

EPREUVE STANDARDISEE DES COMPOSITIONS DU SECOND SEMESTRE (ANGLAIS)**Contemporary African Immigrants to the United States**

The severe economic difficulties, the increased poverty and the political instability that have plagued many African countries in the last two decades have resulted in the large scale migration of Africans to Europe and the United States. Unlike their counterparts in the 1960s and 70s, who after having acquired an American education were desperately longing for returning home to contribute to the task of nation building, an overwhelming majority of recent immigrants are now more interested in establishing permanent residency in the United States.

The influx of African immigrants to the US in the last two decades has been phenomenal. According to figures from the Immigration and Naturalization Services, the number of African immigrants to the United States more than quadrupled in the last two decades. That is why today Africans permeate all aspects of American life. They are doctors, barristers, professors, engineers, students, cab drivers, clerks, security guards and chefs. And they reflect some basic American passions such as politics, baseball, and basketball, day trading...

At independence, Africans were bubbling over with tremendous hope and optimism. For most Africans, independence was seen as more than just a period of self-rule and freedom. In their campaign speeches, they were led by many nationalist leaders to believe that independence would also lead to a significant improvement in their social and economic life, including improvements in education and healthcare, and greater employment opportunities. Unfortunately, more than a decade after independence, the economy of most African states is characterized by increased poverty, endemic corruption and high rates of unemployment.

As for life in the States, despite their dedication, hard work and determination to realize the American dream, African immigrants are often faced with harsh realities in their new country. They encounter some of the same stereotypes often associated with their African American counterparts. They are often perceived as lazy, criminals, drug dealers and welfare cheats. This perception often brings about police harassment, intimidation, unlawful arrests and even murder. Besides, another problem African immigrants come across is the lack of acceptance by some of their African American counterparts.

Adapted from www.Africamigration.com: Issue N° 2 December 2003 written by Joseph Tacoungang.

I. READING COMPREHENSION**(08 marks)****A. Find in the text words which approximately mean the same as the following: (1.5 marks)**

1. A period of ten years = (paragraph 2)
2. Huge = (paragraph 3)
3. Constantly present = (paragraph 3)

B. Match each title with the paragraph it corresponds to. One paragraph in the text is not counted (1.5 marks)

Titles	Paragraphs
Mass arrival of African immigrants and job opportunities	
A difficult integration	
Political disappointment	

C. All the statements are FALSE. Justify them by quoting relevant passages from the text. (02 marks)7. After the 1970s, the number of Africans in the US had decreased. **FALSE**8. African immigrants do not receive any stigma in the United States. **FALSE****D. Fill in this table below meaningfully with information from the text. (01 mark)**

Causes of immigration	Effects of immigration
9.	Large scale migration of Africans to Europe.
Prejudicial perception	10.

E. Who or what do the following words refer to in the text? (01 mark)

11. **Their** (paragraph 1) refers to.....
12. **This perception** (paragraph 4) refers to.....

F. Find in the text a sentence in English meaning the same as: (01 mark)

French words	Equivalents in English
"...les africains ont intégré aujourd'hui tous les secteurs de la vie américaine."	13.

II. COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (06 marks)**G. Complete the passage with the right word or phrase from the list below. (1.5 marks)****although – despite of - moreover – because of – however – because**

African countries are trying to convince their citizens abroad to return home and build the nation. **14**....., studies have shown that repatriation will not work so long as African governments fail to address the pull and push factors that influence emigration **15**, the relationship between African governments and the African

diaspora remained a major barrier to finding solutions. Many African emigrants are reluctant to come back **16**..... the political instability and economic difficulties that many African states are confronted with.

H. Complete meaningfully this dialogue between two friends discussing the issue of African emigrants. (2.5 marks)

Baba: Why **17**..... (**Africans / to strive**) to go to Europe or the USA?

Abdu: Well, they go to the western world to flee poverty, low pay and wars.

Baba: So you mean they are not paid enough money here.

Abdu: Definitely yes. Some African emigrants in the USA can gain a day more than what their counterparts in the home country can receive a month.

Baba: It's a pity. But, **18** (**to face**) problems?

Abdu: Of course they are. Two months ago a street vendor **19** (**to shoot down**) by a gunman who was seemingly a racist. And that fact usually **20** (**to happen**) throughout the African diaspora.

Baba: So, why not stay in Africa instead of risking their lives abroad? For me, it's **21** (**the more wise – wiser than – the wisest thing**) to do.

I. This is an extract of a speech made by a young African leader. Report what he says reflecting his feelings with (say and wish) (01 mark)

“...In many countries like mine many young people are unemployed. It's a pity many of them died in the sea in quest for a better life.”

22. He says.....
.....

He wishes

J. Fill in the gaps with the right form of the words in parenthesis. (01 mark)

Many African emigrants realize that they had made the bad choice short after they arrived in the host country. They would suffer from bad **23** (**treat**) from the police and are sometimes **24** (**fair**) condemned.

III. WRITING (06 marks)

Choose one topic and write about 150 to 200 words about it.

Topic 1. As a Senegalese living abroad, write a letter to the Minister in charge of the Senegalese Diaspora to complain about the difficulties you encounter in your daily life. In this letter you will provide some solutions to solve your problems.

Topic 2. “A majority of recent immigrants are now more interested in establishing permanent residency in the United States.” Unlike your friend who is in favour of this reality, you prefer to come back to your home country. In a discussion with him try to explain your reasons.