

**BACCALAUREAT BLANC
REGIONAL
2025**

**SERIE A1 - Coefficient: 4
SERIE A2 - Coefficient: 2
Durée: 3 h**

LANGUE VIVANTE 1: ANGLAIS

Cette épreuve comporte 4 pages numérotées 1/4, 2/4, 3/4 et 4/4.

Do all the activities of this examination paper on your answer sheet.

PART ONE: READING

(40%)

Read the text below and do all the activities that follow.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AT WORK

- 1 Larry Gatt grew up in San Francisco and always wanted to be a fireman. The Fire Department had
- 2 always hired firemen in what it thought to be the fairest possible way. Every four to six years, it gave
- 3 a test, and hired the people with the best scores.
- 4 Firemen must have brains as well as brawn. They must understand chemical fires, gas fires, and
- 5 toxic discharges, and use the best technique to stop the blaze. They must give first aid to people
- 6 who are burned, electrocuted, drowned, shot, or mangled on the highway. They must also be strong
- 7 enough to hack their way through doors, sprint up stairways, and carry unconscious people down
- 8 ladders. San Francisco therefore had two tests, one written and the other physical, with a weighting
- 9 of 60:40 in favor of brains over brawn. The department gave the written test first.
- 10 Mr. Gatt was eligible to take the test in 1982, a year when the department was under court order to
- 11 hire minorities. No discrimination had been proven, but the department did not have enough
- 12 minorities. Seven thousand people signed up for the written test, and thirty-five hundred actually took
- 13 it. The department had made a strong effort to advertise the test to minorities. It managed to sign up
- 14 a good number of blacks, but only a reported 20 percent of them showed up for the test. The
- 15 department knew it had a problem as soon as the tests were graded: Not enough blacks had passed.
- 16 The department dropped the passing score from 70 to 60, crossed its fingers, and gave the physical
- 17 test. Theoretically, if most of the whites who had passed the written test failed the physical test, while
- 18 most of the blacks passed, the department might have had enough minorities to satisfy the court.
- 19 It did not work out that way. Once the scores were combined, if the department had worked its way
- 20 down the list to get the two hundred people it needed, it would have ended up with far too many
- 21 whites. Of the fifteen hundred people who passed both tests, Mr. Gatt was number forty-three. He
- 22 would have gotten a job.
- 23 The department showed the results to the court. It pointed out that it was not the department's fault
- 24 if blacks did not show up for the test, or failed it if they took it. The court did not care. It wanted more
- 25 blacks in the force.
- 26 The department swallowed hard and threw out the results of the written test. It ended the practice of
- 27 hiring firemen for both brains and brawn, and decided to hire on brawn alone. It made a ranking of
- 28 190 men based only on the physical test. Mr. Gatt was still on that list, but he had dropped from
- 29 forty-third to ninety-fifth. He still had a chance.

Adapted from the failure of Race relations in contemporary America by Jared Taylor

COMPREHENSION CHECK. (2) The legal (1) for affirmative actions is the Civil Rights Act of 1964. (2) well-established trend in our thinking about race. By then a clear majority (3) Read the text and find out the words or expressions whose meanings or synonyms are listed below. The lines where you can find them are indicated in brackets.

Example: 1- grew up (line 1)
 2- matured and became an adult (line 1)
 3- employed (line 2)
 4- physical strength (line 4)
 5- fast-burning fire; flame (line 5)
 6- set of steps allowing one to go up and down comfortably (line 7)
 7- agreed to participate in (line 13) **Task 2**

Read the following passage about racism in America and choose the best answer for each question in brackets to make it meaningful. Write your answers like in the example.
 8- were present (line 14)
 9- lowered (line 16)
 10- indicated (line 24)
 11- accepted something unpleasant or difficult (line 26) **Example: 1- earned**

B- True / False statements (30%)
 Read the following statements and say if they are true or false from your understanding of the text. Write T for true and F for false. Justify your answers by indicating the lines.
Example: 1- F (line 1)
 2- Harry Gatt matured and became an adult in San Francisco, but he gave up his project of working as a fireman.

