

**SIMILI BAC 2013****LANGUE VIVANTE 2: ANGLAIS - SERIES A1/A2**

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

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

PART ONE: READING (40%)

Read the text and do the tasks that follow!

1 Poverty, like malaria, is pandemic in many developing countries, especially country in sub-Saharan Africa. Why are most of these countries so economically backward and so slow to develop even many years after they have freed themselves from colonial rule?

2 Many theories have been put forward to explain this peculiar plight of developing countries in Africa. One common theory is that dark-skinned people living in Africa and elsewhere have been eternally cursed to be poor. This theory is sometimes referred to as the *curse myth* – a theory that has no shred of scientific evidence to support it. Perhaps it has been concocted by the fair-skinned race to enhance their feeling of superiority and justify their treatment of black-skinned people.

3 Apartheid South Africa, for instance, used to defend the treatment the Dutch settlers gave to the indigenous African people on the crude assumption that black people had been, by the design of nature, condemned forever to be *the hewers of wood and drawers of water*.

4 The curse myth apart, there is another theory, dubbed the torrid-zone dwellers' theory, which claims that people who live in the tropics are always being adversely affected by the heat of the sun. The propounders claim that the climate is so enervating that the brains of the dwellers in that zone are enfeebled and are, in consequence, rendered incapable of deep, sustained thinking. They further claim that the chronic poverty in the developing countries derives from the people's inertia, lack of effort and inventiveness.

5 Strangely enough, this theory is sometimes expressed in a more palatable version – that nature is so generous to tropical-zone dwellers that, by virtue of kind climate, there is hardly any need for the people to worry about how to get food, provide themselves with decent clothing and seek permanent and comfortable shelter. As nature provides the people with these three basic necessities of life, the theorists claim that the people need not make any effort.

6 Furthermore, tropical vegetation is so luxuriant that natural food such as pawpaw and banana grow without human prompting in and around people's dwelling places. In fact, they also claim that there is no need for planning and foresight for people living in the ever-warm and generous climate.

7 These specious theories, unfortunately, do not help solve the problems of Africa's chronic poverty. What, then, are the real remedies? What should be done to remove the real obstacles in the way of development in Africa?



The real obstacles are, in fact within Africans themselves; these are embedded in their nature, attitudes and mindset. Some of the internal obstacles are technological ignorance slavish attachment to retrogressive ideas, beliefs and practices.

These obstacles to development and wealth in Africa apart, there are some other hindrances – the dearth of selfless and committed leaders with clear vision and the courage to pursue and achieve them.

Until these obstacles to development and wealth are clearly identified and dealt with, chronic poverty and underdevelopment may persist in this great but dormant continent.

From Aki Ola Series, English language for senior high school
in West Africa by Seth Krampah

COMPREHENSION CHECK

A- Match the words from the text in column A with their meanings or synonyms in box B like this: 11-k.

Column A	Column B
1- Backward (Line 3)	a- Called
2- Put forward (L 4)	b- Authors
3- Flight (L 4)	c- Cutters
4- Shred (L 7)	d- Devoted
5- Hewers (L 11)	e- Very bad condition
6- Dubbed (L 12)	f- Not advanced / directed to the rear
7- Propounders (L 14)	g- Acceptable
8- Enfeebled (L 15)	h- Suggested
9- Palatable (L 18)	i- Made weak
10- Slavish (L 30)	j- Small pieces
11- Hindrances (L 32)	k- obstacles

B- Give short answers to these questions according to your comprehension of the text.

- What is poverty compared to? Why?
- How many theories on the plight of developing countries are mentioned in the text?
- In your own words, summarize each theory.
- According to the text, do Africans need to tire themselves working to earn a living? Why or why not?
- What are, according to the text, the real development problems in Africa?
- What are the writer's suggestions to solve these problems?
- Explain the last sentence of the text.

PART TWO: WRITING (40%)

TASK 1: write an argument essay on this assertion: "Africans have been cursed to be poor forever". Do not exceed 25 lines.

TASK 2: do you think that African countries will be developed one day? With arguments, give your position. Do not exceed 25 lines.

**PART THREE: LANGUAGE IN USE (20%)**

A- In the passage below, put the verbs in the correct form and tense. Write your answers on your answer sheets like this: 11-asked.

I 1. (made) a visit to the University Teaching hospital the other day. At the casualty department, where accident victims 2. (treat), the doctors 3. (baild) to save the life of a man who 4. just (knock) down in a road accident. They 5. (examine) the injured man thoroughly with the aid of several clinical instruments such as the thermometer used in measuring body temperature and the stethoscope used in listening to the sound of the heart and the lungs. By using x-ray the patient's body 6. (photograph). Anti-tetanus and pain-killing injections 7. (give). His bleeding 8. (stop). The nurse bathed his wounds and he 9. (carry) on a stretcher to the special care 10. (keep). The doctor 11. (ask) the nurses to keep the patient under close observation.

B- Choose the correct words from columns A, B, C or D, to complete the text. Write your answers like in the example: ex: 11-stifling.

One major problem Africa countries face is that fact when -1- are taken, they are hardly used on -2- activities. Rather they find their way into -3- bank accounts of the leaders. The question which arises is; why do -4- condone this practice since such monies may not be -5-?

These are funds meant for specific -6- that can generate -7- for government. Thus, when they are -8- in foreign accounts, then the people will receive no -9- at all.

It is through such economic -10- that many Africa governments have succeeded in -11- their countries' economies. There can, therefore, be no solution to the debt crisis in Africa; nor can we hope any debt relief from our creditors if our leaders continue to behave like this.

A	B	C	D
1. borrowing	credits	loans	balances
2. developing	planning	expansion	development
3. private	individual	secret	anonymous
4. rich	(donor)	credit	foreign
5. refunded	repaid	returned	reimbursed
6. plans	(actions)	projects	deeds
7. profit	surplus	income	(revenue)
8. entered	hidden	deposited	stored
9. returns	benefits	earnings	profits
10. treachery	theft	sabotage	acts
11. misruling	frustrating	(stifling)	mismanaging