

BEPC 2012

**PART ONE : READING COMPREHENSION**

(8points)

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

**Children of the war**

They know that about the time they themselves were born, something terrible was happening terrible in their country. they have mentioned the French and told me in a strangely summary way how they came and killed their fathers .one girl told me, the first time I saw her that a million of her people had died in the war.

When I have nothing to give them the children grow sullen and resentful. More than a few times the oldest among them have thrown stones against my door out of the anger of their disappointment.

On my way down the hill I see many such knots of children.

Usually they are grouped around one or two of their number who have a means of making money , like shining shoes. Whatever they are doing , they are quick to notice the approach of a stranger like me ' and to hurl themselves upon him , asking for gifts and money .their own adults ignored them ; probably they have found a way to accept orphan children as an ordinary fact of life, in much the same way as the children themselves have come to accept the deaths of their fathers.

There are the real beggars, the grown-up ones. I do not know, and I do not think anyone knows, how many there are in all. There must be at least one for every block, and there are thicker concentrations of them in front shops and around busy places. it is impossible to tell who among these beggars were before the revolution .all I am aware of when I walk past them is a general feeling of guilt, as if somehow I were responsible for their having been reduced to this state, or at least for their remaining in this condition. The feeling has been acute whenever I have had money on me. At such times I have thought of the things I would eventually do with the money, like buying books and newspapers and periodicals, as well as paper for my work .And work. And I feel ashamed that I should have the means to buy things that are not essential to satisfy my tastes, while they have to beg me for the most basic of their needs.

Adapted from **Why Are We So Blest?** By ayi kwei ARMAH(pp16-17).

### **COMPRENSION CHECK**

A) Match the words from the text in column A with their meanings in column B.

Write your answers like in the example.

Example: 3-e

Column A	Column B
1. Summary(line3)	a. Throw
2. Resentful(line 7)	b. Presents
3. disappointment	c. intense
4. hurl(line12)	d. regret
5. gifts(line 13)	e. dissatisfaction
6. guilt (line 22)	f. recapitulation
7. acute (line 24)	g. angry

**B) Write a short answer to each of the five questions.**

- 1- What happened in the country when the children were born?
- 2- Were all the children beggars? Justify your answer
- 3- What did they do when they saw a stranger?
- 4- Why were some of the children orphans?
- 5- Why did the man feel guilty when he saw the beggars?

### **Part two: writing**

Chose only one of two tasks below and do it in maximum 15 lines

#### **Task 1**

Write a short article on the consequences of a war in a country.

Your article will be published in your school English club magazine.

You may use some of these expressions and ideas.

#### **Task 2**

- separated families

Ideas

- Street children
- Orphans
- Diseases, refugees

- How it started
- Who the fighters were
- What people did
- What the consequences were