3- Every four to six years, the fire department organized an examination that aimed at giving jobs to people with high performance.
 4- Firemen must not only be clever and strong, but they also need other skills.
 5- Both tests organized by the Fire Department in San Francisco were only written tests.
 6- In 1982, Mr. Gatt was qualified to be chosen to sit for the test.
 7- Out of seven thousand people who accepted to take part in the written test, less than thirty-hundred took it.
 8- The Fire Department had made a strong effort to enroll many blacks, but only a few of them took the test.
 9- Immediately, after the tests were graded, the department was aware that there was not any problem.
 10- Both blacks and whites had failed the physical tests.
 11- Mr. Gatt secured a job by ranking forty-third among the individuals who successfully passed both tests.
 12- The court's objective was to have an equal number of blacks and whites recruited. **Task 3**

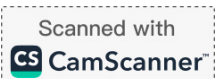
PART TWO: LANGUAGE IN USE (30%)

Task 1

The passage below is about affirmative action in education and employment. Read it and fill in the gaps with the appropriate words from the box. One word is not concerned. Write your answers like in the example.

Example: 1- basis

had- everyone - basis - became - discrimination - Act - blacks - required-
 educational - passed - judge - emotion



The legal (1) for affirmative actions is the Civil Rights (2) of 1964. The act followed a well-established trend in our thinking about race. By then, a clear majority of Americans (3) come to realize that racial discrimination was wrong and humiliating to (4) There was still local support for certain kinds of (5), especially in housing, but the climate was right for Freedom Riders, peaceful sit-ins, and " I have a dream. " Though popular beliefs date all progress for (6) ... from the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, improvements in black employment, income, and (7) opportunities were already well established by then. The first antidiscrimination laws actually date from thirty years before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and were (8) during the New Deal. The Public Work Administration (9) contractors to recruit a specific number of black workers. The first black federal (10) had been nominated by Franklin Roosevelt in 1937, and a black congressman (11) the head of the Government Operations Committee in 1949.

Task 2

Read the following passage about racism in America and choose the best option from the verbs in brackets to make it meaningful. Write your answers like in the example.

Example: 1- earned

By the 1970s, black women 1- (earn – earned - will earn - has earned), as much as or more than white women with similar educational attainment. Black female college graduates 2- (obtain - obtained - has obtained - obtains) a moderate premium over their white peers. Women 3- (has made - make - made - will make) especially dramatic progress.

In 1946, the median wage for black women 4-(has been - was- are - were) only 36 percent of that for white women. It 5-(climbs - has climbed – climbed - is climbing) steadily, and by 1974 it was 98 percent.

In fact, black women with a college education 6-(surpassed - surpass - will surpassing - has surpassed) whites.

By 1960, black women 7-(were receiving - are receiving - will receive - receive) 2 percent more than whites. By 1970, the difference in salary 8-(grows - grew - is growing - grow) wider still. The reason for this advantage in salary is that black women 9-(will be - have been - has been - are being) steadier workers than whites.

Today, 19 percent of black women in the workforce 10-(hold - held - are holding - will hold) professional and managerial jobs, whereas only 13 percent of black men 11-(did - does - have done - do).

PART THREE: WRITING

(30%)

Do only one of the following tasks. (Not more than 25 lines).

Task A

As the leader of the Ivorian students studying in Ghana, you notice that the working conditions in your school are poor. So, you decide to write (a letter) to the Minister of Education in Ghana to ask for help with this issue. In your letter,

- describe these working conditions;
- indicate three (3) consequences of that situation;
- suggest three (3) solutions to solve the problem.

Task B

On Martin Luther King Day (Jan 19), you decide to write an article about discrimination which was one of the problems Martin Luther King Jr. spent his lifetime struggling against. In your article,

- say how discrimination still manifests itself today in our society;
- point out three (3) of its consequences;
- suggest three (3) solutions to reduce it.

Your article will be published in the magazine of your English Club.