

ANGLAIS

1 Habibu is lying on matting on the mud floor of her hut. The contractions are coming thick and fast now. The pain
2 is intense, but she draws comfort from the memory that, the previous three times, the agony gave way to the
3 peaceful, exhausted bliss of holding her baby in her arms.

4 Her husband's mother is on hand to help; she has, after all, given birth many times herself and seen many more
5 children born. Water has been brought from the pump and sits in two large bowls ready to be used – one to
6 wash the baby and the other to wash everything and everyone else ; pieces of old cloth have been gathered
7 over the month before so as to soak up any blood and bodily fluid ; A kerosene lamp has been borrowed from a
8 neighbor to cast any light needed on this dark west African night.

9 The delivery itself seems to go well: a girl, Mama says, now to be heard crying. Habibu lies back and gives
10 herself up to the pleasure of there no longer being any sharp pain, only exhaustion and discomfort, and to the
11 satisfaction of having brought another life into the world.

12 It is a while before Mama realizes that blood is still pumping out of Habibu, forming a widening crimson pool on
13 the mat and the floor. She uses the rags to try to staunch the flow, to no avail. There is no sign of the placenta
14 being delivered, as would happen within minutes of birth. Mama waits in hope for further precious minutes
15 before realizing that the blood flow is not going to stop and there is serious danger. Alarmed now, she summons
16 her son, who sets out on his bicycle to try to contact the nurse at the government clinic 12 kilometers away.

17 By the time the nurse arrives, two hours have passed and it was too late for Habibu whose life has drained
18 away with her blood. There is nothing the nurse can do for the woman. She tends to the baby, cursing under her
19 breath the fees she has to charge for attending a birth at the clinic – fees that mean so many women opt to do it
20 alone. She knows she could easily have saved her, an injection of Oxytocin, perhaps, or a manual delivery of
21 the placenta, – but knows just clearly that this desperate experience will be repeated on many other nights and
22 days over the months and years to come.

23 The specifics of this story are fictional, though I name its victim Habibu in honor of a woman I knew in a Burkina
24 Faso village who died at child birth. She had just married after years of hardship raising children as a widow and
25 had been looking forward to cementing her new marriage with a baby. She could and should have attended the
26 nearest health center for antenatal checks and for her delivery – the last time I visited it, the maternity unit at
27 that health center had yet to lose a mother during children. But she opted not to do so – in part because her
28 previous children had been safely delivered at home, but also because such supervision costs money and even
29 the smallest sums are hard to find in a subsistence farming family.

30 Just one story – but one that is repeated an average of 1,500 times every day around the world, and with
31 particular terrible regularity in Africa and south Asia. In other cases the complication might be not postpartum
32 hemorrhage but an obstructed labor that demands, but doesn't receive a caesarean section. In many such
33 instances the baby will die along with the mother; in others, the mother will survive but will have lost her child.

34 In the vast majority of these cases, the deaths are eminently preventable. While the number of child deaths has
35 consistently fallen – from around 13 million in 1990 to 9.7 million in 2006 – the maternal mortality toll has
36 remained stubbornly similar. For decades, the international estimate of the number of maternal deaths each
37 year has hovered over the half-million mark.

38 This is one reason why, when the Millennium Development Goals were set in 2000, arguably the most
39 ambitious of all the targets set was in relation to maternal mortality. Whereas the target was to cut poverty in
40 half and to cut child mortality by two-thirds, the aspiration was to slash maternal mortality by three-quarters.

41 This is where the gulf between rich and poor worlds is at its widest and most obscene. The lifetime risk of
42 maternal mortality is just 1 in 8,000 in the global North compared with 1 in 76 in global South.

43 No matter how good the supervision or the medical facilities, some deaths in childbirth will always occur. But the
44 statistics indicate clearly how much less hazardous it is for a woman in the west now to have a baby than it was
45 for previous generations. But the Millennium Development Goals could certainly still be achieved – even now,
46 with only 6 years of the 25 left to run. And were we to do so, 4,000,000 women would be saved every year from
47 unnecessary death – and their husbands, children and families from unimaginable grief.

I. COMPREHENSION (20 marks)

A. Read the text and divide it into three parts. Then match each part with a title. (3 marks)

PARTS OF THE TEXT	TITLES
1) Part one : from line 1 to line.....	a) The story's motive
2) Part two : from line.....to line.....	b) What statistics show
3) Part three : from line.....to the end	c) Child death
	d) A heart breaking story

B. Read the text and find words or expressions meaning the same as: (01,5 marks)

Phrases from the text	words or expressions
4) Full of danger and risk (paragraph 11)	
5) to give birth unattended (paragraph 5)	
6) In vain (paragraph 4)	

C. These phrases are from the text. Say what they refer to. (2.5 marks)

Phrases	References
7) The previous three times (line 2)	
8) Everyone else (line 6)	
9) This desperate experience (line 21)	
10) So (line 27)	
11) Such instances (lines 32 – 33)	

D. Read the text again and choose two adjectives from the box to describe each of the people in the table below. Justify by quoting the relevant passage from the text

Tired upset optimistic courageous outraged helpless

ADJECTIVES (3 marks)	PEOPLE	QUOTATIONS (1.5 marks)
12).....	The author
13).....	
14).....	The nurse
15).....	
16).....	Habibu
17).....	

