

Test N° 1

Academic year: 2010 / 2011

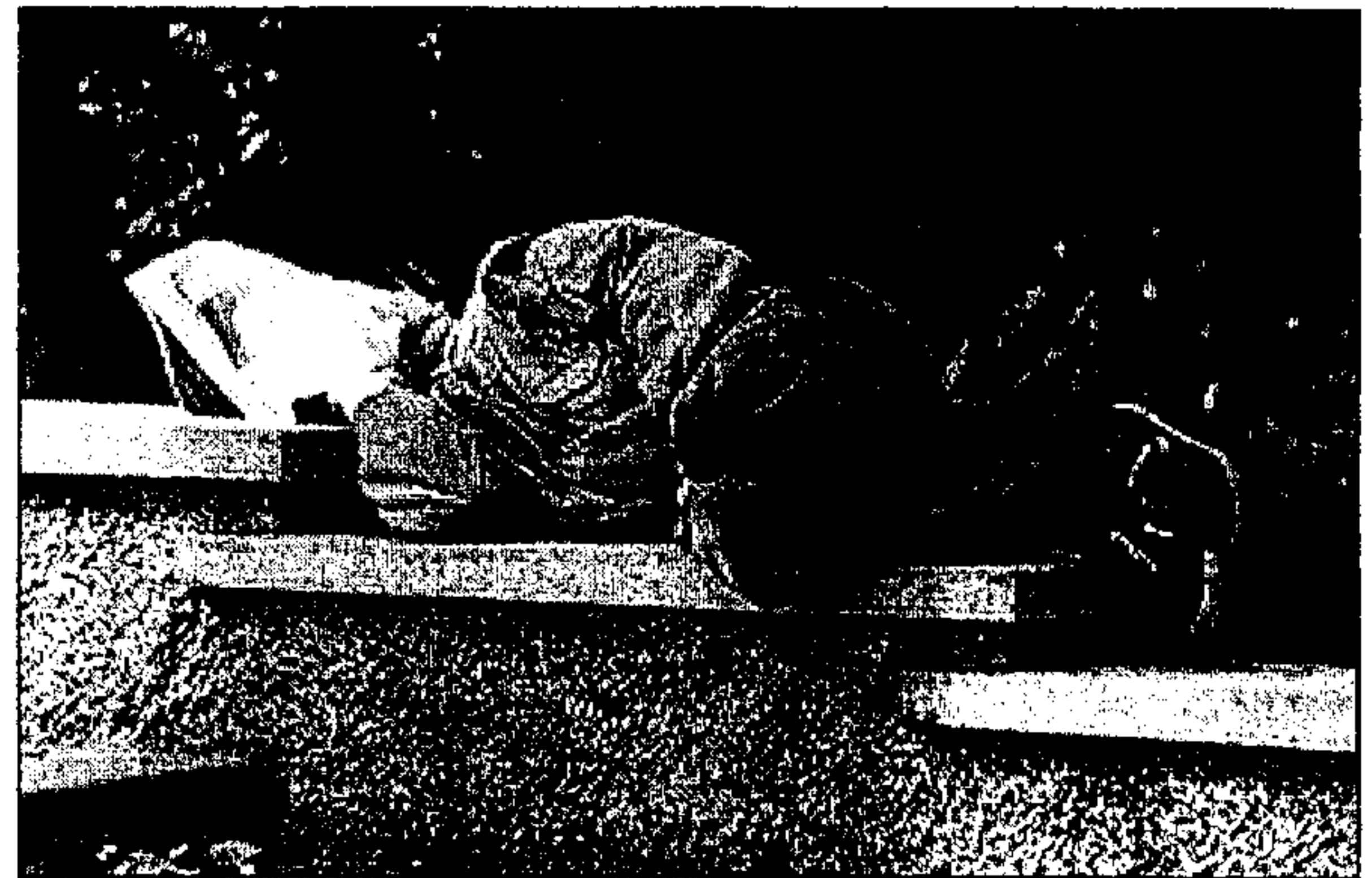
Name: 

Date: 16 / 03 / 2012

Level: 2nd Year Baccalaureate

Final Mark / 40

Morocco's street children live a difficult life, often filled with drugs and crime. Efforts to reintegrate them into families and schools are small and somewhat successful but experts say the problem is large and its root lies in poverty and difficult social circumstances.



Othmane left his home and school at the age of 14 to live on the street. He no longer wanted to see his mother fight the daily battle to get bread for his five little siblings, and pay for his school

expenses. "The street is not a better place to live in," Othmane says, "but at least she will not have to think about my daily living. In the meantime, I may be able to help her." Othmane carries bags of vegetables and other purchases for customers at a nearby market. In this way, he earns a few dirhams a day, enough to bring a little money back home when he visits his family once a week and still be able to buy the cheap drugs which help him put up with his suffering.

