



**LANGUE VIVANTE II**

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

**ANGLAIS**

**The gender gap in education**

In 1990 in Jomtien, Thailand, at the World Conference on Education for All, world leaders agreed that "the most urgent priority was to ensure access to, and improve the quality of, education for girls and women and to remove every obstacle that hampers their active participation". A deadline was set : universal access to, and completion of primary education should be achieved by the year 2000.

By the year 2000, this "urgent priority" had not been realized. In the World Education Forum held that year in Dakar, new deadlines were fixed: all children should complete "compulsory primary education of good quality" by 2015, and participants once again expressed specific concern about gender disparities in education, pledging to eliminate them by 2005. At the UN's Millennium Summit, heads of state adopted these targets as two of the eight Millennium Development Goals for reducing world poverty.

The global Campaign for Education, an international coalition of NGOs and trade unions, declares that because education is so crucial to improving health and increasing incomes, the girls' education goal has a domino effect on all of the other Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Failure to achieve it will set us up for almost certain failure on the other MDGs."

Some experts claim that there is "no chance whatsoever" of reaching the 2005 target. Some civil society organizations, however, are working hard to prove otherwise. The Global Campaign for Education claims that if donors and governments fulfill their commitment, this objective can be achieved. "The problem is not over-ambition, but lack of ambition," they say. And they are carrying out an international campaign to raise awareness and pressure governments.

Poverty is one of the major factors that undermine girls' right to education. School fees and expenses relating to transport, clothing and books widen the gender gap : as families cannot afford to educate all their children, girls are the ones that stay at home, helping with household chores. Other barriers have to do with the sexual harassment to which girls and women are exposed, both on the way to and inside schools, early marriage and adolescent pregnancy.

What is the most effective tool for combating these problems? According to the Global Campaign for Education, in order to stop this poverty wheel, a comprehensive package of interventions backed by clear policy aims is needed.

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I. READING COMPREHENSION

(8 marks)

A/ Match these phrases with their English equivalents in the text : (3pts)

- 1) L'école élémentaire obligatoire: .....
- 2) L'accès universel à l'école élémentaire : .....
- 3) Les mariages et les grossesses précoces : .....

B/ Which sentence in the text gives a good definition of the "Domino effect"? (1pt)

4).....

C/ There are different views about the 2005 objectives. Classify them in 2 categories and illustrate them with 2 phrases from the text: (2pts)

Optimistic view	5
Pessimistic view	6

D List 2 advantages of the Global Campaign for Education (2pts)

- 7).....
- 8).....

II. COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (7 marks)

E/ Choose the right words from the box to fill in the blanks. (0.5x2=1 pt)

if	Unless	of
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There should not be any difference between boys and girls regarding education. So, it should also be accessible to girls and women. In Africa, there seems to be a lack (9)..... political will to reach this goal. (10)..... the issue of education is properly addressed, Africa will not develop.

F/ A journalist is interviewing you about these conferences on Education. Fill in the missing words in the questions. (0.5 x 2 = 1. pt)

Journalist : How (11)..... have they met this decade?

You : Twice.

Journalist : (12)..... was the Thailand Conference organized?

You : In 1990.

G/ Problem solving: how can the gender gap in education be solved? (5pts) Identify 4 causes of the gender gap, 1 solution from the text (2,5pts)

Causes	13
	14
	15
	16
Solution in the text	17

Propose your own solution in 5 lines maximum: (2,5pts)

- 18).....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

**III WRITING** (5 Marks)

Choose one topic and write about 150 to 200 words.

1. After her success in the Bac Exam, your sister wants to continue her studies abroad but your father does not accept. You try to convince your father to change his mind. **Write down your conversation.**
2. "Educating a boy is helping one person but educating a girl is teaching a society". **Explain this assertion.**