

**BEPC BLANC- EPREUVE D'ANGLAIS**

**PART ONE: Reading (8 points)**

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**Read the text and do the activities below**

Every African woman exudes indescribable heavenly beauty without a wig. If our beautiful Ghanaian/African women are not ashamed of whatever hair they naturally have, if they are capable, in most cases, of growing long hair, why is it that nearly all of them these days publicly sport off- putting, synthetic or dead people's hair from Brazil, India, Philippines or Europe?

The argument that not all people are blessed with good, healthy abundant hair is valid. But if so, why is it that they do not then keep their hair low-cut, or cropped down to manageable, presentable shapes like older Asante women...

The fashionable cultural switching to artificial wigs has other negative implications. These wigs require certain cosmetic creams, oils and lotions to make appear close to natural hair. But these cosmetics have extremely harmful chemicals... I think we watch too much TV. We copy too apishly the false images that are portrayed by frivolous music and fashion 'stars' I think it will be a good idea to show our natural African beauty to the rest of the world too. Maybe if we do, they could also want to dress like us". Encouragingly there is now a trend in Africans in American choosing only natural products for their hair and skin.

From <http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=280360>

An article by Kofi, accessed on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

## COMPREHENSION CHECK

A- Find in the text words whose definitions or synonyms are listed below. The lines' numbers are given to help you find them. Write your answers like in the example .

Example: 1-: Exhibits, possesses: exudes

- 1-Exhibits, possesses (line 1)
- 2-Piece of artificial hair worn on the head (line 1)
- 3- Embarrassed (line 2)
- 4-Wear in a proud way (line 4)
- 5-Lucky (line 6)
- 6-Very short (line 7)
- 7-causing damage to the health (line 11)
- 8-Hopefully (line 14)
- 9- Tendency (line 14)

  
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B-Read the text again and give short answers to the following questions (2-3 lines)

- 1- According to the text, what natural treasure do African women have?
- 2-Why do African women wear wigs according to the text? Give two reasons.
- 3-What are the two messages the text addresses to African women?
- 4- Is there any hope in the change of behaviour of African women? Justify your answer.

## PART TWO: Language in use (6 points)

A -The ideas below are expressed in the text. Rewrite them, starting with the following phrases. Write your answers like in N°1 on your worksheet:

- 1-"We watch T.V too much."  
⇒ Example: I think we watch T.V too much
- 2-"African women have natural beauty."  
⇒ The author believes.....
- 3-"Young African people copy western culture."  
⇒ Adults hold the view.....
- 4-"Older Asante women do traditional hairstyles."  
⇒ Kofi said.....

B- These pairs of ideas are from the text. Combine them like in N°1 on your worksheet:

- 1-If African women (not be) ashamed of their natural hair, they will not wear wigs.  
⇒ Example: If African women are not ashamed of their natural beauty, they will not wear wigs.
- 2-If African women do not have abundant hair, they (do) Asante traditional hairstyle.  
⇒ .....
- 3-If African women want to reveal their natural beauty, they (not use) harmful chemicals and wear wigs.  
⇒ .....

4-If we (be) proud of our cultural identity, we will show it to the rest of the world.



### **PART THREE: WRITING (6**

Your American pen-friend, after he or she saw a typically-dressed African couple in New York, wants to know more about African traditional fashion

*Write him/ her a letter in 10 to 12 lines maximum.*

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- *describe men and women's traditional clothes and hairstyles;*
- *mention the cosmetics they use;*
- *use African words for these clothes, hairstyles and cosmetics if you know them in your ethnic language.*