

**PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION (8 MARKS)**

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

November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This day was recognized by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1999 with a view to raising public awareness of violations of the rights of women. Why was this step deemed necessary?

In many cultures women are viewed and treated as inferior or as second-class citizens. Prejudices against them are deep-rooted. Gender-based violence in all its forms is an ongoing problem, even in the so-called developed world. According to former UN Secretary-General KOFI Annan, "violence against women is global in reach, and takes place in all societies and cultures. It affects women no matter what their race, ethnicity, social origin, birth or other status may be."

Radhika Coomaraswamy, former UN Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, says that for the vast majority of women, violence against women is "a taboo issue, invisible in society and a shameful fact of life."

*Extracted from Awake! January 2008 page 3*

**A/ VOCABULARY CHECK**

*Match each word or expression in Box A from the text with its synonym in Box B like in the example.*

**Example: 1 - intention**

Box A	Box B
1) View (L 2)	a) information
2) Deemed (L 3)	b) international
3) Awareness (L 2)	c) great
4) Prejudices (L 4)	d) considered
5) Vast (L 10)	e) question, topic
6) Taboo (L 10)	f) opinions formed without enough knowledge or thought
7) Issue (L 11)	g) intention
8) Former (L 9)	h) ancient
9) Global (L 7)	i) forbidden, not permitted

**B/ COMPREHENSION CHECK**

Write brief answers to the questions below.

- 1) Where is the Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women celebrated?
- 2) When does the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women take place?
- 3) What was the United Nations' intention when they decided to dedicate a day to women in 1999?
- 4) Is there any violence against women in developed continents like Europe and America? Justify your answer from the text.

**PART TWO : LANGUAGE IN USE (6 MARKS)**

**Task A:** *Afwa has just left her husband. She is explaining why she has decided to divorce. Read her story and choose the suitable word or expression in the brackets to get a meaningful text.*

Do like this: 1 - got.

"I 1. (get / gets / got) married some years ago. Kwesi and I loved each other 2. (a lot / very / good). But one day, Kwesi decided 3. (took / take / to take) a second wife because he 4 (wants / wanted / to want) to have more than six children. I wanted less than four children. So, when I refused, he 5. (beat / beats / beaten) me until I fainted. As I don't want to die, I 6. (decided / have decided/ decides) to leave him. Now, I feel less 7. (sad / sadder / saddest)"

**Task B:** *John and Beyonce are comparing women and men. Read their conversation and select the correct word or phrase. Do like in the example.*

Example: 7. to

John: Men are superior 1. (that / to / than) women

Beyonce: I 2. (am not / don't / not) agree with you. Men are not 3. (intelligent / more intelligent / intelligentler) than women.

John: Can women do all that men do?

Beyonce: I think so. Women can even work 4. (hard / harder / more hard) than men. Some of men's activities are 5. (easy / easier / easier) than women's.

John: You're right. In addition, women are 6. (sensitiver / sensitive / more sensitive) than men.

Beyonce: Thank you for understanding that women are not inferior 7. (to / that / than) men.

**PART THREE: WRITING (6 MARKS)**

*Mike Smith, your British e-pen, wants to know your opinion about violence against women. Complete the dialogue and write your answer like this:*

*1 – is there any violence against women in Africa ?*

Mike Smith : (1) ..... ?

You: Yes, there is.

Mike Smith: (2) ..... ?

You: I think violence against women is bad.

Mike Smith: (3) ..... ?

You: Some men beat their wives for many reasons.

Mike Smith: (4) ..... ?

You: No, their wives don't inform the police.

Mike Smith: (5) ..... ?

You: Not all. Those brutal men don't respect their wives rights.

Mike Smith: (6) ..... ?

You: No, it is not easy to stop those violations.

Mike Smith: (7) ..... ?

You: Because of our African traditions.