

DEVOIR DE FIN DE SEMESTRE N°2

Some Migrants in Germany Want to Go Home

1. In October, Amer sold all his belongings in Syria and took his family to a safer life in Germany. Four months later, he wants to return to a country still at war. Once in Germany, Amer discovered an unexpected reality: Instead of the small house he was hoping for and money to help him open a business, he was given a bare room in an old administrative building turned into an emergency shelter. Now he is packing his bags again. "I came to Germany because everyone was saying it was heaven. Now I regret that decision," said the 30-year-old from Damascus.

2. Last year, 1.1 million migrants --mainly Arabs, Afghans and Africans -- came to Germany to escape war and hardship, many of them risking their lives to make the dangerous journey. Authorities have scrambled to accommodate the influx.

3. But many who arrive find the country doesn't match their often inflated expectations. They balk at modest benefits, poor job prospects, and harsh treatment at immigration offices, and voice other complaints ranging from bland food to Germans' open attitudes about sex. Some recent arrivals are now contemplating leaving, shining light on the enormous challenge the country faces in integrating the record numbers who continue to stream in.

4. Chancellor Angela Merkel has said the best path to integration is through work. However, economists have warned that migrants with low skills, like Amer, stand little chance of ever finding jobs. While some political leaders say the new migrants will help offset a dearth of German workers in the future, critics say they could become a long-term burden on German taxpayers.

5. As it begins to dawn on some new arrivals that it could take months for them to leave their rudimentary camps and possibly years before they are allowed to bring over their families or learn the language, some are giving up. "Of course many are fleeing war, but what they are finding here isn't what they had expected," said Hannelore Thoelldte, who heads the counseling service for voluntary returnees at Berlin's office for health and social affairs.

6. For Syrians, returning home is more complex. Syrians currently aren't eligible for support to return to Syria because of the security situation, officials said. But that isn't hindering some from making their way back on their own, according to Ms. Thoelldte. She said some also decide to return to neighbouring countries such as Turkey or Jordan, where many Syrians had sought refuge before moving on to Germany in what she described as a "gold-rush moment." "It regularly happens that people disappear," said Ms. Thoelldte. "Many are ashamed to admit they made the wrong decision to come here."

7. Others cite cultural estrangement as a reason they want to go back. Abdullah Alsoaan, a 51-year-old dentist said, after seeing teenagers kissing in public, he couldn't raise his daughters here. Another day he saw his 5-year-old son stumbling upon an erotic program on television. He saw this as confirmation that he would never be able to adapt to a new life here. "The problem isn't with the Germans or Germany, people are very nice," said Mr. Alsoaan. "But they have their way of living their lives and we have ours."

8. Before leaving Syria, Amer said he had heard refugees in Germany got around €500 a month in benefits—a relatively accurate estimate. But he hadn't realized everything in Germany costs far more than in Syria. "I would probably need 10 years to reach the minimum standard of living of any normal German and the language seems impossible for me to learn," said Amer, who worked in a snack shop in Syria and never attended university.

9. Having spent €15,000—everything he owned—to bring his wife, son and brother-in-law to Germany, Amer said he doesn't yet know how he will pay for their return. The young family mostly spends its time waiting in the white-walled room in the camp or in line to pick up benefits at the office for social affairs, where he said he felt humiliated. The couple admitted to being scared to go back, worrying that they will be seen as opponents to the regime for having left their country. "I could die there but also die here," Amer said. "That's my destiny."

Adapted from The Wall Street Journal, January 24th, 2016

PART ONE: READING COMPREHENSION: (25pts)

I/ Which two ideas are NOT dealt with in the text?

- 1) A lot of Syrian migrants are longing for going back home to rebuild a country devastated by war.
- 2) Disenchanted with job prospects and unsettled by cultural differences, a number of migrants are embarking on return journeys.
- 3) Leaving one's country is costly not only financially but also psychologically.
- 4) Rejected by the German society and faced with political persecution, many migrants have decided to go back home.

II/ Answer the following questions with reference to the text:

- 1) What pushed migrants from different origins to quit their countries and go to Germany?
- 2) What do the arrivals to Germany complain about?
- 3) Why do some German political leaders approve of the coming of migrants to their country?

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

- 1) According to the German government, being recruited potentially helps the migrants to be integrated within the German society.
- 2) When leaving their country, many Syrian migrants looked for asylum straight in Germany.
- 3) At the office for social affairs, Amer's dignity was deeply hurt.

IV/ Pick out details from the text showing that the German authorities have found it difficult to tackle the migration crisis.

V/ Complete the table on the answer sheets with reference to the text.

VI/ Find sentences in the text showing that the migrants' situation in Germany might not improve.

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

VIII/ Cultural shock and social integration seem to be the main problems facing immigrants in Germany. Justify with details from the text.

IX/ Find in the text words which correspond to the following definitions:

- 1) to move in large numbers (§3)
- 2) preventing the progress of something (§6)
- 3) exact and precise (§8)

X/ What do the underlined words in the text refer to?

