



## ANGLAIS

### Covid-19 Pandemic cancels the Hajj

The Hajj is one of the world’s greatest yearly gatherings, but coronavirus is not the first disruption this event has seen over the centuries. Although this is the first time Saudi Arabia has shut the door to all Muslims outside the country, it is certainly not the first time the Hajj has been interrupted. Since the first official Hajj was led by prophet Mohamed in AD 632, the pilgrimage has been subjected to “wars, famines, diseases, and political interruptions, “Safi says.

According to historians at the king Abdulaziz Foundation for research and archives, the Hajj has been interrupted at least 40 times since 930, when members of a Shiite sect called the Qarmatians fired Mecca and murdered 30,000 pilgrims. **They** also stole and held for ransom one of Islam’s most precious relics, the Black Stone of Kaaba. As a result, the Hajj was suspended for a decade until the stone was returned to Mecca.

Moreover, epidemics have also interrupted past pilgrimages. Cholera has cost tens of thousands of pilgrims’ lives in the 19 th century. In 1821, for example, 20,000 died, and in 1865 pilgrims from the Ganges Delta brought **the disease** to Mecca where it spread to pilgrims from other countries and eventually contributed to a worldwide death toll of 200,000 people. In more recent memory, political disruptions and diplomatic issues have prevented some pilgrims from converging on Mecca.

*Adapted from www.nationalgeographic.com, by Brin BLAKEMORE, Published in June 2020*

**I. COMPREHENSION 8 marks**

**A. Give the paragraph number corresponding to the following ideas. (1 mark)**

IDEAS	Par. num
1. A disease was brought to Mecca and became a pandemic.	
2. Covid -19 adds to the list of problems that historically disturbed the Hajj.	

**B. Choose a,b or c to complete the ideas below. (2 marks)**

3. According to the author,
- a. *the pilgrimage has never been interrupted.*
  - b. *it is first time the pilgrimage has been interrupted.*
  - c. *the pilgrimage has been interrupted time and time again over the past years.*
4. When the black stone of the Kaaba was stolen, the pilgrimage was suspended for,
- a. 100 years
  - b. 10 years
  - c. 1000 years

**C. Find in the indicated paragraphs synonyms or antonyms of the words or phrases below. (2 marks)**

5. meetings = \_\_\_\_\_ (par 1)    6. assassinated = \_\_\_\_\_ (par 2)  
 7. not very important ≠ \_\_\_\_\_ (par 2)    8. life ≠ \_\_\_\_\_ (par 3)

**D. Circle true (T) or false (F). Give specific justifications from the text. (2 marks)**

9. Before 2020, Saudi Arabia had never closed its doors to all Muslims of other countries **T / F**

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Recently, other reasons than epidemics have kept Muslims from going to Mecca **T / F**

\_\_\_\_\_

**E. What or who do the following words refer to in the text?**

11. **They** = \_\_\_\_\_  
 12. **the disease** = \_\_\_\_\_

**II. LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (6 marks)**

**F. Choose the right options to complete the following passage. (2 marks)**

Muslims have been going to Mecca to accomplish one of the five pillars of Islam 13. \_\_\_\_\_ (for – since – ago) AD 632. Thousands of pilgrims from everywhere 14. \_\_\_\_\_ (are performing – performed – perform) the ritual acts of the Hajj every year. Whenever there 15. \_\_\_\_\_ (haven't been – had been – hasn't been) a pandemic, the holy event was cancelled. As soon as the pandemic was controlled, people 16. \_\_\_\_\_ (had – will – will have) resumed the pilgrimage.

**G. Which notions are expressed in the ideas below? Choose from the box to match them. (2 marks)**

Illustration – addition – contrast – consequence - condition

IDEAS	Notions
17. <b>Although</b> this is the first time Saudi Arabia has shut the door to all Muslims, it is certainly not the first time the Hajj has been interrupted.	
18. <b>As a result</b> , the Hajj was suspended for a decade until the stone was returned to Mecca.	
19. <b>Moreover</b> , epidemics have also interrupted past pilgrimages	
20. In 1821, <b>for example</b> , 20,000 died, and in 1865 pilgrims from the Ganges Delta brought the disease to Mecca.	

**H. Below is a conversation between Alioune and Babacar. Complete it meaningfully. (2 marks)**

**Alioune:** This pandemic has turned the world upside down. We cannot even accomplish the Hajj. It is a real curse, 21. \_\_\_\_\_?

**Babacar:** It is indeed. 22. \_\_\_\_\_?

**Alioune:** Yes, I wanted to visit the holy city of Mecca. Unfortunately, this visitation from God came to cancel my journey.

**Babacar:** 23. \_\_\_\_\_?

**Alioune:** I believe it is a world disaster caused by man's evil deeds.

**Babacar:** Well as far as I am concerned, (24) \_\_\_\_\_.

**III. WRITING: Choose one topic and write about 150 words on it. (6 marks)**

**Topic 1:** To fight the spread of COVID 19 the Authorities took several measures such as closing mosques and other worship places etc... Were you satisfied with those decisions? Why or why not? Develop your arguments in a coherent way.

**Topic 2:** Baye Modu thinks that closing worship places and forbidding religious meetings are the only solutions to fight the expansion of the pandemic. His friend Abdu Salam does not think so. Write out their conversation.