

REPUBLIQUE TUNISIENNE MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉDUCATION ET DE LA FORMATION	SESSION PRINCIPALE	EXAMEN DU BACCALAURÉAT SESSION DE JUIN 2009
SECTION : L E T T R E S		
ÉPREUVE : A N G L A I S	DURÉE : 2 Heures	COEFFICIENT : 2

I - READING COMPREHENSION (15 marks)

Learn Something New, Stretch your Brain

- When I was a new graduate from college, with a firm hand on a diploma stating I had a Masters degree in Finance, I was convinced I was now ready to conquer the world. Surely I would have my choice of positions, and could pave my way to wealth, simply by holding that degree. I was exhausted studying and reading those boring books forever. Never again would I spend night after night pouring over a book that didn't have the word "romance" in the title.
- So happily I moved down the path of life, and took a banking position. Followed by an accounting position. Followed by an auditing position. And then I began taking a serious look at my life. Was this really what school had taught me? Wasn't there more to life than simply holding a job ? How was I supposed to find my true vocation?
- I began sitting at my desk contemplating my future. Surely there were others out there like me who began to question their fate and decided that their lives simply weren't working for them anymore, and that a big change was necessary. Or was I alone in this quest?
- The funny thing about a quest is once you set your mind to something, it's easy to find your answers. And the easiest way to find the answers is in writing. Books and magazines became my best friends. I began to read anything and everything, from self-help to business help. I began to get a new type of education. An education from listening to what others had to say about success, life, and the general pursuit of happiness. And I discovered the importance of a great education, not just an institutionalized education.
- A great education begins with a desire to learn. As long as that desire exists inside of you, you can literally conquer anything. Education is one of my favourite topics. Knowledge is the key to success. It can unlock any door you choose. Simply by wanting to learn, and following through with the act of learning, you can become anything you dream of and education is so easily achieved! Literally anyone can receive intense, specialized knowledge if they so desire. Education is not synonymous with formal training. Education is simply the desire to learn. And there are so many ways to learn!
- Thomas Edison had only three months of formal education during his entire lifetime. Henry Ford had less than a sixth grade education. Bill Gates never completed college. Yet every single one of these people became very successful in their lifetime. Why? Because they had a thirst for knowledge, and learned what was important to them in any way they can. They read. They educated themselves with happenings in the world around them. And they never gave up on the formal education of life.

Adapted from
www.visionofsuccess.com
 by Lori Osterberg

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Correct the following statements with information from the text. (4 marks)

- a. Lori found college education particularly exciting. (paragraph 1)
.....
- b. It was difficult for Lori to find a job after receiving her diploma. (paragraph 2)
.....
- c. Lori didn't like romance books. (paragraph 1)
.....
- d. Lori had been happy with her professional life ever since she started her first job. (paragraph 2)
.....

2. Complete this summary with words from the text. (4 marks)

Lori believes that formal education may offer good (a)..... for jobs but it cannot guarantee a (b)life. She suggests that we (c).....books and (d) to people to get deeper education about life.

3. Answer the following questions. (4 marks)

- a. What is the main condition for success?
.....
- b. Lori thinks that the desire to learn is not enough to achieve one's dreams. What else is needed?
.....
- c. What do the celebrities mentioned by Lori have in common? List two features.
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4. Find in the text expressions meaning nearly the same as : (3 marks)

- a. To create the proper conditions (paragraph 1) :
- b. Thinking seriously about something for a long time (paragraph 3) :
- c. Search (paragraph 4) :

II – WRITING (15 marks)

1. Develop the following notes into a coherent paragraph about the International Festival of the Sahara in Douz. (5 marks)

Date : every year – end of December – 4 days.

History : first festival 1910 (called the *Camel Festival*).

Founder : M'hammed Marzougui.

Purpose : making people appreciate nomadic traditions and way of life.

Main Events : poetry contests – camel races – Bedouin marriage – other shows.

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2. Illiteracy is a major problem in many parts of the world where many people have had little or no education. Write a fifteen-line article in which you suggest ways of dealing with illiteracy and overcoming it. (10 marks)

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III – LANGUAGE (10 marks)

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

acquisition – ongoing – trends – for – spent – results – to

Consumerism is economically manifested in the chronic purchasing of new goods and services. It is driven by huge sums ① on advertising designed to create both a desire to follow ② and the resultant personal self-reward system based on ③ Materialism is one of the end ④ of consumerism. Consumerism interferes with the workings of society by replacing the normal common-sense desire ⑤ an adequate supply of life's necessities with an artificial ⑥ quest for things with little regard for the true utility of what is bought.

2. Put the bracketed words in the correct tense or form. (3.5 marks)

Thirteen years ago, two writers at the *Wall Street Journal* first used the term "glass ceiling". It (to use) ① to describe the invisible but largely impenetrable barrier to women's (advance) ② in the workplace. Later on, the term (quick) ③ became part of the cultural lexis. In recent years, glass ceiling (to become) ④ a contentious topic. Some people think that it doesn't (real) ⑤ matter, others believe that the idea no longer (to have) ⑥ relevance in today's workplace. At the same time, more and more (to succeed) ⑦ women have been able to open windows through glass ceiling and make it to the top.

3. Circle the right alternative. (3.5 marks)

We are not so much interested in making toys that think, but rather toys that help children think. We found that one of the best ways to help children learn is to provide them ① [by / with / for] new toys and tools that let them engage in ② [created / creation / creative] activities, to design, create and invent new things with the new materials around them. ③ [Unless / Though / If] we give children the right kind of toy, it will stimulate their imagination. Children can build castles or houses and learn about the structures of the world and ④ [who / how / why] they are built. With new technologies, children can build things that come alive, that move, that react and interact. We ⑤ [do / did / does] want to create technology that enables children to express ⑥ [themselves / himself / herself] just as easily as they express themselves with crayon and paper or traditional toys. I'm generally not very impressed with most of the digital toys on the market today. Many of them use the new technology in superficial ways, just to add some flashing lights or some beeping sounds. This might seem a little more ⑦ [exciting / excited / excitement] in the toy store but it doesn't have very much long-lasting value.