- 1) a country (§1)
- 2) them (§2)
- 3) their (§9)

PART TWO: WRITING TASKS: (15pts)

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

Child labour refers to the exploitation of children through any form of work who deprives them from their childhood, interferes with their ability to attend regular school, and is mentally, physically, socially or morally harmful. Such exploitation is prohibiting by legislation worldwide, although this laws do not consider all work by children as child labour.

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

- a) make it necessary to review literacy programmes
- b) or become a burden to the state and society due to marginalization.
- c) The large numbers of early school dropouts each year in the Arab world
- d) which, if neglected may turn to crime
- e) to meet the needs of those groups,

Task Three: Essay: (10pts)

Unemployment, especially among young people, is a major problem in many countries today. What can be done about it?

Answer this question in a 15-line essay.

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TASK ONE: Put the bracketed words in the correct tense and/or form: (7.5pts)

About 150 migrants seeking to reach Europe drowned in a shipwreck off the coast of Libya on Thursday, according to the United Nations, which called it the (1) (large) single loss of life in the Mediterranean so far this year. The shipwreck (2) (happen) off the coast of Al Khoms in western Libya, and officials at the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said the people who drowned were (3) (probable) trying to reach southern Italy. About 140 migrants survived the shipwreck and (4) (rescue) by local fishermen and the Libyan Coast Guard, according to the officials. While the overall number of deaths of migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean fell in 2019 compared to recent years, the crossing is increasingly perilous for anyone who (5) (undertake) it. The United Nations High

Commission for Refugees attributed the deadlier conditions to the decrease in rescue ships, both governmental and nongovernmental, (6) **(patrol)** the waters. Italy's nationalist and anti-immigrant government (7) **(long / seek)** to seal its coastline by refusing to let aid ships carrying rescued migrants (8) **(land)** on its shores arguing that the ships work with human (9) **(traffic)** and act as an unhealthy incentive for (10) **(despair)** migrants to risk the crossing. Human rights organizations reject the claim.

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): (7.5pts)

An intergenerational crisis is increasingly under way. We have (1) **ma...** (=created) a system that disproportionately rewards the happy few, underfunds social security and infrastructure, and (2) **ri...** (=endangers) the health of the planet as a whole. Young people are right to be deeply (3) **wo...** (=concerned) and angry about this, seeing it as a betrayal of their future. (4) **Th...** (=Consequently), 2020 should be the year in which we start thinking and acting long-term again and make intergenerational (5) **eq...** (=parity) the norm. Many young people will look back at the 2010s with mixed feelings at best. At the beginning of the decade, the youth-driven Arab Spring (6) **en...** (=finished) in disappointment. In the West, at the same time, demands for a (7) **fa...** (=juster) system from the Occupy and Indignados movements similarly remained largely unanswered. And (8) **ac...** (=around) the world, young protesters throughout the decade became (9) **di...** (=frustrated) with the inaction on social and environmental (10) **pr...** (=issues). Going into 2020, youth throughout the world are still upset.

TASK THREE: Express the following sentences differently beginning as indicated on the answer sheets: (5pts)

- 1) The government must eradicate extreme poverty.
- 2) They left without saying goodbye.
- 3) She at no time trusted him.
- 4) I prefer cooking to washing the dishes.
- 5) They don't have enough financial resources to found a start-up.
- 6) The virus spread quickly because not enough precautionary measures were taken.
- 7) It will take them about five years to pay their debts.
- 8) Provided that the project succeeds, I will get a promotion.
- 9) "Do you get regular job increases?"
- 10) Economists say that just a quarter of overseas aid actually goes to the poorest countries.

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(ANSWER SHEETS)

PART ONE: COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS: (25pts)

I/ The two ideas NOT dealt with in the text: (2pts)

1).....

2)

II/ Answers: (4.5pts)

1)

2) a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

3)

III/ TRUE or FALSE Statements: (4.5pts)

1) (.....)

2) (.....)

3) (.....)

IV/ Details: (1pt)

1)

2)

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V/ Table completion: (2pts)

Cause	Effect
1) Migrants are undereducated and poorly skilled.	1)
2) a)..... b).....	2) Syrians' return to their country is not easy for the moment.

VI/ The sentences: (3pts)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

VII/ Sentence completion: (3pts)

- 1) When he first arrived in Germany, Amer felt disappointed as he found neither
.....nor.....
..... Rather, he.....
.....
- 2) Some German opponents to the waves of migrants argue that
.....

VIII/ Details justifying cultural shock :(2pts)

- 1)
- 2)

IX/ Vocabulary items: (1.5pts)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

X/ Word references: (1.5pts)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

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PART TWO: WRITING TASKS: (15pts)

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: (10pts)

Blank handwriting practice paper with horizontal lines and dotted midlines.

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TASK ONE: (7.5pts)

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

TASK TWO : (7.5pts)

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

TASK THREE: (5pts)

- 1) It's high time the government
- 2) They should.....
- 3) At no time
- 4) I'd rather.....
- 5) They wish.....
- 6) Had.....
- 7) By 2025,
- 8) Unless
- 9) She wanted to know
- 10) Just a quarter of overseas aid is