

COMPOSITION HARMONISEE DU SECOND SEMESTRE

TEXT: School Days

I found my first days at school so disappointing that I ran away determined never to return. But my mother turned a deaf ear to my raging protests and quietly but determinedly dragged me by the arm each morning and deposited me in the schoolroom.

Eventually, I realized that as I was going to be forced to stay there, I should do what I could to learn something. To my surprise, I soon found that I enjoyed my lessons and looked forward to going to school even though we lived in fear of the teacher because of his firm and active belief in the adage "spare the rod and spoil the child". I disliked being forced to do things against my will, for I had not been accustomed to **it**, and used to think what paradise school would be if we were left in peace without the presence of the schoolmaster.

All the various grades were housed in one room and the master used to teach a class at a time. It must have been a hard job for him and we did not do anything to ease his lot. Luckily, I was keen on learning, so keen in fact that soon my only dread was that my father, one day be unable to afford the school fees, **which** at that time amounted to six pence a month. Because of this, I started rearing a few chickens which I sold for six pence each. By this means, I could not only help to meet the school fees, but I had money to buy books as well. In addition any fears of my father's poverty were unfounded because I can never remember him denying any of **us** anything we asked and he was particularly generous when I was concerned.

One thing in particular stands out in my mind during my early schooldays, probably because it was my first lesson in discipline. We were not fond of the teacher because of his frequent use of the stick. One day, we learnt that the inspector was coming to the school and immediately saw our chance of getting our revenge on the school master. **We** got together and decided to play truant for the whole day during the inspector's visit, but the following morning, he had the last laugh for as soon as we showed our faces, he was waiting for us with his stick. We were each stripped naked and given twenty four lashes on our bare bottoms. This hurt so much that for the next three days I was quite unable to sit down at my school desk. But whatever injury this caused to my body and my pride, I knew well enough that I had deserved it. And from that day on, I have always learnt to accept punishments that I feel I have justly earned, however humiliating this may be.

Student's full name and class :

I. READING COMPREHENSION (8pts)

A. Referencing: What or who do the following words refer to in the text?
(2 marks)

- 1) "it" (line 8)
- 2) "which" (line 13)
- 3) "us" (line 16).....
- 4) "we" (line 21).....

B. True/False: Say whether the following statements are true or false.
Justify with quotations from the text. (3 marks)

- 5) Hadn't his mother been resolute, the boy wouldn't have stayed at school.
.....
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- 6) In the author's classroom, students were from different levels.
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.....
- 7) The boy didn't do anything to help his father with the school fees.
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.....

C. Using L1 and L2: Find in the indicated paragraphs the English equivalents for the following French expressions. (2marks)

French expressions	English equivalents
faisait la sourde oreille (P1)	8)
qui aime bien châtie bien (P2)	9)
incapable de payer les frais de scolarité (P3)	10)
faire l'école buissonnière (P4)	11)

D. Find in the text words or phrases expressing moral obligation and habits. (1 mark)

12).....

13).....

II. LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (6 marks)

E. Verb tenses and forms: A mother is talking to her son: use the correct form or tense of the verbs to complete the following passage (2 marks)

You should stop playing truant. Why not14) (to follow) your sister's steps? When she was your age, she15) (to get / already) high degrees. Had I known your attitude towards school, I 16) (not/to spend) my money on you. According to your father, it's high time important decisions 17) (to make) by school administrations to punish students like you.

F. Dialogue completion: Complete the following dialogue correctly and meaningfully with reference to the given situation.(2 marks)

Situation: Nkrumah played truant. The headmaster is discussing with him.

HEADMASTER: Tell me gentleman! Why 18).....?

NKRUMAH: I'm sorry Sir, it's because of a decision taken by my friends.

HEADMASTER: But nobody should be absent without a permission, 19).....?

NKRUMAH: Of course, no. What will happen to us Sir?

HEADMASTER: I'll make a decision after. I think you will be punished.

NKRUMAH: 20) my parents informed?

HEADMASTER: Yes, they are. Don't do it anymore, 21).....?

NKRUMAH: Ok, your advice will be taken into account Sir.

G. Word formation: Use the correct form of the words given to fill in the blanks. (2 marks)

Kwamé Nkrumah's case is common to many young Africans of his age. At the beginning, he thought that going to school was not very 22) (use). But his mother was so determined that she eventually obliged him to go back to

school. At school, the teacher was **23)** (frequent) beating them. Against all odds, he realized that his **24)** (denying) of school was unfounded and finally became **25)** (pride) of himself.

III. WRITING: Choose a topic and write about 150 and 200 words.
(6marks)

Topic 1: You are discussing with one of your classmates who dislikes going to school. You are trying to encourage him to keep on working. Write the dialogue.

Topic 2: The Education System in Senegal is confronted with many problems. According to you what are the causes and what solutions do you suggest to solve them?

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