

BACCALAUREAT BLANC REGIONAL

Session : Mars 2025

LANGUE VIVANTE 2: ANGLAIS

SERIE A2- Coefficient : 2

Cette épreuve comporte quatre(04) pages numérotées : 1/4 ;2/4 ;3/4 et 4/4. Le candidat est libre de commencer par la composante de son choix. Cependant il devra numéroter ses réponses conformément à la numérotation du sujet.

DUREE: 3H

PART ONE : READING

(40%)

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

Children tend to be used heavily as soldiers during prolonged civil wars; and such civil wars abound at present. Although children were once recruited only when the supply of adult fighters ran short, the youngest are now often recruited first.

5 There are logical reasons for this. First, there are more children around proportionally in most of the relevant places. Thanks to demography, poverty and persistent fighting, in much of Africa south of the Sahara, for example, half the people are now under 18 years old. Then too, children are often easier to attract than adults. Entertainment is in short supply in most villages. Children in most parts of the world can be lured by a gun and bit of drill into militias or street gangs.

10 When they cannot be tempted into the ranks, children can be forced more easily than adults. Once secured, they are more readily molded into unquestioning fighters. Give them only a little alcohol, marijuana or gunpowder to sniff; tell them, as in parts of West Africa, that a magic incantation or membership of a secret society will protect them; give them mirrors and a wooden toy to steer away enemy bullets: then many, more credulous than grown-ups, will run fearless into battle. The youngest will often develop the sort of loyalty that stems from knowing no other way of life.

15 Despite sometimes because of their size, children can do valuable work as scouts, spies, messengers and decoys. Even ten-year-olds can learn to carry and use light weight but lethal weapons, such as M16 semiautomatic rifles or the omnipresent aluminum Kalashnikov AK-47. They may be more willing than older companions to do the most dangerous jobs, such as laying and clearing mines, serving as suicide bombers or infiltrating villages that are due to be attacked. With no sons or daughters, wives
20 or husbands to think of, they are frequently less terrified of death than older people.

Finally, children are an economical addition to the force. They need less food than adult soldiers, take up less space and do without a wage. One Congolese rebel officer explained why Kadogos (boy fighters) 'make very good soldiers': it was because "they obey orders; they are not concerned about getting back to their wife or family; and they don't know fear".

Adapted from <https://www.economist.com/special/1999/07/08/kalashnikov-kids>

COMPREHENSION CHECK

A. Each of the following definitions and synonyms refers to a word or expression in the text. Find the corresponding words or expressions and write them down. Write your answers like in the example.

Example: 1= ran short.

- 1- were insufficient (line 2)
- 2- attracted, tempted (line 8)
- 3- training (line 8)
- 4- troops (line 9)
- 5- trained (line 10)
- 6- avoid (line 12)
- 7- adults (line 13)
- 8- originates from (line 14)
- 9- people employed to collect secret information from an enemy (line 15)
- 10- traps (line 16)
- 11- salary (line 22)

B. Say whether the statements below are **True (T)** or **False (F)** according to the text. Then, justify your answers by quoting the lines of the text. Write your answers like in the example.

Example: 1-F (Line 1)

1. Children are rarely used as soldiers in civil wars.
2. In the past, children were recruited only when there were not enough adult to fight.
3. Demography, poverty, and constant fighting contribute to the high number of child soldiers.
4. Most villages have plenty of entertainment options for children.
5. Children are always recruited voluntarily and never forced into militias.
6. Magic incantations and secret societies are sometimes used to make children believe they are protected in battle.
7. Child soldiers always refuse to participate in war due to fear.
8. Children are usually too weak to carry weapons such as the M16 or AK-47.
9. Child soldiers are often assigned dangerous tasks like clearing mines and infiltrating villages.
10. Children are more expensive to maintain in militias than adult soldiers.
11. Kadogos, or boy fighters, are valued because they follow orders and do not fear death.

PART TWO: LANGUAGE IN USE**(30%)**

Task A: Turn the sentences below from the active to the passive voice according to the tenses. Number one has been done as an example.

Example: 1- Children are recruited as soldiers by rebels.

1. Rebels recruit children as soldiers.
2. War leaders have used children in dangerous missions.
3. Militias are training young boys to fight.
4. A commander forced the children to attack the village.
5. They were giving the children drugs before battles.
6. The army had captured many child soldiers.
7. Soldiers will rescue the kidnapped children soon.
8. The international community must protect innocent children.
9. Human rights organizations should raise awareness about child soldiers.
10. They are going to send the child soldiers to rehabilitation centers.
11. People have to stop the use of children in wars.

Task B : The text below is about the healing process of child soldiers. To make it meaningful, fill in the gaps with the missing words from the box below. One word in the box is not concerned. Write your answers like in the example.

Example: 1-abuse

**psychosocial – recover – excluded – dance – sensitization – abuse –
consequences – reunite – violence – process – reintegration - peaceful**

Regardless of how children are recruited and of their roles, child soldiers are victims, whose participation in conflict bears serious implications for their physical and emotional well-being. They are commonly subject to **(1)** and most of them witness death, killing, and sexual **(2)**..... Many are forced to commit violent acts and some suffer serious long-term psychological **(3)**..... The reintegration of these children into civilian life is an essential part of the work to help child soldiers rebuild their lives.

Within the UN system, UNICEF is in charge of the **(4)**..... of former child soldiers and their first priority is to prepare them for a return to civilian life. **(5)**..... support, education and/or training are important aspects of reintegration programmes. Attempting to **(6)**..... children with their families and communities are also essential, but **(7)**..... and reconciliation efforts are sometimes necessary before a child is welcomed back at home. The reintegration of former child soldiers is a long **(8)**....., which needs extensive support from the international community. A successful reintegration programme can help children **(9)**..... from the trauma of their experiences and prepare them for a more **(10)**..... future. Additionally, it is important to provide children with opportunities for employment or education, as they are often **(11)**..... from many of the resources available to other children their age. Without proper support, former child soldiers may struggle to integrate into society and face ongoing challenges.

Adapted from: https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/six-grave-violations/child-soldiers/?utm_source=chatgpt.co

PART THREE: WRITING (30%)

Do only one of the two tasks (20 to 25 lines maximum)

TASK A

For the World Children's Day, the British Council organizes an article writing competition on 'Child soldiers'. As the representative of your school English Club in that competition, write your article in which you:

- define 'Child soldiers';
- describe some consequences of being 'Child soldiers';
- suggest some ways to help them recover.

TASK B

You are invited to take part in a debate at the BBC radio on the topic: **"Wars are more detrimental to the children than to an adult population. Do you agree or not?"**

Write down your contribution in an argumentative / opinion essay.

