

DEVOIR DE FIN DE SEMESTRE N°2

1. After descending 70 feet on a wobbly bamboo staircase into a dank pit, the teenage miners ducked into a black hole about two feet high and crawled 100 yards through mud before starting their day digging coal. They wore T-shirts, pajama-like pants and short rubber boots — not a hard hat or steel-toed boot in sight. They tied rags on their heads to hold small flashlights and stuffed their ears with cloth. And they spent the whole day staring death in the face.

2. Just two months before full implementation of a landmark 2010 law mandating that all Indian children between the ages of 6 and 14 be in school, some 28 million are working instead, according to Unicef. Child workers can be found everywhere — in shops, in kitchens, on farms, in factories and on construction sites. In the coming days Parliament may consider yet another law to ban child labor, but even activists say more laws, while welcome, may do little to solve one of India's most intractable problems. "We have very good laws in this country," said Vandhana Kandhari, a child protection specialist at Unicef. "It's our implementation that's the problem."

3. Poverty, corruption, decrepit schools and absentee teachers are among the causes, and there is no better illustration of the problem than the Dickensian "rathole" mines here in the state of Meghalaya. Suresh Thapa, 17, said that he had worked in the mines near his family's shack "since he was a kid," and that he expected his four younger brothers to follow suit. He and his family live in a tiny tarp-and-stick shack near the mines. They have no running water, toilet or indoor heating. After lunch, Suresh got ready to return underground. He said that he had seen people die, "but I haven't had an accident yet." "Well," he amended, "I hurt my back once when the mud fell in, but we still had to work the next day." "How can we not work?" he asked. "We have to eat."

4. India's Mines Act of 1952 prohibits anyone under the age of 18 from working in coal mines, but Ms. Thapa, Suresh's mother, said enforcing that law would hurt her family. "It's necessary for us that they work. No one is going to give us money. We have to work and feed ourselves." The presence of children in Meghalaya's mines is no secret. "Children work in mines throughout the region. Mostly the ones who come are orphans," said Suresh's boss, Kumar Subba. He conceded that working conditions inside his and other mines in the region were dangerous. His mines are owned by a state lawmaker, he said. "People die all the time," he said. "You have breakfast in the morning, go to work and never come back. Many have died this way."

5. While the Indian government has laws banning child labor and unsafe working conditions, states are mostly charged with enforcing those laws. Police officers routinely extract bribes from coal truckers, making the industry a source of income for officers. "Child labor is allowed to continue in Meghalaya by those in positions of power and authority, as it is across India," said Shantha Sinha, chairwoman of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.

6. In 2010, Impulse, a nongovernmental organization, reported that it had found 200 children — some as young as 5 — working in 10 local mines. The group estimated that as many as 70,000 children worked in about 5,000 mines. Its findings led to images in the Indian news media of small children working in horrifying conditions. State officials angrily denied that there was any child labor problem. "The mining industry is clearly aware of the issue of child labor and the illegality of the act, and yet children continue to be employed," the report concluded.

Adapted from the New York Times

PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION (30pts)

I/ Choose the type of the text and justify:

- a) instructive b) argumentative c) informative d) narrative

II/ Select the most suitable title for the text:

- 1) India becomes the first nation to legalise child labor
- 2) Children strive in India's mines despite legal ban
- 3) Child miners contribute to the boosting of the Indian economy

III / Mention four reasons that urge some Indian children to sweat in hard jobs:

IV/ What makes the legislation prohibiting child labor in India ineffective?

V/ Indicate whether the following statements are True or False. Justify with details from the text:

- 1) No safety equipment is provided for the Indian young laborers working in mines.
- 2) The living conditions of Indian families around the mining areas are unfavourable.
- 3) State authorities have fully admitted the scourge of child labor in India.

VI/ Complete the sentences on the answer sheets with information from the text.

VII/ Pick out statements showing that child work is vital for some Indian families.

VIII/ Complete the table on the answer sheets with information from the text.

IX/ Explain and comment on the following sentence:

"The presence of children in Meghalaya's mines is no secret" (§4)

X/ Find in the text words having the closest meaning to:

- 1) difficult to manage (§2)
- 2) very old and not in good condition (§3)
- 3) money earned (§5)
- 4) refused to admit (§6)

XI/ What do the underlined items in the text refer to?

- 1) their (§1)
- 2) 28 million (§2)
- 3) that law (§4)
- 4) The group (§6)

PART TWO: LANGUAGE: (30pts)

Task One: Put the bracketed words in the correct tense and/or form: (10pts)

For the past four months, France (1) **(experience)** one of the most significant social mobilisations in its recent history, which laid bare the country's social ills, anti-elite sentiment, (2) **(grow)** inequalities and thirst for social (3) **(just)**. It all started on November 17, 2018 when tens of thousands of people (4) **(take)** to the streets across the country to protest against rising fuel prices. The (5) **(protest)**, dubbed "Les gilets jaunes" (the yellow vests) after the high-visibility jackets they adopted as a symbol of their (6) **(complain)**, blocked roundabouts, burned effigies and clashed with the police. They were angry about the almost 20 percent increase in the price of diesel since the start of the year, as well as the planned fuel tax hike President Emmanuel Macron (7) **(recently/announce)**. While Macron said the tax was necessary to "protect the environment" and "combat climate change", the angry crowds claimed the (8) **(decide)** was yet another sign that the "arrogant" and "privileged" president is out of touch with regular folk struggling (9) **(make)** ends meet. The intensity of the protests quickly forced the government to make a U-turn and first suspend and later (10) **(permanent)** shelve its plans for fuel tax increases.

