduate died a few days ago, six days after setting himself on fire in Rabat. Abdelwahab Zeidoun's death on January 24th was the latest in a series of suicides by fire that have shaken the whole of Maghreb. The 27-year-old protestor was among a group of graduates who had held a two-week sit-in near the ministry of education to get public-sector jobs.

The protestors complained that they had been left out of an initiative to recruit youths directly under an agreement reached with the previous government last year. Despite having a graduate degree in information studies from the University of Fes, Zeidoun was unable to get a job. He and another man burnt themselves on January 18th.

To deal with the growth of popular discontent, Morocco has implemented a number of new job creation measures. In addition to the already-existing programmes of Moukawalati, Taahil and Idmaj, the government produced a new roadmap that envisages three other programmes. "Moubadara" (Initiative) focuses on employment within community-level organisations in the social as well as education sectors. "Taahir" (Training) is aimed at the long-term unemployed and is intended to find jobs for 50,000 people per year. "Istiaab" (Assimilation) is designed to integrate the informal sector into the formal economy.

Youth unemployment is a priority for the new government, which is working as hard as it can to find adequate solutions and meet public expectations, Economy and Finance Minister Nizar Baraka told Magharebia. The government's earlier programmes, however, have been criticised by the Economic and Social Council for their lack of relevance.

Mourad Arrouchi, an unemployed graduate who is a member of the "Leaders of the Solution of March 1st", remains doubtful about officials' promises. "We will continue to work on all fronts to get jobs in the public sector at all costs," he said. Others declare that government officials recruit people based on family connections and favouritism.

While some economy analysts argue that the new measures may be insufficient to boost employment, they recognise the difficulty along with complexity of the problem. "We must still be realistic because we can't employ massive numbers of people or else we will risk even greater budget deficits," said financial analyst Abdo Hakim. "Recruitment must address a clear need and candidates must meet the required skill criteria."

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Are the following sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY. (3 pts)

- 1 Only Morocco has been affected by the suicide of those youths.
.....
.....
- 2 The jobless Moroccan graduates had applied for a job before; but they had been ignored.
.....
.....
- 3 The previous government's solutions were adequate.
.....
.....

B Answer the following questions. (3 pts)

- 1 How do Moroccan unemployed youths feel?
.....
.....
- 2 Why don't some unemployed youths believe the promises of the government?
.....
.....
- 3 Which criteria do applicants have to satisfy to be chosen for a job?
.....
.....

C Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as the following. (3 pts)

- 1 employ (para 2)
- 2 applied (para 3)
- 3 insufficiency (para6)

D What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)

- 1 which (para 4)
- 2 He (para 5)
- 3 they (para 6)

E Complete these sentences with information from the text. (3 pts)

- 1 Morocco continues to see a number of suicides although
- 2 "Taatir" (Training) is not only aimed at the long-term unemployed,
- 3 We must still be realistic due to

II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)

A Rewrite the following sentences as suggested. (3 pts)

- 1 They're going to build a new supermarket near the theatre.
A new supermarket
- 2 They split up for many years. Then, they met again by chance in Paris last year.
..... after
- 3 We stood up in order to get a better view of what was happening.
..... so that

B Put the words between brackets into the correct form. (3 pts)

- 1 Our relationship was based on mutual (depend)
- 2 Many students would like to be more (adventure) and creative.
- 3 Some people think that marriage should be an equal (partner)

C Put the verbs between brackets into the correct form. (4 pts)

- 1 I think you should (tell).....your parents before going to the party yesterday.
- 2 Your secretary (just / finish) typing all your letters. The job is done, I bet.
- 3 While they were driving in the city, they stopped (take) some pictures.
- 4 We aren't used to (eat) so much at lunchtime.

D Rewrite the following sentences using the connectors between brackets. (3 pts)

- 1 Her voice was shaking. She was making tremendous efforts to control it. (*in spite of*)
- 2 She is a talented musician. She is an excellent photographer. (*along with*)
- 3 A computer is an electronic machine. It helps to process, store and find data. (*for*)

E Match each sentence with the appropriate function. (2 pts)

Sentence		Function	
1	He's a really successful man - I can't argue with that.	a	Expressing Effect
2	I reckon that she's going to get that job.	b	Expressing lack of understanding
3	I hear that you're a writer - is that so?	c	Expressing agreement
4	The cost of materials rose dramatically last year. Accordingly, we were forced to increase our prices.	d	Asking for clarification
		e	Expressing opinion
		f	Expressing cause

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 4 |

III WRITING (10 POINTS)

You've just received an email from your e-pal in which he/she informs you about his/her life in a village. Write an answer in which you talk about your life in a city like Casablanca. Try to give your e-friend an idea about the benefits and problems of living in such a big city. Then, give your opinion and / or suggest some solutions. **(Approximately 250 words)**

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