Othmane is part of the growing number of street children in Morocco. These are the homeless and marginalized youths without identity or family. The sidewalks, public gardens, and the buildings' doorsteps are their beds. In Casablanca, these children's main "residences" are alleys in the old city, the port, the train station and the fruits and vegetables wholesale market. The port provides them with an opportunity to immigrate illegally. The wholesale market gives them the chance to work as porters and make money to buy drugs. At the train station, they can earn a bit from helping passengers or by begging from tourists.



According to the most recent statistics, 7,000 street children live in Casablanca Wilaya alone. 8,800 more live in other major cities such as Marrakech, Fez, and Meknes. The figures are dated and unreliable, however, because homeless children do not stay in one place. They move between neighbourhoods and cities in search of another temporary refuge. They are often fleeing dreadful poverty where six or 10 family members live in a single room.

Moroccan civil society has adopted a strategy of setting up NGOs to shelter some of these street children and attempt to reintegrate them into schools and families, but the challenge is enormous. The number of children usually exceeds the centres' financial capabilities and many are turned away.

"We try to provide some assistance to these children. We don't claim that we will solve the problem once and for all," says Al TahirSkali of the Casbah Association for Children in Difficult Circumstances.

His group is now building a homeless shelter for children in Mohammedia, as part of the National Initiative for Human Development. The shelter will provide accommodation, schooling, food and, eventually, socio-professional integration. But while there are thousands of these children in the city of Mohammedia alone, the centre will host no more than 100 of them.

I COMPREHENSION (15 points)

(BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT)

A Answer these questions. (3pts)

1 Why did Othmane become one of the street children?

.....
.....

2 Where do street children sleep in Casablanca?

.....
.....

3 What has been done to solve the problem of street children?

.....
.....

B Say if the following sentences are TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY your answers. (2pts)

1 Othman prefers living on the street to living at home.

.....
.....

2 The shelter in Mohammedia will put up homeless children.

.....
.....

C Complete the following sentences with the right information from the text. (3pts)

1 Efforts to reintegrate them into families and schools are small and somewhat successful despite

.....

2 The wholesale market gives them the chance to work as porters along with

.....

3 The figures are dated and unreliable due to

.....

D Find in the text words or expressions which mean the same as the following. (4 pts)

1 origin (parag 1):

2 brothers and sisters (parag 2):

3 escaping (parag 4):

4 definitely (parag 5):

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

1 its (parag 1):

2 the (parag 3):

3 His (parag 6):

II LANGUAGE (15 points)

A Fill in the gaps with the appropriate words from the list. (2pts)

whom which why who whose

- 1 The people called yesterday want to buy the house.
- 2 They live in the house door is painted red.
- 3 Houses overlook the lake cost more.
- 4 He asked me with I had discussed it.

B Put the verbs between brackets in the correct tense. (3pts)

While I (wait) at the bus stop the other day, three buses (go) by in the opposite direction. That was a bit strange to me because I (never / see) that happen before. I think I should (take) a taxi instead of wasting my time at the bus stop.

C Rewrite these sentences as suggested. (4pts)

- 1 The government is going to take measures to reintegrate street children into society.
Measures
- 2 We spent all the money on trifles last holiday. We didn't know what to do.
We as soon as we
- 3 All those concerned had to work together if they wanted to reach an agreement on this issue.
In order that

D Fill in the blanks with the appropriate phrasal verbs. (2pts)

put on set up turn down write down make up

- 1 He asked her to marry him but she decided to him
- 2 Do I have to a tie to attend the meeting?

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

- 1 Ideas on childcare may (difference) considerably between the parents.
- 2 They have threatened us with (law) action.
- 3 There will be a prize for the most (innovate) design.

F Match each sentence with its appropriate function. (1pts)

1. Never mind, we can buy another one if you have broken it.	a. defining
2. What is meant by batch processing?	b. accepting an apology
	d. cause and effect

III WRITING (10 points)

The number of NGOs is still insufficient in our country and their impact is still unnoticeable. Despite that, they play an important role in the improvement of people's lives. They often run development projects, such as charities, which aim at helping both men and women from all walks of life and different age groups.

Write an email to your school magazine in which you discuss some of *the positive effects NGOs have in your area* and *the problems they confront*. Then, *suggest some solutions*. (approximately 250 words)

March 16, 2012

Dear Sir or Madam,

A large rectangular box containing horizontal dotted lines for writing the email response.