



LANGUE VIVANTE II

Epreuve du 2^{ème} groupe

ANGLAIS

Are Women Better Leaders Than Men?

“I’m absolutely confident that for two years if every nation on earth was run by women, you would see significant improvement across the world on everything, including living standards and outcomes.” This statement from former U.S. president Barack Obama – speaking on women and leadership – might not *be farfetched*, as women are reaching positions of power, and seemingly not proving him wrong in many cases.

5 In November 2020, Maia Sandu *reached a milestone* by becoming Moldova’s first woman president. Following years of sexist attacks from men and women alike, **it** was a major victory for Sandu – and women around the world. The same month, the American people elected Kamala Harris vice-president; on 20 January, she became the highest-ranking woman in US history.

10 This rising female leadership is also real in Africa. Rwanda now has the highest percentage of women in parliamentary positions in the world, along with South Africa, Senegal, Namibia and Mozambique in the top 20, according to 2020 data from the IPU-UN women Map of Women in Politics.

15 Yet even though women are rising to power, a pernicious culture of distrust in women leaders endures. Many of them have had to battle sexist comments, even as they climb to success on a global stage – such as New Zealand’s Jacinda Ardern, who was *globally lauded* for her leadership during the Covid-19 pandemic. In fact, there is a common belief among men and women alike that women are *too delicate to be leaders*. This matters because, according to a Wilson Center report on women’s public leadership in the Middle East and North Africa, “Public perceptions regarding women’s ability to lead is a key driver of how much power they will have while in office”.

20 In Africa, gender norms emphasize the primary role of women as mothers and wives, which discourages **them** from joining the workplace and ascending to higher positions. Going forward, women’s leadership in Africa would benefit from continued research, advocacy and discussion that embrace the complexity and diversity of African women leaders.

Adapted from the following sources: <https://fisher.osu.edu/blogs/leadreadrodacy/why-women-are-better-leaders>, <https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20210108-why-do-we-still-distrust-women-leaders>, <https://borgenproject.org/the-potential-of-womens-leadership-in-africa>.

I. READING COMPREHENSION (8 marks)

A. Choose the correct option: a, b or c. (2 marks)

1. “*might not be farfetched*” (parag.1) means:
a. Is not easy to believe b. is not exaggerated c. is far from reality
2. “*reached a milestone*” (parag. 2) means:
a. made important progress b. made a big mistake c. move fast
3. “*globally lauded*” (parag. 4) means:
a. blamed by everyone b. praised internationally c. accused by people
4. “*too delicate to be leaders*” (parag. 4) means:
a. too good at leading b. too strict when leading c. too weak at leading

B. Complete the table with specific information from the text. (2 marks)

Successful female leaders	Their important achievements
Kamala Harris	5.....
6.....	First head of state
Senegalese women	7.....
8.....	Good management of the pandemic

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C. Give in the text the English equivalent of the French statement. (1 mark)

French statement	English equivalent in the text
L'opinion publique joue un rôle majeur dans la capacité des femmes à exercer le pouvoir.	9.....

D. Statement 10 is True and statement 11 False. Give justifications from the text. (2 marks)

10. There are some women who believe that men are better leaders: **TRUE**

11. Now society unanimously trusts women thanks to their different achievements: **FALSE**

E. What or who do the following words refer to in the text? (1 mark)

12. **it** (parag. 2):

13. **them** (parag. 5):

II. LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (6 marks)

F. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct words in brackets. (2 marks)

In Africa, staying in positions of power is difficult because multiple roles are (14) (**traditional / traditionally**) expected from women. If a woman manages to be a parliamentarian as well as a wife and a mother, it will be (15) (**hard / hardly**) for her to continue without the support of her husband. With young children to take (16) (**care / careful**) of, she will have to rush back home every day. Worst of all, she will have to face her husband's (17) (**mood / moody**) temper.

G. Write the verbs in brackets in the correct form. (2 marks)

Wangari Maathai was a famous Kenyan female activist who (18) (**win**) the 2004 Nobel Prize. She initiated the Green Belt Movement in 1977, advocating nationwide tree planting to help those already engaged in (19) (**fight**) environmental degradation. She was also (20) (**know**) as a champion of human rights in Kenya. Her actions (21) (**perpetuate**) by many people today.

H. Thierno and Monique are discussing the possibility for women to run for presidential elections. Complete the following conversation meaningfully. (2 marks)

Thierno: Hi, Monique! How in politics ? (22)

Monique: For three years now.

Thierno: I guess it's difficult to be at the same time a politician, a wife and a mother,? (23)

Monique: Yes, it is. By the way,? (24)

Thierno: No! Never! I won't vote for any woman running for presidency in this country!

Monique: I can't believe my ears! Why wouldn't you?

Thierno: (25)

III. WRITING (6 marks)

Choose one topic and write about 150-200 words.

TOPIC 1: Do you agree with President Barack Obama when he said: "If every nation had a female president, there would be a significant improvement across the world on everything." Give your reasons.

TOPIC 2: Fatou had a conversation with Alpha who thinks that women cannot hold any important leadership position with efficiency. She disagrees with him. Write their discussion.

TOPIC 3: Marie is writing a letter / an email to a famous female political leader to encourage her, and ask her to advocate for woman's leadership in Senegal. Reproduce her letter / email.

ANSWER KEY

I. READING COMPREHENSION (8 marks)

A. Finding words from definitions: (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

1. b. isn't exaggerated
2. a. made important progress
3. b. praised internationally
4. c. weak at leading

B. Information transfer: (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

5. elected as vice-president ... became highest-ranking woman in US history.
6. Moldovan Maia Sandu.
7. highest percentage of women in parliamentary positions in the world./Rising female leadership
8. New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern.

C. English equivalent: (1 x 1 = 1 mark)

9. Public perceptions regarding women's ability to lead is a major driver of how much power they will have while in office.

D. Justifications of statements: (1 x 2 = 1 mark)

10. "there's a common belief among men and women alike that women are too delicate to be leaders" (parag. 4)
11. "... even though women are rising to power, a pernicious culture of distrust in women leaders endures." (parag. 4)

E. Contextual reference: (0.5 x 2 = 1 mark)

12. (The fact of) becoming Moldova's first woman president.
13. Women as mothers and wives.

II. LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (6 marks)

F. Multiple choices: (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 14. traditionally | 16. care |
| 15. hard | 17. moody |

G. Verb tenses: (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

18. won
19. fighting
20. known
21. are perpetuated

H. Dialogue completion: (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

22. How long have you been in politics?
23. isn't it?
24. Will you vote for a woman candidate? (or any other meaningful question)
25. (Any meaningful and correct reply)

III. WRITING (6 marks)

Understanding:	2 marks	Organization:	1 mark
Relevance:	1 mark	Originality:	1 mark
Accuracy:	1 mark		