

REPUBLIQUE TUNISIENNE MINISTERE DE L'EDUCATION ET DE LA FORMATION	SESSION PRINCIPALE	EXAMEN DU BACCALAURÉAT SESSION DE JUIN 2009
SECTIONS :	MATHEMATIQUES + SCIENCES EXPERIMENTALES + ECONOMIE ET GESTION + SCIENCES DE L'INFORMATIQUE	
EPREUVE : A N G L A I S	DURÉE : 2 heures	COEFFICIENT : 1

I – READING COMPREHENSION (12 marks)

1. More evidence has emerged that listening to personal music players too loudly could make you deaf. Experts have warned that new technology makes it easier to listen for longer – and louder – than ever before. But those who turn up the volume to drown out noise on the tube or a bus run the risk of permanent hearing damage. Extended exposure to volumes of 80 decibels – the level of city traffic – can cause temporary tinnitus, or ringing in the ears, according to the Royal National Institute for Deaf People. Listening at the maximum 105 decibels for more than an hour a day could cause incurable hearing loss, the institute warned.
2. Its research shows that more than half of 16 to 24-year-olds listen to digital music players such as iPods for more than an hour a day. Institute chief executive Dr John Low said young people are 'frighteningly unaware' of the dangers of listening to their iPods or MP3 players too loudly. He added : 'If young people don't heed our warnings about safer listening, they could end up facing premature hearing damage. New technology and ever-increasing storage capacity enable people to listen non-stop for hours – and at louder volumes than ever before.'
3. Institute audiologist Angela King urged music fans to look out for the warning signs of hearing problems. She said : 'Hearing loss from loud noise is caused by listening too loudly for too long a period of time. Ringing or buzzing in your ears after a long stint of being plugged in to your audio is a warning sign that if you continue to stress your ears like this, you could damage your hearing permanently.'
4. The institute advises music-lovers to take regular breaks from their headphones to give their ears a rest. Other tips include turning down the volume – as even a small reduction in noise can make a big difference to the risk of damage to hearing.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) Tick (✓) the right alternative.(2 marks)

a – The text is mainly

narrative ☐

descriptive ☐

expository ☐

b – In this article, the writer is :

• urging the authorities to ban music players on public transport ☐

• criticizing the ever-increasing use of music players by young people ☐

• warning young people against the possible risks posed by music players ☐

2) Complete the following table with details from paragraph 1.(2 marks)

Cause	Consequence
Turning up volumes of their music players	Young people.....
.....	Incurable hearing loss.

3) Find details in the text showing that the following statements are false. (2 marks)

a) Young people are conscious of the risks linked to loud music. (paragraph 2)

.....

b) Reducing the sound of music players is the only remedy to hearing loss. (paragraph 4)

.....

4) Find words in the text meaning nearly the same as : (3 marks)

a) take notice of something (paragraph 2) :

b) overcome (paragraph 1) :

c) early (paragraph 2) :

5) What do the underlined words in paragraph 2 refer to ? (2 marks)

a) Its refers to :

b) they refers to :

6) Give a personal justified answer to the following question. (1 mark)

Would you take the scientists' warnings about listening to loud music seriously ? Why ? Why not ?

.....

.....

II – WRITING (12 marks)

- 1) Use the notes below to develop a four-line paragraph about parents and kids. (4 marks)**

Parents : - no basic literacy
 - little interest in learning
Kids : - poor reading and writing
 - no parents' help with homework

.....
.....
.....
.....

- 2) Your friend Slim spends many hours a day playing videogames. He neglected his family, friends and studies.**

Write a letter to advise him to cut down on videogames. Insist on the risks of addiction to such games. (No more than 12 lines) (8 marks)

DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME OR SIGN THE LETTER

Dear Slim,

exam.tn

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Yours,
Souheil(a)

III – LANGUAGE (6 marks)

1) Fill in the blanks with 6 words from the following box. (3 marks)

key – boost – if – holidays – as – despite – whether – although

We're often told money can't buy us happiness. But now scientists say it can make us happy – as long we spend it on someone else. Giving to charity or buying presents is the to contentment. In tests, those who gave money away were happier than those who spent the same cash on, cars and luxuries for themselves. Giving away as little as a couple of pounds every day is enough to happiness levels. Researchers have found people are happier they spend their money on other people. Their study explains that we have far higher disposable incomes than our grandparents did 50 years ago, we are not any happier.

2) Circle the right option (3 marks)

Economists have long believed that the least productive societies are those in which women are denied opportunities to join the workforce. In underdeveloped countries, women typically go without the most basic (**tools** – **topics** – **materials**) needed to earn a living : education, training and access to capital. Yet there is abundant evidence linking economic progress (**by** – **with** – **to**) empowered women. A recent study by the London School of Economics showed that countries (**whose** – **where** – **who**) women are better educated were also those with higher economic growth rates. So, to spur growth in impoverished countries, many (**groups** – **efforts** – **equipments**) have been launched, among them the microfinance movement. Since the 1970s, tens of thousands of poor women (**have started** – **had started** – **started**) their own business using loans from banks and organizations which would spend \$ 100 million over the next 5 years on business education because it is believed that (**skilled** – **illiterate** – **unskilled**) business women could boost economic output in Asia and Africa.