[1] Khalid Naitzehou is a Moroccan cobbler in Los Angeles. He carried with him the ancient traditions of Morocco all the way from Taroudant to the lively streets of Los Angeles. His journey is not just about success in business; **it** is about preserving the beautiful Moroccan heritage while building bridges with the American culture.

[2] At the age of 14, Khalid began apprenticeship in his hometown with different shoemakers. He started with the most basic tasks like cleaning tools, maintaining the workshop and buying cobbling materials. This is the traditional Moroccan way of learning crafts: starting from the bottom, observing carefully, and gradually learning the skills to do the job perfectly. As Khalid recalls, this experience taught him patience, respect for elders, and hard work. "Working under the guidance of various artisans allowed me to learn rich artistic talents and diverse techniques from each," says Khalid.

[3] Like many young Moroccans seeking educational opportunities abroad, Khalid moved to Belgium in 2013. His intention was to study international relations; yet, he didn't give up his passion to become a professional cobbler. So, he continued practicing and refining his shoemaking skills. Khalid discovered something interesting about the Belgian educational system. "In Belgium," he explains, "you can study and work simultaneously. You can practice your craft during the day and attend classes in the evening." This system allowed him to develop both his academic knowledge and his professional skills.

[4] In 2015, Khalid moved to Los Angeles. His American journey began in a modest garage. Later, Khalid managed to set up his workshop in a historic area of Los Angeles. The new space had previously housed other cobblers, and Khalid became the 4th artisan to work there. His workshop, with a surface of 60 square meters, is divided into two sections: a visible area where customers can see the craftsmanship process, and a production area where he works with his team. This transparency is something that Americans appreciate the most. They want to see their items being made, understand the process, and connect with the artisan.

[5] As Morocco prepares to host the 2030 World Cup alongside Spain and Portugal, Khalid sees **this** as an opportunity to support his country by showing its craftsmanship to the world. He's working on special pieces that will celebrate this historic event and highlight Morocco's rich artisanal legacy. His message to young Moroccans is clear: "Don't abandon your culture. Use your traditional skills as a foundation for innovation and entrepreneurship."

[6] Khalid's story has taken an interesting turn recently. He began creating content for social media, sharing his knowledge and promoting the value of learning traditional crafts. Khalid believes that if you learn a craft and a language, everything else will follow.

I. COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS) BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT

A. CHOOSE THE BEST ANSWER. (1 pt)

The main purpose of the writer is to:

a. show how Moroccan artisans make traditional shoes.

b. explain how Khalid emigrated to Belgium and then to America.

c. tell the story of an ambitious young Moroccan artisan.

The best answer is: . . . . . .

B. COMPLETE THE CHART WITH INFORMATION FROM THE TEXT. (2 pts)

Dates/Figures	What they refer to
. . . . .	The year Khalid moved to Los Angeles
60	. . . . .

C. ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY. (3 pts)

1. Khalid moved to another city to learn how to make shoes.

. . . . . .

2. In Los Angeles, Khalid worked as a cobbler for a big company.

. . . . . .

3. Khalid wasn't the first artisan to have a workshop in the historic area of Los Angeles.

. . . . . .

D. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS. (3 pts)

1. What activities did Khalid do for cobblers when he was a teenager?

. . . . . .

2. What did Khalid appreciate about the educational system in Belgium?

. . . . . .

3. How can Khalid's work support Morocco in the 2030 World Cup?

. . . . . .

E. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH IDEAS FROM THE TEXT. (2 pts)

1. While working with artisans as a teenager, Khalid learned the values of . . . . . .

. . . . . .

2. By creating content for social media, Khalid aims to . . . . . .

. . . . . .

F. FIND IN THE TEXT WORDS THAT MEAN ALMOST THE SAME AS (2 pts)

1. looking for (paragraph 3): . . . . . .
2. heritage (paragraph 5): . . . . . .

G. WHAT DO THE UNDERLINED WORDS IN THE TEXT REFER TO? (2 pts)

1. it (paragraph 1): . . . . . .
2. this (paragraph 5): . . . . . .

A. FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE CORRECT WORDS FROM THE LISTS. (2 pts)

1. Adam hopes . . . . . his education in a university that values innovation and research.

pursuing - to pursue - pursue

2. Humor can help people . . . . . stress in their daily life.

carry on - get over - get away

B. FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE CORRECT WORDS FROM THE LIST. (1 pt)

regulation - affordable - reduce - loans - housing - boost

The new government program seeks to . . . . . job creation through offering . . . . . to small businesses to fund their projects.

C. PUT THE WORDS IN BRACKETS IN THE CORRECT FORM. (2 pts)

Women's economic (independent) . . . . . has improved their social status, allowing them to help build (prosper) . . . . . societies.

D. PUT THE VERBS IN BRACKETS IN THE CORRECT TENSE. (2 pts)

1. Before Sara started her new job at the company in March, she (take) . . . . . a short training program to learn how to use the new software application.
2. By 2030, many countries (develop) . . . . . new ways to use sea water for drinking.

E. REWRITE THE SENTENCES AS SUGGESTED. (4 pts)

1. The government has renovated many historical monuments in the city.

Many historical monuments . . . . . .

2. "The government will make significant investments in green energies," the official said.

The official promised . . . . . .

3. Meriem didn't update the anti-virus. So her computer crashed.

If . . . . . .

4. Women face many challenges in business. They manage to succeed.

Despite . . . . . .

F. CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSES. (2 pts)

1. Joe: Our project plan failed due to lack of funding.
   Alex: . . . . . .

   a. Congratulations! b. I am sorry to hear that! c. I like it!

2. Customer: I'm afraid, but this is the third time I report the same problem.
   Agent: . . . . . .

   a. Please do! b. Never mind! c. My apologies!

G. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE. (2 pts)

You: (Express your opinion about the use of AI in doing class assignments): . . . . . .

. . . . . .

Your friend: (Responds): . . . . . .

DO TASKS 1 AND 2

TASK 1 : Complete the following paragraph **(4 pts)**

Social media users often do many things that I find unacceptable. First, some people use bad language in their posts .....

.....

.....

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.....

TASK 2: (6 pts)

Many students face problems at school, such as stress, bullying, conflicts, etc.

Write an article to be published in your school website about the problem students face in your school. Suggest solutions.

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KEY AND MARKING SCALE

Baccalaureate English National Exam Arts June 2026 · Accept any appropriate answer not mentioned in this key.

I. COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

A. Choose the best answer. (1 pt) c. tell the story of an ambitious young Moroccan artisan.
B. Complete the chart with information from the text. (2 pts) **2015** → The year Khalid moved to Los Angeles.
60 → The surface of Khalid's workshop in square meters (60 square meters).
C. Are these statements true or false? Justify. (3 pts)

1. **False.** He learned his craft in his hometown: "At the age of 14, Khalid began apprenticeship in his hometown with different shoemakers." (paragraph 2)
2. **False.** He set up his own workshop: "Khalid managed to set up his workshop in a historic area of Los Angeles." (paragraph 4)
3. **True.** "The new space had previously housed other cobblers, and Khalid became the 4th artisan to work there." (paragraph 4)

D. Answer these questions. (3 pts)

1. He cleaned tools, maintained the workshop and bought cobbling materials.
2. He appreciated that students can study and work at the same time: he practised his craft during the day and attended classes in the evening.
3. He is making special pieces that celebrate the event and show Morocco's rich artisanal legacy and craftsmanship to the world.

E. Complete the sentences with ideas from the text. (2 pts)

1. …patience, respect for elders and hard work.
2. …share his knowledge and promote the value of learning traditional crafts.

F. Find in the text words that mean almost the same as… (2 pts)

1. seeking
2. legacy

G. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 pts)

1. Khalid's journey
2. Morocco hosting the 2030 World Cup

II. LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)

A. Fill in the gaps with the correct words from the lists. (2 pts)

1. to pursue
2. get over

B. Fill in the gaps with the correct words from the list. (1 pt) boost · loans
C. Put the words in brackets in the correct form. (2 pts) independence · prosperous
D. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense. (2 pts)

1. **had taken** (past perfect: an action finished before another past action).
2. **will have developed** (future perfect: *by 2030*).

E. Rewrite the sentences as suggested. (4 pts)

1. Many historical monuments **have been renovated by the government in the city**.
2. The official promised **(that) the government would make significant investments in green energies**.
3. If **Meriem had updated the anti-virus, her computer wouldn't have crashed**.
4. Despite **facing many challenges in business, women manage to succeed**. (Also accepted: Despite the many challenges they face in business, women manage to succeed.)

F. Choose the appropriate responses. (2 pts)

1. b. I am sorry to hear that!
2. c. My apologies!

G. Complete the following exchange. (2 pts) You: In my opinion, using AI to do class assignments is not a good idea because students stop thinking for themselves.
Your friend: I see your point, but AI can be useful if we use it to understand our lessons, not to copy answers.

III. WRITING (10 POINTS; task 1: 4 pts; task 2: 6 pts)

Scoring criteria	Task 1	Task 2
Relevance of content to the task	2 pts	3 pts
Appropriateness and variety of vocabulary	1 pt	2 pts
Grammar and mechanics	1 pt	1 pt

Model answers (any appropriate answer is accepted)

Task 1: Social media users often do many things that I find unacceptable. First, some people use bad language in their posts and comments, which offends others and spoils the online atmosphere. Second, many users share false news without checking it, so rumours spread very quickly. Moreover, some people post private photos of others without their permission, and this is a serious lack of respect. Finally, others bully and insult people online while hiding behind fake accounts. I think everyone should be polite and responsible on the Internet.

Task 2: Problems Students Face at School and How to Solve Them Many students face difficulties at school that affect their results and their well-being. In this article, I will talk about three of them and suggest solutions. First of all, stress is a major problem. Heavy timetables, homework and the fear of exams make students anxious and tired. To solve it, teachers should spread tests over the term, and students should organise their time and take regular breaks. Another problem is bullying. Some students are insulted or excluded by their classmates, so they lose confidence and sometimes drop out. The administration should punish bullies and create a trusted counsellor that victims can talk to. Finally, conflicts between students are common, especially because of rumours and misunderstandings. Organising mediation sessions and clubs where students work together can help them respect each other. To conclude, if students, teachers and parents cooperate, our school can become a safer and happier place for everyone.