

Epreuve de langue anglaise

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اختبار اللغة الانجليزية

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Read the following text and then answer the questions which follow.

Rural Women in Tunisia

- 1- Rural women are considered the most vulnerable group in Tunisian society. They mainly work in hard conditions, as unpaid workers in family farming, or as low-paid seasonal workers, without social security coverage.
- 2- Many rural women work in the agricultural sector, which is considered one of the pillars of the Tunisian economy. The agricultural sector represents 9% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides 16% of all job opportunities in the country. It primarily relies on the female workforce and employs about half a million women, an estimated 43% of working women in rural areas. Most of these women are informal workers in large farms. They are considered informal workers as they are barely declared to the administration or to social security. Overall, only 33.3% of rural working women are registered in the social security system.
- 3- Rural women's precarious work contributes to their marginalization. Tunisia became aware of this problem only after multiple cases of mass deaths of women who ride "Death Trucks" while working in rural areas in Tunisia. These women travel to their places of work in trucks or tractors for long distances of up to 20 km on rural roads without any protection. In Tunisia, statistics show that 10.3% of female workers in rural areas are victims of work accidents, 21.4% of them are at risk of work accidents, 62.2% work under difficult conditions, and 18% work in dangerous conditions.
- 4- Rural women accept the dangerous and deplorable conditions of transportation in order to keep their jobs. They rely on an intermediary, a "middleman", who provides their transportation and decides their future in the agricultural labor market. Three key players meet in this unbalanced market: the intermediary who transports the rural women and takes part of their wages for himself, on the one hand, and the owner of the agricultural land, on the other hand, and finally the female workers,
- 5- In general, the land owner is usually a member of the extended family of the female workers, or a wealthy farmer who employs the intermediaries who are the owners of the truck that transport these women. This allows land owners to continue exploiting women who are not paid for the work they do because they are working on "family land". 57.9% of the female workers in the agricultural sector do not receive wages, despite the fact that they support their families. In return for their work in the family farm, these women receive

either a part of the agricultural production or some aid, but only during the agricultural season.

6- When they are paid, rural women suffer from discrimination in favor of men. This gender wage gap is considered one of the most important causes of economic insecurity for rural women. In general, women receive 11 dinars a day for their work in the agricultural sector, while men receive 20 dinars for the same work.

7- Despite their marginalization and their deprivation of their rights, in addition to the absence of other work opportunities, rural women accept to work in the informal sector. This, in turn, further marginalizes them as they become part of the new phenomenon of the "feminization of poverty".

8- Rural women are hostages of a patriarchal culture which is nourished by a traditional mentality that limits them to a reproductive role, confines them to family affairs, and doesn't recognize them as active workers in the family, nor as important participants in the economy.

9- Rural female workers in Tunisia fall into a multi-level cycle of poverty. They cannot afford basic necessities like food, clothing, and housing, where 85% of property owners in the rural areas are men. Women work on family property, participate in agricultural labour, either as wage earners or as helpers, and are crucial in achieving food security and providing food at the domestic and national levels; nevertheless, as many as 60% of rural women face hunger and malnutrition.

10- Rural women are also deprived of health care and education. Tunisia has recorded a 25% illiteracy rate among rural women, compared to 15% among rural men. This increases their vulnerability.

COMPREHENSION (7 points)

- 1- Propose a new title to the text **(0.5 pt)**
- 2 - Find two indications in the text that show that the contribution of rural women in agriculture is important **(0.5 pt)**
- 3- Social security coverage is very limited for rural women (Paragraph 2). Mention two disadvantages due to the absence of social security coverage ? **(0.5 pt)**
- 4- The text indicates that "the agricultural sector employs about half a million women, an estimated 43% of working women in rural areas » (Paragraph 2). Say in which other activities the rest of rural women (57 %) are employed, according to you. **(1 pt)**
- 5 - The text indicates that « three key players meet in this unbalanced market » (Paragraph 4). Why is the market unbalanced ? **(0.5 pt)**
- 6 - According to the text (Paragraph 7), rural women are « deprived of their rights ». Mention 3 of these rights, in relation to work, that are guaranteed by the law. **(0.75 pt)**
- 7 - Explain the expression « feminization of poverty » (Paragraph 7). **(0.5 pt)**
- 8 - Rural men don't seem to suffer from the same problems as rural women. Give 3 indications from the text. **(0.75 pt)**

9 – The text mentions several paradoxes in the life of rural women. For example, “rural women contribute in food security, **however** many of them face hunger and malnutrition ».

In the same way, complete the following sentences with information from the text to show these paradoxes : (2 pts, 0.5 each)

- a- Rural women are victims or at risk of work accidents, work under difficult or in dangerous conditions, **however** they are
- b- Rural women contribute in increasing the income of the country as the agricultural sector represents 9% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) thanks, primarily to rural women, **however** these rural women are.....
- c- Rural women are aware of the deplorable conditions of transport, **however** they
- d- Very often land owners employ female workers who are their family members, **however** they

LANGUAGE: (9 points)

1- Choose the right alternative (2 pts ; 0.5 each)

- a- She has a strong commitment to eradicate/eradicating poverty in the inner city.
- b- When doing the mailing, be sure to seal the envelopes correctly, although/otherwise the business card might fall out.
- c- I need a piece of advise/advice before going to the job interview.
- d- Life is getting back to a more manageable/managing routine.

2- Put the verbs in brackets in the right tense and form according to English usage (2 pts; 0.5 each)

- a- Didn't you see the danger (to come) _____ ?
- b- I'm (to leave) _____ with a large number of messages.
- c- If we are not too tired, we (to go) _____ to the cinema tonight.
- d- If you had come earlier, we (to have) _____ lunch together.

3- Fill in each blank with the right preposition (1 pt; 0.25 each)

- a- What are you staring _____ ?
- b- Colleges are sometimes criticized _____ discarding required courses and offering too many electives.
- c- They usually set standards for issuing diplomas _____ graduation.
- d- What type of holiday are you interested _____ ?

4- Put the following statements into indirect speech (1 pt; 0.5 each)

- a- President Roosevelt said, “The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”
- b- The director announced, “The class will go to the museum next Thursday if it doesn't rain.”

5- Put the following statements into the passive form (1 pt; 0.5 each)

- a- The wind blew my hat off.
- b- They were carrying the injured player to the ambulance.

6- Complete the following sentences (1 pt; 0.25 each)

- a- After he was dismissed, the National Football Team coach decided to retire.
 - Following his _____, the National Football Team coach decided to retire.
- b- I will never forget your kind deed!
 - Never _____.
- c- I must apologize for the delay to the boss.
 - Tomorrow, I _____.
- d- When you permit it, I will get the technician to come and repair the printer.
-After your _____.

7- Ask questions about the underlined words (1 pt, 0.25 each)

- a- It was my fault.
- b- The train comes every ten minutes.
- c- I will fly at five o'clock
- d- I left Tunis ten years ago

WRITING (4 points)

What are the main problems in rural areas in Tunisia? (15 - 20 lines).