Task Two: Complete with the appropriate word. (The first two letters the word begins with and a synonym of the word are provided to help you): (10pts)

Following the 2008 global recession, (1) **jo...** (= unemployment) hit people hard across the world. As a result, people began to (2) **ad....** (= deal with) some of the pressing social issues in politics and economics. And although much of the (3) **im...** (= significant) political shifts (4) **oc...** (= happened) in the Middle East, various nations in Europe had (5) **pr...** (= evidence) of social unrest as well. However, the (6) **un...** (= global) financial decline has already begun the process of slowing, which may seem to imply that political instability is on the decline as well. On the contrary, there are still (7) **co...** (= prevalent) issues expected to become problems down the road. Youth unemployment is the greatest (8) **co...** (= worry) as, "in the EU, a record of 24.4% of people under 25 are unable to find work." This sort of unemployment is expected to continue as residual (9) **im...** (= effects) of global economic recession and has even resulted in (10) **ca...** (= disastrous) cases such as Spain and Greece.

Task Three: Express differently starting as given on the answer sheets :(10pts)

- 1) Although she has a lot of money, she never helps the poor.
- 2) I regret not seeking my father's advice.
- 3) He didn't review his lessons, so he didn't pass his exam.
- 4) Perhaps it rained last night.
- 5) We seldom eat rice.
- 6) How skilled Messi is!
- 7) She won't get the job if she doesn't learn to speak German.
- 8) "Why don't you take up some tennis lessons, Lisa?"
- 9) It's been ten years since I last heard this song.
- 10) She managed to write the report in half an hour.

PART THREE: WRITING TASKS: (20pts)

Task One: Find and correct the five mistakes in the following paragraph: (2.5pts)

Globalization emerged as an economic phenomena in the 1960s. But with the developpement of communications and the vast revolution technological brought about by liberal systems, it has become an extension to the world capitalism, who seeks to create a liberal global community where liberal values prevail.

Task Two: Put in order to obtain a coherent paragraph: (2.5pts)

- a) and technologies to combat debilitating and
- b) Modern biotechnology provides breakthrough products
- c) feed the hungry, use less and cleaner energy,
- d) rare diseases, reduce our environmental footprint,
- e) and have safer and more efficient industrial manufacturing processes.

Task Three: Essay: (15pts)

To many young people in Africa, immigration whether legal or clandestine is the only solution to solve the problem of unemployment and to escape poverty and hard living conditions.

What do you think about this attitude? Support your opinion with solid convincing arguments in a 15-line essay.

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(ANSWER SHEETS)

PART ONE: COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS: (30pts)

I/ The text type and justification: (2pts)

Text type:

Justification:

II/ The most suitable title: (1pt)

.....

III/ Reasons: (2pts)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

IV/ Answer: (1pt)

.....
.....

V/ True or False Statements: (4.5pts)

- 1) (.....).....
.....
- 2) (.....).....
.....
- 3) (.....).....
.....

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VI/ Sentence Completion: (4pts)

- 1) Instead of attending schools, some Indian children find themselves slaving not only in mines but also in
.....
- 2) Police officers in mining sites are accused of corruption as they
.....

VII/ Statements: (2pts)

- 1)
.....
- 2)
.....

VIII / Table Completion: (3pts)

2010 Report

Conducted by	
Findings	a) b)

IX/ Explanation and comment: (2.5pts)

.....
.....
.....

X/ Vocabulary Items: (4pts)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

XI/ References: (4pts)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

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PART TWO: LANGUAGE (30pts)

TASK ONE: (10pts)

1)	6)
2)	7)
3)	8)
4)	9)
5)	10)

TASK TWO: (10pts)

1)	6)
2)	7)
3)	8)
4)	9)
5)	10)

TASK THREE: (10pts)

- 1) Despite
- 2) If only.....
- 3) Had.....
- 4) It.....
- 5) Seldom.....
- 6) What.....!
- 7) Unless.....
- 8) Maria suggested.....
- 9) I last.....
- 10) She succeeded.....

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PART THREE: WRITING TASKS: (20pts)

Task One: Mistake Correction: (2.5pts)

Mistake	Correction	Mistake	Correction
1)	1)	4)	4)
2)	2)	5)	5)
3)	3)		

Task Two: Reordering: (2.5pts)

1) 2)..... 3) 4) 5).....

Task Three: Essay: (15pts)

[illegible]