



LANGUE VIVANTE II

Épreuve du 1^{er} groupe

ANGLAIS

Word Bank Warns of 'Learning Crisis' in Global Education

Millions of young students in low and middle-income countries face the prospect of lost opportunity and lower wages in later life because their primary and secondary schools are failing to educate them to succeed in life. Warning of a 'learning crisis' in global education, a new World Bank report said schooling without learning was not just a wasted development opportunity, but also a great injustice to children and young people worldwide.

The World Development Report 2018 'Learning to Realize Education's Promise' argues that without learning, education will fail to deliver on its promise to eliminate extreme poverty and create shared opportunity and prosperity for all. Even after several years in school, millions of children cannot read, write or do elementary math. This learning crisis is widening social gaps instead of narrowing them. Young students who are already disadvantaged by poverty, conflict, gender or disability, are **its** main victims, as they reach young adulthood without even the most basic life skills.

"This learning crisis is a moral and economic crisis," World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim said. "When delivered well, education promises young people employment, better earnings, good health, and a life without poverty. For communities, education spurs innovation, strengthens institutions, and fosters social cohesion.

The report recommends concrete policy steps to help developing countries resolve this dire learning crisis in the areas of stronger learning assessments, using evidence of what works and what doesn't, to guide decision making on education; and mobilizing a strong social movement to push for education changes that champion 'learning for all'.

The report notes that when countries and their leaders make "learning for all" a national priority, education standards can improve dramatically. For instance, from a war-torn country with very low literacy rates in the 1950s, South Korea achieved universal enrollment by 1995 in high-quality education through secondary school – **its** young people performed at the highest levels on international learning assessments.

"Developing countries are far from where they should be on learning. Many do not invest enough financial resources and most need to invest more efficiently. But it is not only a matter of money; countries need to also invest in the capacity of the people and institutions in charge of educating our children", said Jaime Saavedra, a former Peruvian Education Minister, and now the World Bank's Senior Director for Education. "Education reform is urgently needed and requires persistence as well as the political alignment of government, media, entrepreneurs, teachers, parents, and students. They all have to value and demand better learning".

Adapted from *Press Release*,
www.worldbank.org, Sept. 26, 2017.

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TEXT COMPREHENSION: 08 marks

A) Read the text and write a ✓ in front of the correct answer [a), b) or c)]. (01 mark)

1. The 'learning crisis' mentioned in the text is:

- a) a local problem;
- b) a worldwide problem;
- c) a World Bank problem.

B) Find in the indicated paragraphs words that are similar in meaning to the ones in parentheses. (01.5 marks)

It is incredible that in the 21st Century, a clearly-identified crisis can compromise the future of millions of children and violate a (= *fundamental*[*parag2*]) (2) _____ right: access to quality education. Despite the huge amounts of money spent on schooling, education will probably (= *not succeed*[*parag2*]) (3) _____ to eradicate extreme poverty, as it is supposed to. And if education does not fully play this role, learners from (= *modest revenue*[*parag1*]) (4) _____ families will be more exposed to the many consequences of poverty.

C) Use information from the text to indicate the impact of Quality Education on a) the YOUTH, b) SOCIETY and c) POVERTY. (01.5 marks)

5. The youth	
6. Society	
7. Poverty	

D) Use a ✓ to identify three recommendations made in the W.B. report and listed in paragraph 4. (01.5 marks)

- Sensitization of the public
- Changing learning champions
- Politics
- Practical measures
- Information on successes and failures (8.9.10.)

E) Complete the following statements with relevant information from paragraphs 5 and 6. (01.5 marks)

- 11. As a solution to the 'learning crisis,' the World Bank report invites developing countries to follow the example of _____, which faced a similar situation some years ago.
- 12. The problem with most poor countries is they invest in education but not _____
- 13. Attaining quality education necessitates a collective effort, with the implication of decision-makers, _____

F) WHAT do the words below refer to in the text? (01 mark)

- 14. "its" (Line 11): _____
- 15. "its" (Line 24): _____

II. LINGUISTIC and COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE: 06 marks**G) Fill in the gaps with the appropriate forms of the words in parentheses.***(01.5 marks)*

An educated and well-trained workforce is vital to the economy and social well-being of all nations. That's why the government passed a law to make 'education for all' a national policy. This law is intended to ensure (16) _____ (*equality*) opportunity for all citizens in terms of basic schooling but it cannot put an end to the impact of social disparities on the (17) _____ (*achieved*) of learners. However, if quality and stability are guaranteed in public schools, those disparities will be (18) _____ (*notice*) reduced.

H) Complete this discussion between a World Bank Expert and an Education Inspector. (02.5 marks)

WB Expert: The report that we published on your country's public system two years ago (19) _____ (*shows*had showed*is showing*) that some of the millennium goals on education will not be attained. Your reaction to that?

Inspector: We recognize that we are still facing serious problems, but as an education expert, you know that a certain (20) _____ (*number*amount*quantity*) of factors can account (21) _____ (*on * for * with*) those difficulties.

WB Expert: (22) Well... not really. Which _____ ?

Inspector: Factors like the high rate of school dropouts, recurrent disturbances, lack of adequate equipment and of experienced teachers, brain drain, etc.

WB Expert: That's a lot! We can help with the equipment matter. But your government will (23) _____ (*must*) take the others issues in charge.

Inspector: Of course, Sir! And I can assure you that we are already working on all those.

I) Use the prompts given to write correct and coherent reactions to the following situations. (02 marks)

Situation 1: It's regrettable that students went on strike for so long.

☞ **Reaction:** *I really wish they* (24) _____

Situation 2: If learning conditions are not improved, more youth will turn their back to school.

☞ **Reaction:** *Unless* (25) _____

III. WRITING: 06 marks

Choose ONE topic and write about 250 words.

Topic 1: Comment on the following statement: "Without learning, education will fail to deliver on its promise to eliminate extreme poverty and create shared opportunity and prosperity for all".

Topic 2: Ngor wants to stop going to school because he believes that even if he gets qualification, the good jobs will go to people who have connections in the administration. His friend Yoro is trying to dissuade him. Write their conversation.