E. Answer the following questions

18) Which two main reasons from the text explain why Habibu and women like her very often die in childbirth (2 marks)

- a)
- b)

19) Give three measures suggested by the writer to reduce maternal mortality? (3 marks)

- a)
- b)
- c)

F. Explain what the sentence below means. (2 marks)

20)“She tends to the baby, cursing under her breath the fees she has to charge for attending a birth at the clinic. Fees that mean so many women opt to do it alone.”

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G. Complete the following sentences with information from the text (1 mark)

21) Even though the reduction of maternal mortality was set by the international community for 2025, this objective could be achieved now in..... or in.....at the latest.

II. COMMUNICATIVE/LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (6 marks)

H. Complete the dialogue below meaningfully using the words in the box. (3 marks)

must	should	would rather
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- 22 A) - Habibu was so poor that she couldn't afford delivering at the clinic. I am sure in other circumstances she
- B) - Definitely!

- 23 A) How did the nurse feel afterwards?
- B) I am sure she.....

- 24 A) How can this tragedy be stopped?
- B).....

I- Fill in the blanks with the right form of the words between brackets (2 marks)

In many Sub-Saharan countries, it is always too (25)(risk) for a woman to deliver. Complications that occur may easily lead to death, shattering the family's (26)(expect) for a new life. People are always (27)(grief) to hear stories like Habibu's. Something should be done because (28)(to deliver) is supposed to be a happy event.

J- Use the correct form or tense of the verbs in brackets (1 mark)

29. She didn't remember (to see).....a health worker during her pregnancy

30.They would rather health authorities (to reduce)hospital fees in the coming years.

III. WRITING You must deal with both topics (10 marks)

Topic 1 : Problem solving

a)- Complete the table with quotations from the text illustrating the problems that led to Habibu's death: (1.5 marks)

Problems	Illustrations
Logistical problems	
Medical problems	
Financial problems	

b)- Using the information in the table above, design a two year action plan to be sent to the health authorities in order to solve the problem of maternal mortality. (4 marks)

Topic 2 (5 marks)

Another objective of the Millennium Development Goals is to increase the number of girls going to school and to enable them to complete their studies. What are, according to you, the obstacles to girls' education ? Suggest solutions to eliminate them.

ANSWER SHEET

For the detailed marking scheme, refer to the exam paper

I. COMPREHENSION (20 marks)

- A. 1) from line 1 to...(line 22) TITLE : A heart breaking story
2) from (line 23) to...(line 29) TITLE : The story's motive
3) from (line 30) to the end TITLE : What statistics show
- B. 4) Hazardous 5) raising 6) to no avail
- C. 7) childbirths
8) People involved in the delivery except the baby.
9) Doing it alone
10). Attending the nearest health center for antenatal checks.
11) Cases of obstructed labor
- D. 12) outraged : "This is where the gulf between rich and poor is...most obscene"
13) optimistic : "But the Millennium Development Goals could still be achieved"
14) helpless : "There is nothing the nurse can do for the woman"
15) upset : "cursing under her breath the fees she has to charge"
16) courageous : "...she draws comfort from the memory that the previous three times the agony gave way to the peaceful bliss of holding her baby in her arms"
17) tired : "only exhaustion and discomfort"
- E.
18) a) poverty
b) lack of skilled attendance
19) - increasing family revenues/financial means
- encouraging attendance of health centers for antenatal checks
- using caesarean section
- F. 20) The nurse feels sorry that, because of the high fees set by clinics, women die in childbirths at home.
- G. 21) 2015 22) 1990

II. COMMUNICATIVE/LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE

(6 marks)

H- Complete the dialogue below meaningfully using the words in the box.(3 marks)

must	should	would rather
------	--------	--------------

22A) - Habibu was so poor that she couldn't afford delivering at the clinic. I am sure in other circumstances she

B) - Definitely!

23-A) How did the nurse feel afterwards?

B) I am sure she.....

24- A) How can this tragedy be stopped?

B).....

H. 25) risky 26)expectation 27) grieved 28) motherhood

I. 29) seeing 30) reduced

III- WRITING

(10 marks)

Topic 1 : Problem solving:

a)- Complete the table with quotations from the text illustrating the problems that led to Habibu's death: (1.5 marks)

Problems	Illustrations
Logistical problems	(...to contact the nurse at the government clinic 12 kilometers away. By the time the nurse arrives, two hours have passed and it was too late)
Medical problems	(...She knows she could easily have saved her, an injection of Oxytocin,) ..(postpartum hemorrhage)
Financial problems	...(fees that mean so many women opt to do it alone)

b)- Using the information in the table above, design a two year action plan to be sent to the health authorities in order to solve the problem of maternal mortality. (3.5 marks)

Topic 2 : (5 marks)

TOTAL 36 MARKS

NB.: Final mark formula:

$\frac{\text{Student's total x 20}}{36}$
