

**LANGUE VIVANTE I****Epreuve du 1<sup>er</sup> groupe****ANGLAIS**

1 When Archana Sharma got married in 1999, she saw it as a chance to keep her family  
2 out of poverty after her father's untimely death. A strikingly beautiful folk dancer from the  
3 north Indian state of Haryana, the then 25-year-old had turned down several offers to act in  
4 regional-language films because she came from a conservative family, consenting instead to  
5 wed a Toronto-based astrologer she knew through her maternal uncle. "I agreed to marry a  
6 man I had never met, thinking he would take me to a better life in Canada," she says. "Once  
7 settled there, I would take my two younger sisters and our mother, too."

8 After a six-week visit for the wedding, her husband returned to Toronto promising to  
9 complete the legal formalities for her to join him. But her tickets never came. After six years  
10 of waiting, Sharma received documents informing her that she had been divorced. Stories  
11 like Sharma's are growing increasingly common across India, as changing values remove  
12 some of the social stigma surrounding failed marriages and concern from activists and  
13 officials encourages more women to talk about it.

14 As many as 30,000 women have been abandoned by their émigré husbands,  
15 according to one Indian government estimate. Activists say the real figures are probably  
16 much higher as most cases still go unreported. The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs  
17 (MOIA), established in 2004 to look after the welfare of an estimated 20 million Non-resident  
18 Indians (NRIs), launched a scheme earlier this year to provide counseling, legal and financial  
19 aid for Indian wives abandoned abroad. (...)

20 Despite impressive economic growth over the past decade, some 450,000 Indians  
21 emigrate to other countries to find work every year, while thousands more go illegally. "For  
22 some, going abroad is about seeking better opportunities and social mobility," says Rainuka  
23 Dagar, senior research fellow at the Chandigarh-based Institute for Development and  
24 Communication, "but for many, it is about status. It is a symbol of pride to have a member of  
25 the family living and earning abroad." In many communities, "marriage to an NRI is  
26 considered a status symbol as it gets the entire family a chance to go abroad," says Santosh  
27 Singh, chairperson of the government-affiliated Family Counseling Center in Chandigarh.

28 Most of these unions, without doubt, are successful ones. But some overseas  
29 marriages can be problematic. At an MOIA conference on the issue in February, Girija Vyas,  
30 chairperson of India's National Commission for women noted that brides going abroad can  
31 suffer from culture shock if they have had no prior exposure to the West. Their overseas-  
32 raised spouses can find themselves pressured into a traditional marriage by émigré parents.  
33 The combination can result in loveless, incompatible relationships and eventually, divorce.

**BY MADHUR SINGH / NEW DELHI  
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**I. COMPREHENSION (08 points)**

**A.**  
1) **Choose the most appropriate answer a, b, c, or d (01 point)**

The text mainly deals with :

- a) Traditional marriage in India
- b) Broken marriages in India
- c) Non-resident Indians
- d) Arranged marriages in India

**B Complete the following sentences accurately and meaningfully according to the text. Do not copy the text ! (01,5 point)**

- 2) Archana Sharma considered her marriage a means.....  
.....
- 3) She agreed to marry a man she had never met because.....  
.....
- 4) Although overseas marriages can cause troubles,.....  
.....

**C What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text ?**

- 5) **She** came from a conservative family (l.4)
- 6) **It** is about status (l. 24)
- 7) **their** overseas – raised spouses (l. 31)

**D. Circle True or False. Justify your answers by quoting a specific passage from the text. (03 points)**

- 8) Arshana Sharma has never seen her husband. T / F  
.....
- 9) Stories like Sharma's are now frequent in India. T / F  
.....
- 10) Having prior exposure to the West can prevent suffering from culture shock. T / F  
.....

**E Find in the indicated paragraphs synonyms for the following words or phrases (01 point)**

- 11) **project** (paragraph 3)
- 12) **in the end** (last paragraph)

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**II. LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (06 points)**

**F. Rewrite the following sentences without changing their meanings by using the prompts given (02 points)**

13) Archana regrets marrying that man.

Archana wishes.....

14) She was unhappy because she agreed to marry that man.

She wouldn't.....

15) He has been working abroad for six years.

It is.....

16) "Marriage to an NRI is considered a status symbol as it gives the entire family a chance to go abroad" said Santosh Singh

Santosh Singh said that.....

**G. Ask questions corresponding to the underlined groups of words (01 point)**

17) Brides going abroad can suffer from culture shock.

..... ?

18) He has been working abroad to keep his family out of poverty.

.....

**H Fill in the gaps with the right forms of the words in brackets. (02 points)**

19) She hoped that her marriage wouldn't be a..... (fail)

20) She hasn't got a husband yet, she is still..... (marry)

21) She can think of.....reasons for not getting married. (count)

22) They were happily married despite their.....differences. (culture)

**I Use a question tag in this conversation and complete B's answer meaningfully. (01 point)**

23) – A : Sharma's been treated unfairly, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

24) – B : \_\_\_\_\_ .

**III. WRITING (06 points)**

**Choose one topic and write an essay of 150 to 200 words.**

**Topic one** : Why do some women suffer from marriages with husbands living abroad ? What solutions do you propose?

**Topic two** : Nowadays, more and more girls prefer marrying men living or working abroad. Comment upon this phenomenon and explain why ?