

TEXT: I was absolutely determined to pass my exam. I had studied hard for three years; I had neither forgotten the promise I had made to my father, nor the one I had made to myself; I had always been among the top three in my class, and I had some hopes that things would not go very differently in the examination. Nevertheless, I wrote a letter to ask my mother to go and see the marabouts and obtain their help. Was I being particularly superstitious at that time? I don't think so. I simply believed that nothing could be obtained without the help of God; and I felt that the marabouts would be the natural intermediaries between God and me.

My aunts, too, offered up sacrifices, and presented kola nuts to the various persons indicated to **them** by the marabouts they consulted. I could see that they were all very anxious about my fate.

Marie was even more anxious. She did not attach much importance to her own studies; but I learned from my aunts that **she**, too, had been to see the marabouts, and that touched me more than anything else.

Finally, the day of the examination came. **It** lasted three days, three days of agony. But I must assume that the marabouts had given me all the help they could. I was placed first out of seven candidates who passed.

From *The African Child*, Camara Laye

I- **READING COMPREHENSION (8pts)**

A- Say whether the following statements true or false and justify by quoting from the text (3pts)

1- The boy has always been a brilliant student.

.....

2- Marie was a student too.

.....

3- The boy's mother was the only one to go and see the marabouts.

.....

B- Match the words or expressions in column A to their synonyms or definitions in B (2pts)

Column A	Column B
4-Superstitious	a-supreme suffering.
5-Sacrifices	b-destiny
6-Fate	c-believing in supernatural spirits or forces.
7-Agony	d-what is offered to God or the spirits to obtain something.

4.

5.

6.

7.

C- Who or what do the words in bold refer to in the text? (1.5pts)

8- **them**:.....9-**She**:.....

10- **It**:.....

D- Read the text and answer the following questions (1.5pts)

11- Why was the boy confident?

.....

12- What did the marabouts represent according to the boy?

.....

13- How did the boy qualify the three-day exam?

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