



**LANGUE VIVANTE II**

**Epreuve du 1<sup>er</sup> groupe**

**ANGLAIS**

**WORKING MOTHERS**

All the mothers in the world should be regarded as working mothers. In the African context, women do most of the work. The traditional role of African women is to work from as early as 4.30 in the morning until late in the evening. "Working mothers" – those working outside the home in the paid economy are bearing yet another burden.

5           Despite overwork, there are many reasons why mothers opt to go to work. One Nigerian report states : "a major factor influencing women's decision to participate in the labour force is economic necessity...". In order to earn an additional income, they have to travel quite a distance to their place of work, often in the nearest city. Most of these jobs are unskilled and temporary casual work. Added to the burden of some illiterate women are the  
10 difficulties they face in city life where they are very vulnerable to exploitation.

          According to MOSSE, "girls who receive little or no education suffer a massive disadvantage in facing the modern world. They lack resources which might enable them to tackle their poverty more effectively ; without basic education, most subsequent training is closed to them, and economic opportunities are therefore limited to the informal sector...".

15           The type of jobs mothers undertake are different from those of men. Firstly, this kind of work is more physical and unskilled. In the Nigerian context men's work is delineated. When they come home from work, they expect to rest and relax. Working mothers, however, have to take up their household duties on returning home from work ; and not only household duties, but agricultural tasks also. According to a U.N. report, African women do 75 % of all  
20 agricultural work in addition to undertaking 95 % of the domestic responsibilities.

          For all their household duties and agricultural work, women are not paid and thus, they rely on their additional paid work to supplement family income.

25           Children's education starts from home, mostly provided by the mother. A mother's extended role outside the family means that she becomes less involved in the child's important socializing process. Moreover, according to recent research carried out in African countries, an extended family and community's involvement in a child's care is less now than in the past. (...)

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**I. READING COMPREHENSION (08 marks)**

**A. Choose the right answer a, b, c or d according to the text. (02 marks)**

1. In Africa

- a) women work as hard as men.
- b) women work harder than men
- c) men and women hardly work
- d) men work harder than women

2. One reason why women go to work is to

- a) increase family revenue
- b) get away from household duties
- c) participate in the development of their country
- d) be part of the labour force

3. Women without education

- a) hardly have any social responsibility
- b) stay at home
- c) are lazy and behave badly
- d) can't have skilled jobs

4. For the writer, the term "working mother" should apply to

- a) women who work in offices
- b) women working in the paid economy
- c) every mother
- d) mothers who work outside their home

**B. Circle True or False. Justify your answers by quoting appropriate passages from the text (04 marks)**

5. Working outside adds to African mothers' difficulties. T/F

.....

6. Most of the jobs women do in cities are for skilled workers. T/F

.....

7. To get money for their families, women work on farms. T/F

.....

8. In traditional Africa mothers weren't involved enough in their children's education. T/F

.....

**C. Vocabulary in context : Find in the first three paragraphs words or phrases which mean the same as the following. (01 mark)**

9. unqualified : .....

10. Occasional work : .....

**D. Referencing : What do the following words refer to ? (01 mark)**

11. "their" (line13).....

12. "those" (line 15) .....

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**II. COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (06 marks)**

**A. This is Maïmouna’s situation as a “working mother”. Express her Wish for each situation. (03 marks)**

	Maïmouna’s situation	Maïmouna’s wishes
13	She works very hard	I wish ..... .....
14	She can hardly take care of her children	I wish ..... .....
15	There is no one around to help her	If only ..... .....

**B. Complete the dialogue using the passive form of the verbs in parentheses. (02 marks)**

A : What happens to uneducated women working in big cities ?

16. B : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (to expose)

A : Who is in charge of household chores in general ?

17. B : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (to do)

**D. Word formation : Fill in the blanks with the words in brackets in the right forms. (01 mark)**

Many African women have overcome difficulties thanks to their \_\_\_\_\_  
18

(resource). They have made a \_\_\_\_\_ (value) contribution to the struggle  
19

against poverty.

**III. WRITING Choose one topic and write about 150 – 200 words. (06 marks)**

20. Do you think emigration is a solution to unemployment ? Give examples to support your point of view.

21. Should there be any discrimination for jobs between men and women ? Discuss.