DRENA ABIDJAN 1

School Year: 2022 - 2023

Level : 3e

Duration : 2h

UP Cocody 3

English Common Test

PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION (8 marks)

Read the text below and do the activities that follow it

Among certain Ghanaian ethnic groups, skin whitening is seen by both sexes as a symbol of beauty, attractiveness and self-esteem. Indeed, for most women and even the men believe light skin is equated with beauty and they do it because it's prestigious. According to recent data, women bleach more, especially during festive seasons like naming ceremonies and Christmas celebrations. In fact, when they give birth, they bleach to look more beautiful and be admired during the naming ceremony of their new born babies. It's a community thing.

What drives the decision to alter the skin varies for each individual. Men and women engaged in the act do so because of factors such as insecurities, family influences or the desire to move upward in their social circles. But there are also beauty standards that are often promoted by the media and advertising companies. They reinforced the bias that lighter skin tone is more desirable.

Even though the practice has been associated with a number of adverse health effects and despite the several warnings and campaigns against skin whitening and its consequences, there appears to be no end in sight. Now everyone is bleaching and it is even the educated and wealthy ones who are deeply involved-- even more alarming is the fact that mothers are bleaching their newborns. Many believe that the act is a pinnacle of beauty.

Adapted from www.rfi.org

A/ VOCABULARY

Match the words in Column A with their synonyms or meanings in Column B. One definition in Column B is not concerned. Write your answers like in the example: **1-D**

Column A	Column B
1. equated (line 3)	**a.** doubts and psychological instability
2. data (line 4)	**b.** top; highest point
3. alter (line 8)	**c.** dangerous and harmful
4. insecurities (line 9)	**d.** considered as equivalent or similar to
5. standards (line 10)	**e.** unjust opinion(s) that influences judgement
6. bias (line 11)	**f.** depigment
7. adverse (line 13)	**g.** rich
8. wealthy (line 16)	**h.** to change a characteristic
9. pinnacle (line 17)	**i.** criteria
	j. information

B/ COMPREHENSION CHECK

Read the text again and say if the statements below are TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) then justify with lines from the text. Write your answers like in the example: **1-T (line 1-2)**

1- Skin whitening is practiced by both sexes in Ghana.
2- The old and young whiten their skin only to be attractive.
3- According to the text, all women and men think that light skin is synonymous with beauty.
4- Recent data show that women bleach less for religious events and ceremonies.
5- The reasons why people alter their skin differ from one individual to another.
6- According to the text, family doesn't influence people in bleaching their skin.
7- People also bleach because they want to improve their social status.
8- It is the media that advertise the criteria for beauty.
9- Due to its dangerous effects, the end of the practice is not far.

PART TWO: LANGUAGE IN USE (6 marks)

Task A: The passage below is about cosmetics and skin bleaching. Fill in its gaps with the words suggested in the box to make it meaningful. **Example: 1- Skin**

cover up – skin – bleaching - dangerous

……1…… bleaching is not illegal in the UK, and when it is used professionally and within regulations, it isn't harmful. However, excessive skin bleaching and high levels of particular ingredients in products sold illegally are ……2…….. Overusing skin-bleaching products can cause irreversible damage and the skin might not return to its original condition even after ……3…… has stopped. Bleaching products strip the kin of melanin, which makes it more sensitive to the sun, meaning you need to ……4…… with clothing and not just sun protection, otherwise you increase your risk of skin cancer. However, this does not deter many users of these illegal and dangerous products.

Adapted from https://wellcomecollection.org/

Task B: The dialogue below is a conversation about the use of cosmetics. Select the best option to make it meaningful. Write your answers like in the example. **Example: 1-were**

A: If I 1. (***am / were / had been you***), I would avoid these creams because they are dangerous.
B: I'm sorry but I can't, I want to be ***2. (whiter / as white / more and more white)*** as my French friend.
A: I understand what you are saying but 3. (***the more extreme / the most extreme / most extreme***) consequence can be the cancer and I'm sure you don't want to be victim of that.
B: Of course I don't, and I promise to consider what you're saying because life and good health are treasures. I know that if I use creams excessively, I 4.(***would spoil / will spoil / could spoil***) my skin.

PART THREE: WRITING

Task: Do the task below

Your Ghanaian friend living in Sekondi has sent you a letter to let you know about his/her intention to become whiter in order to resemble some American fashion stars. Write him/her a response letter to dissuade him/her. In your letter, you may mention the following points:

- Mention some reasons why people use these creams
- Say why it is dangerous to use them
- Advise him/her what to do

Correction and marking test about cosmetics 3e 2022

PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION

A/ **VOCABULARY (0,5 pts)**

2-J 6-E

3-H 7-C

4-A 8-G

5-I 9-B

B/ **COMPREHENSION CHECK (1pt)**

2. F (L1-2)
3. F (L2-3)
4. F (L4-5)
5. T (L5-6)
6. T (L8)
7. F (9)
8. T (L9-10)
9. T (L10-11)
10. F (L13-15)
11. T (L16-17)

PART TWO: LANGUAGE IN USE (0,5 pt /answer)

Task A

1. skin (exple)
2. dangerous
3. bleaching
4. cover up

Task B

1. Were (exple)
2. As white
3. The most extreme
4. Will spoil

PART THREE: WRITING

Layout of a friendly letter : 1pt

Some sites mentioned : 1pt

Some reasons : 1pt

Enumeration of some means of transport : 1pt

Correctness of grammar and vocabulary : 2 pts