



Terminales A1, A2, C, D

Coefficient: 2

DST 1: ANGLAIS

First term (1st October)

2014-2015

Durée: 3h00

Ce devoir comporte trois (03) pages numérotées 1/3, 2/3, 3/3.

Do all the activities of this test paper on your answer sheets.

PART ONE: READING

40%

Read the text below and do the tasks that follow.

The Battle of Adwa

The Battle of Adwa (29 February-1 March 1896) is of huge significance for Africa in that the decimation of the continent could not be completed. Ethiopia turned out to be the last man standing.

So thorough was the defeat of Italy by Ethiopia, that there were violent riots all over the country, and it resulted in Italy being forced to pay indemnities to Ethiopia and recognise its borders. It is thus not by chance that Ethiopia hosts the African Union headquarters, and serves as an inspiration to Africans all over the world on how to stand up to bullies.

It all began with the Treaty of Wuchale, a cooperative agreement between Ethiopia and Italy. But the devil was in the interpretation. Most significantly, Emperor Menelik II, who claims lineage from the queen of Sheba and King Solomon, had the good sense to have his own language version of the treaty, in Amharic.

In the Italian version, Rome claimed that Article 17 meant Ethiopia relinquished its foreign policy to Italy and thus had become a protectorate. This was disputed by the Amharic version which clearly stated that Italy and Ethiopia would cooperate on foreign affairs.

Italy then used this as a casus belli to wage war on Ethiopia, which responded ferociously. In a landmark speech made to the nation, Emperor Menelik II made this declaration. *"Enemies have now come upon us to ruin our country and to change our religion. Our enemies have begun the affair by advancing and digging into the country like moles. With the help of God, I will not deliver my country to them. Today, you who are strong, give me your strength, and you who are weak, help me by prayer."*

Of equal significance is the role played by Menelik's wife, the Empress Taytu Betul, who stood firmly by her husband by telling the Italian envoy, Antonelli: *"We have also made it known to the powers that the said article, as it is written in our language, has another meaning. Like you, we also ought to respect our dignity. You wish Ethiopia to be represented before the other powers as your protectorate, but this shall never be."*

What can be achieved by an Africa United was demonstrated by the Battle of Adwa. Ethiopia as a country was divided, as many ethnic groupings swore allegiance to their own chiefs (or Ras). When things came to a head, Emperor Menelik was able to convince all of them to put aside their differences and contribute 100,000 troops to face down the invaders.

Italy was completely humiliated. The Italians made many tactical errors in the mountains of Adwa, against a determined and valiant Ethiopian force. A key moment in the battle came when Brigadier Dabormida, the Italian commander, under siege from Ethiopian artillery, decided to withdraw. He inadvertently marched his command into a narrow valley where the Oromo cavalry under Ras Mikael, slaughtered the brigade. Dabormida's remains were never found, although his brother learned from an old woman living in the area that she had given water to a mortally wounded Italian officer, "a chief, a great man with spectacles and a watch, and golden stars."

The remaining two brigades under Baratieri were outflanked and destroyed. By noon, the survivors of the Italian army were in full retreat and the battle was over.

Adapted from an article by Pusch Commey, in NEW AFRICAN, Page 30; May 2014

COMPREHENSION CHECK

A. Match the words from the text in box A with their meanings in box B. The indicated lines will help you. *There are more meanings in B than words in A.* Write your answer like this: 5 - k

A	B
1. thorough (line 4)	a. significant or historic event
2. riots (line 4)	b. loyalty and support for a ruler or country
3. lineage (line 9)	c. state of disorder involving group violence
4. relinquished (line 12)	d. small mammals
5. casus belli (line 15)	e. move out or back
6. landmark (line 16)	f. complete
7. moles (line 18)	g. did better than an opponent by winning an advantage over them
8. allegiance (line 27)	h. ancestral descent
9. withdraw (line 33)	i. killed in a violent or brutal manner
10. slaughtered (line 34)	j. gave up something such as a responsibility or claim
11. outflanked (line 37)	k. event that brings about a declaration of war
	l. declaration of independence

B. Read the text and give short answers to these questions.

1. What did the battle of Adwa symbolize in the conquest for the African continent?
2. How did Italians react to the victory of Ethiopia?
3. List two benefits Ethiopia got from its victorious fight.
4. Find out in the text the reason why Ethiopia was chosen as the host nation for the African Union headquarters.
5. Explain why, referring to paragraphs 3 and 4, we can say that good understanding of one's culture is vital?
6. Why did Italy decide to fight Ethiopia?
7. To what extent can we say that Emperor Menelik's speech was a unifying one in the war situation?
8. What important support did Emperor Menelik receive? Which value did it want to save?
9. How can the battle of Adwa be a good lesson to Africa's solidarity problem?
10. List three things that you think led to the defeat of Italians.

PART TWO: WRITING

40%

Do only one of the two tasks.

Task 1:

Give your opinion about this assertion by an Afro-pessimist: "Africa's independence is an illusion." The best essay will be published in your school English Club's magazine. Do not exceed 25 lines.

Task 2:

On your country's Independence Day, you have a discussion with your South African pen friend who is staying with your family for a couple of weeks. You both have opposing views on the impacts of colonisation on the African continent. Write down the dialogue between you and him or her. Each person should speak seven times maximum. You can use some of the following ideas:

abusive exploitation of African natural resources – technological advantages – infrastructural heritage (roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, etc) – administrative organization of states – destruction of many African cultures – tribal borders were replaced by artificial areas of control – underdevelopment – regular political instability, etc.

