[1] Dropping out of school is a serious problem in Morocco. Each year, nearly 200,000 children leave school before completing their primary education. A new government initiative in Morocco offers some measures to reduce the number of students who withdraw from school. This initiative is part of an awareness campaign targeting parents.

[2] Researchers and government officials largely attribute **the phenomenon** to the ignorance of poor parents who do not realize the importance of education. Some parents, for example, withdraw their children from school due to the competing demands for household income which often push children to work. Drop-out rates are higher among children of illiterate parents. These rates can be reduced if we sensitize parents about the importance of sending their children to school. In 2006, Morocco launched a number of awareness campaigns to address this growing problem. These campaigns aim at introducing a national programme which encourages school children to make a list of non-registered children and children who have dropped out. More than 14,000 teachers and headmasters will also be responsible for implementing this plan.

[3] The initiative is considered a logical one because it will get children who have dropped out back into the school system, and it will act as a preventive measure because it raises students' awareness to the negative consequences of dropping out. The initiative was tested last year in a few regions. Fatima Lharti, a seventeen-year-old schoolgirl from Tangiers, says she managed to stop approximately one dozen children from dropping out and persuaded a number of others who had already dropped out to come back to school. "The most difficult part of the work is convincing parents." However, "when **they** hear children - the same age as their own - talking about the consequences of dropping out of school, most of them come around within a few minutes," Fatima proudly told Magharebia website reporter.

[4] Samir El Garoumi missed a year of school to work for his family. He is now back in school and has struck a healthy balance between work and studies. In the morning, he goes to school and in the evening, he helps his father in his workshop. This year, **he** is taking part in the initiative to make a list of children who are not in school. He also advises parents in his family circle to allow their children to finish their education.

(Adapted from: www.magharebia.com)

BASE YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT

A. CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER FROM THE LIST GIVEN. (1 pt)
TICK (√) THE RIGHT ANSWER.

The text is about:

a. Illiteracy in Morocco
b. Dropouts students in Morocco
c. Two hardworking Moroccan students

B. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. (3 pts)

1. How many students drop out of primary school in Morocco every year?

. . . . . .

2. Why do poor parents withdraw their children from school?

. . . . . .

3. How can drop-out rates be reduced?

. . . . . .

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

1. 1. The programme encourages parents to make lists of children who have dropped out of school.

. . . . . .

2. Fatima Lharti convinced nearly one dozen children to stay at school.

. . . . . .

3. Samir studies and helps his father as well.

. . . . . .

D. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES. (2 pts)

1. As a preventive measure, the initiative aims at . . . . . .

. . . . . .

2. Fatima Lharti found it difficult to . . . . . .

. . . . . .

E. FIND IN THE TEXT WORDS THAT MEAN ALMOST THE SAME AS: (3 pts)

1. minimise (paragraph 1): . . . . . .
2. money we get from work or investment (paragraph 2): . . . . . .
3. participating (paragraph 4): . . . . . .

F. WHAT DO THE UNDERLINED WORDS OR EXPRESSIONS IN THE TEXT REFER TO? (3 pts)

1. the phenomenon: ……
2. they: ……
3. he: ……

A. PUT THE VERBS BETWEEN BRACKETS IN THE CORRECT TENSE. (3 pts)

Najib Sidqi (get)..... his degree in marketing before he started work at the bank. In 2007, he (conduct) ..... a piece of research on developing customer services. Now, he (be) .....the manager of a bank agency.

B. REWRITE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES AS SUGGESTED. (3 pts)

1. The government launched an educational programme in 2006.
   An educational programme ……
2. "The film has attracted a lot of viewers," the film director said.
   The film director said that ……
3. Saida left school at an early age.
   The teacher wishes ……

C. GIVE THE CORRECT FORM OF THE WORDS BETWEEN BRACKETS. (3 pts)

1. Reducing the rates of drop-outs in Morocco will be an important (achieve) ……
2. Fatima will be (promotion) …….. for her hard work.
3. Many NGOs contribute to the (develop) …….. of citizenship values.

D. FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE RIGHT PHRASAL VERBS FROM THE LIST. (1.5 pts)

stand for - fill in - bring about - look up - get off - apply for

1. The father encouraged his son to …….. another job.
2. The letters VIP …….. Very Important Person.
3. The new initiative tries to …….. change in education.

E. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING THE WORDS GIVEN. (3 pts)

1. Hamid did a great job. He was not offered a better position. (though)

……

2. Souad did not come to the show. She was sick. (because of)

……

3. We were unable to get financial support. We had to abandon the project. (therefore)

……

F. MATCH THE WORDS THAT GO TOGETHER TO MAKE APPROPRIATE COLLOCATIONS. (1.5 pts)

a. priority b. disaster c. gain d. education e. opportunity

1. natural
2. formal
3. brain

1. …….. 2. …….. 3. ……..

WRITING (10 POINTS)

A lot of people in developing countries suffer from illiteracy. Write a short essay about the causes and consequences of this phenomenon and suggest some solutions. (Approximately 250)

Here are some suggestions to help you:

- poverty/ parents' ignorance,
- lack of awareness to the importance of education,
- remote schools in rural areas,
- role of youth organizations, NGOs, government, ..etc.

KEY AND MARKING SCALE

Baccalaureate English National Exam Humanities June 2009 · Accept any appropriate answer not mentioned in this key.

I. COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

A. Choose the right answer from the list given. (1 pt) b. Dropout students in Morocco

B. Answer the following questions. (3 pts)

1. Nearly 200,000 children.
2. Because they do not realize the importance of education and because of the need for household income, which pushes children to work.
3. By sensitizing parents about the importance of sending their children to school.

C. Are these sentences true or false? Justify. (3 pts)

1. **False.** The programme "encourages school children to make a list of non-registered children and children who have dropped out." (paragraph 2)
2. **True.** She "managed to stop approximately one dozen children from dropping out." (paragraph 3)
3. **True.** "In the morning, he goes to school and in the evening, he helps his father in his workshop." (paragraph 4)

D. Complete the following sentences. (2 pts)

1. …raising students' awareness of the negative consequences of dropping out.
2. …convince parents.

E. Find in the text words that mean almost the same as: (3 pts)

1. reduce
2. income
3. taking part

F. What do the underlined words or expressions in the text refer to? (3 pts)

1. Dropping out of school
2. Parents
3. Samir (El Garoumi)

II. LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)

A. Put the verbs between brackets in the correct tense. (3 pts) had got · conducted · is

B. Rewrite the following sentences as suggested. (3 pts)

1. An educational programme **was launched by the government in 2006**.
2. The film director said that **the film had attracted a lot of viewers**.
3. The teacher wishes **Saida hadn't left school at an early age**.

C. Give the correct form of the words between brackets. (3 pts) achievement · promoted · development

D. Fill in the gaps with the right phrasal verbs from the list. (1.5 pts)

1. apply for
2. stand for
3. bring about

E. Join the following sentences using the words given. (3 pts)

1. **Though Hamid did a great job, he was not offered a better position.**
2. **Souad did not come to the show because of her sickness.**
3. **We were unable to get financial support; therefore, we had to abandon the project.**

F. Match the words that go together to make appropriate collocations. (1.5 pts)

1. disaster
2. education
3. gain

III. WRITING (10 POINTS)

Model answers (any appropriate answer is accepted)

Model answer: Illiteracy is a serious problem in many developing countries. Millions of people cannot read or write, and this affects their lives and their countries. There are several causes of illiteracy. First, poverty forces many families to send their children to work instead of school. Second, some parents are ignorant and do not realize the importance of education. Moreover, in rural areas schools are often far away from homes. The consequences are serious. Illiterate people find it hard to get good jobs, they are more likely to live in poverty, and they cannot participate fully in society. As a result, the whole country develops slowly. However, there are solutions. The government should build more schools in remote areas and offer free education. NGOs and youth organizations can organize literacy classes and awareness campaigns. In conclusion, if we all work together, we can reduce illiteracy.