

Lycée Mamie Adjoua
School year: 2014-2015

Level: 4th form
Duration: 2 hours

ENGLISH COMMON TEST N°1

PART ONE: READING

Read the text below and do all the activities that follow it.

Only twenty years ago, South Korea was a nation of poor farmers. Now it is one of the most important countries in the manufacture of automobiles, computers and television sets...

Consequently, the need for well-educated people in South Korea is extraordinary.

When Koreans got their independence from Japan in 1945, only about half the population could read and write, but today more than 85% can read and write making South Korea the most literate country of Asia. It is often said that the economic success of South Korea is mainly due to their passion for education.

Families do almost anything they can to give their children a chance for university education.

One student described a typical school day this way: he begins everyday at 7.30 a.m, goes on all day and continues with special classes until 10.00 p.m. Then he returns home and studies one more hour before going to bed. On Sundays, he stays home with one of the parents to study all day. What motivates students to give up everything for their studies? It is because there is a great competition to get into universities.

Many South Korean parents do not appreciate their education system. They generally complain about the pressure it puts on young people. Some students even commit suicide each year because of this pressure and the fear for failure. Many educators want to reform the system. One university professor said that his students are lost if he asks them to do anything besides taking a multiple choice test. They do not know how to think creatively and to solve problems.

Adapted from Lynda Markstein, developing reading skills(English for success 3è P.65)

A/ Vocabulary: Read the text and find the synonyms of each word from the options a, b, c. Then, write your answers like this: 1-b

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1. manufacture (line2) | a. Taking | b. Production | c. electricity |
| 2. consequently (line3) | a. Damage | b. concert | c. therefore |
| 3. literate (line5) | a. Servant | b. Ignorant | c. educated |
| 4. typical (line8) | a. Common | b. Rare | c. experience |
| 5. pressure (line13) | a. Constraint | b. Damage | c. precision |
| 6. to reform (line14) | a. to release | b. To change | c. To reduce |
| 7. besides (line15) | a. Apart from | b. Behind | c. Before |

B/ Comprehension check: Read the text again and decide if these statements are true(T) or false(F). Then indicate the lines that justify your answers. 1- T(line3)

- 1- South Korea needs people who possess important diplomas.
- 2- South Korea was colonised by the United States.
- 3- Parents in South Korea believe that university is not necessary for their children.
- 4- Young students in South Korea are very interested in sports and cinema.
- 5- Many people want a change in the South Korean education system.

PART TWO: Language in use

A/ Rewrite these sentences beginning by the underlined fragments. (3points)

Example: The Students Union has written a letter to the Minister

→ A letter has been written to the Minister by the Student Union

1- Good students study the lessons

2- My father will drive a new car

3- The teacher gave us some presents last week

4- I had written a few letters

5- Grandma told the children interesting stories before they went to bed

6- They are drinking some soft drinks in the kitchen at the moment

B/ Fill in the numbered spaces with the appropriate word from the box below. Write your answer like this: 1- hardworking

Achieve	dropped out	hardworking	promising	passed	addict	prized
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Aicha is one of the best students in her class. She's a very.....1.....girl. Last year, she.....2.....her exam with a grade of 19/20 in English. She also enjoys speaking English. Her teacher said that she has a.....3.....future. Her ambition this year is to be.....4.....But her brother.....5.....school two years ago. He became a drug.....6.....and spent his time with gangsters. Today, he has decided to give up these temptations and.....7.....important things in his life.

PART THREE: WRITING

Your Nigerian friend Mensah failed his exam last year. This year, he has decided to pass his exam. As his pen friend, you have a conversation in which you give him some pieces of advice for a better result. Imagine the missing parts of the dialogue you had with Mensah.

Mensah : *I've failed, my friend. And I'm completely discouraged*

You:

Mensah : What should I do to have good results at school like you?

You:

Mensah : I also think of cheating or paying for the exam

You:

Mensah : But how should I behave to be a good student?

You:

Mensah : I even thought of leaving school because it's too difficult

You:

Mensah : Ok, I will do my best to succeed this year. Thanks a lot for your advice my dear friend

You: