



CE: ANGLAIS	Date: January 26th	Level: 3ème	Duration: 2H	Coefficient: 2
ENGLISH COMMON TEST N° 1 JANUARY 2026 2 <sup>nd</sup> TRIMESTER				

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*Cette épreuve comporte (2) pages numérotées page 1 sur 2 et page 2 sur 2*

**PART ONE:** READING COMPREHENSION (8points)

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

**The Dangers of Skin Lightening Products**

Skin lightening products, also known as **bleaching creams**, are used to change one's natural skin tone by reducing melanin. People often use them because of social pressure or to follow specific beauty standards. However, many of these cosmetics contain very **dangerous** chemicals like mercury, hydroquinone, or corticosteroids. Although mercury is **banned** in many countries, it is still found in some illegal creams sold online.

Using these products for a long time can cause serious health **problems**. On the skin, they can lead to irritation, permanent scars, or even thin the skin until it becomes fragile. Inside the body, toxic ingredients like mercury can **damage** the kidneys and the nervous system. Some users may also develop skin cancer or severe allergic reactions. For young people and children, these chemicals are even more dangerous because they can affect physical **development**.

In conclusion, it is important to understand that beauty is not defined by skin color. Instead of using harmful chemicals to change your appearance, it is better to protect your skin from the sun and embrace your natural **tone**. Choosing safe, organic products is the best way to **keep** your body healthy and avoid long-term **complications**.

*Adapted from internet*

A- VOCABULARY: Match the words or expressions from the text in column A with their meanings in column B. **One word in column B is not concerned.** Write your answers like in the example.

**Example: 1.d**

COLUMN A
1. bleaching creams (L1)
2. dangerous (L3)
3. banned (L4)
4. problems (L6)
5. damage (L8)
6. development (L10)
7. tone (L13)
8. keep (L13)
9. complications (L14)

COLUMN B
a. issues
b. destroy
c. grow
d. lightening creams
e. harmful
f. prohibited
g. colour
h. misuse
i. diseases
j. stay

**B- COMPREHENSION CHECK:** Read the text again and say whether the statements are True or False. Write **T** for **True** and **F** for **False**. Justify your choices by indicating the lines. **Example: 1- T (L1)**

1. Bleaching creams, are used to change one's natural skin tone.
2. People often use bleaching products because of personal choice.
3. Using these products for a long time are benefits for health.
4. Toxic ingredients like mercury can destroy the kidneys and the nervous system.
5. Beauty is defined by skin color.

**PART TWO: LANGUAGE IN USE** (6points)

**TASK 1** (3 points)

Here is a text about cosmetic products in order to sensitize those who are using these products. Fill in the gaps with the following words or expressions to make it meaningful. One word in the box is not concerned. Do it like in the example. **Example : 1- products**

**cancer – fashion - stop - products – effects**

Many young African women think that they should use cosmetic (1) ----- to improve their beauty. But what they ignore is that the excessive use of these creams and lotions has some side (2) ----- causing fatal diseases like hypertension, diabetes and skin (3) ----- . So we have to (4) ----- using bleaching creams.

**TASK 2** (3 points)

Complete each sentence below with the appropriate word in brackets to give advice. Do it like in the example.

**Example: 1- should**

- 1- Black women (**should / shouldn't**) be proud of their skin colour.
- 2- Women (**should / shouldn't**) use cosmetics with moderation.
- 3- Girls (**should / shouldn't**) bleach their skins.
- 4- The Government (**should / shouldn't**) prohibit the sale of bleaching products.

**PART THREE: WRITING** (6points)

The American NGO "Black is Beautiful" is organizing a writing competition. The aim is to sensitize your people about the dangers of bleaching cream. You decide to participate in the competition and you have to write a paragraph in which you have to:

- ✓ **define what bleaching creams are and give some examples of these products;**
- ✓ **reveal the diseases and consequences linked to the use of bleaching creams;**
- ✓ **give advice to young people to avoid bleaching their skins.**

**(Twelve (12) maximum lines)**

**THE ROOT OF EDUCATION IS BITTER. BUT THE FRUIT IS SWEET. (ARISTOTLE)**

