

BACCALAUREAT
SESSION 2009

Coefficient : 2
Durée : 3 h

LANGUE VIVANTE 2: ANGLAIS

SÉRIE A2

Cette épreuve comporte trois (03) pages numérotées 1/3, 2/3 et 3/3.

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

PART ONE : READING 40%

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

A Stay-At Home Mom

The unwritten, generational rules on « How to Become a Strong Black Woman » are clear : 1. Get an education. 2. Work harder than everyone else. 3. Sacrifice for your children. 4. Never depend on a man-God bless the child who has her own.

05 So why is it that in 2001, many highly educated, highly employable black women have tossed their careers to the wind, opting to stay home and wholeheartedly depend on their men to support them? Some women say they're making the ultimate sacrifice by relinquishing their financial independence. But these stay-at-home moms say there is much more to life than earning the mighty dollar.

10 Staying at home allows them to personally teach their children to read, to write, to cook, to clean, to learn moral values and to have a strong sense of family and no measly career could ever take the place of that.

15 Contrary to the stereotype, many black stay-at-home moms are not privileged, or on welfare. Many are former career women who have made huge sacrifices to stay home and rear their children. Child care is a major issue for all mothers, and Chicago stay-at-home mom Evelyn Green, wife of Leroy Green, a Walgreens Pharmacist, often agonized over her decision to work after having her first child.

20 "After I had my child I had every intention of going to work, and for a while I put my child in a day care and rejoined the workforce," Green, a former office manager, recalls. "My maternal instincts were kicking in and I found myself crying on the train on the way to work because I've heard every baby-sitter horror story there is and I felt guilty about leaving my child."

25 So the Greens began to do some number crunching with the family budget and realized that Evelyn's return to the workforce didn't do much to improve their bottom line. Because her paycheck was spent on transportation to work, eating lunch at work, and of course, the baby-sitter, the family decided that it made much more sense for her to stay home, especially since that's where she wanted to be.

By Zondras Hughes – Ebony, May 2001 (pp. 136-138).

Tournez la page S.V.P.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

A. Each of the following definitions and meanings refers to a word or an expression in the text. Find the corresponding words or expression(s) and write them down. The lines given as reference will help you.

Example : 1 = depend

1. rely (L. 2)
2. abandoned, let down (L. 4)
3. choosing (L. 5)
4. giving up (L. 6)
5. of little value (L. 10)
6. social security (L. 12)
7. bring up (L. 13)
8. an important question (L. 14)
9. worried, hurt (L. 15)
10. a place to keep the baby during work hours (L. 18)
11. at fault, sorry (L.20)

B. Say whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F) according to the text. Refer to the line(s) to justify your choice. Example: 1 – F (L. 4)

1. The text is about all the American women.
2. The mothers in the text are only interested in their careers.
3. Some mothers are willing to give up their jobs.
4. Taking care of children in the U.S.A. is easy.
5. Most American black women give up their jobs because they are rich enough.
6. Mrs Green was happy to resume her work.
7. Mrs Green had a good job.
8. After Mrs Green gave birth to her child she has never gone back to work.
9. Mrs Green loves baby-sitters.
10. Mrs Green took her decision with her husband's agreement.
11. Evelyn is the name of Greens' baby.

PART TWO: WRITING 40%

Do only one of the two tasks.

A. The last issue of your English Club magazine contains the following topic for a writing competition:
"A working mother can't be a good mother".

Write a contribution to the magazine and say if you agree or disagree with this assertion. (not more than 25 lines)

B. In a class debate during your English lesson, your group is expected to speak in favour of house-wives as opposed to working mothers.

Write your argument bearing in mind that the topic is "Founding a family is the ultimate goal in life."
You may use some of the following ideas :

- Education of children demands a lot of time.
- Laying a good foundation in child education is more important than obtaining double salary.
- There are horrible stories about baby-sitters.
- There is sexual harassment at the working place.

PART THREE : LANGUAGE IN USE 20%

- A. Select the most appropriate words from the box below to fill in the numbered gaps.
Write down your answer like this : 1 - humans

humans – sake – others – though – variation – violence
culpability – however – state – whereas – inherited

Condemned to violence?

Some argue that the propensity for violence or killing has always been inborn in (1) Supporters of evolution maintain that we come from wild animals and have simply (2) their violent characteristics. Such theories would leave us condemned to an endless cycle of (3) from which there is no hope of escape.

(4) there is much evidence of the contrary. The theories mentioned above do not explain why in different cultures there are wide (5) in frequency and types of violence. They do not indicate why in some cultures responding with violence seems to be the norm, (6) other societies report with very little violence, with murder almost nil. Psychoanalyst Erich Fromm exposed cracks in the theories that we inherit aggression from primates by pointing that although some of them are violent as a result of physical needs or for self protection, humans are the only ones who have been known to kill for the (7) of killing. In their book “The will to kill” Professors James Allan and Jack Levin (8) ...: “Some individuals are more prone to violence than (9) The will to kill, (10) ... governed by numerous internal and external forces, still includes choice and human decision making, and thus accountability and (11)”

- B. What do people say in each of the following situations? N° 9 is done for you as an example. Write your answers like this: 9 – I’m so sorry! (All) my condolences/deepest sympathy.

1. A new person is introduced to you.
2. Someone sneezes.
3. There is a visitor at home. You offer him/her something to drink.
4. Someone is sick.
5. Someone thanks you for your pen he’s borrowing.
6. Your friend has passed his exam.
7. Someone has failed his exam.
8. Someone is travelling.
9. Your friend has lost his father.
10. Your sister is worried about your sickness. You comfort her.
11. Someone offers you a cup of coffee. You accept the offer.