



UNIVERSITÉ CHEIKH ANTA DIOP DE DAKAR 1/3



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Durée : 2 heures

Séries: L1b-L2-LA – Coef. 2

Série : L'1 – Coef. 4

LANGUE VIVANTE II

Epreuve du 2^{ème} groupe

ANGLAIS

The lie called "beauty creams"

The small print on the packaging is always so alluring but so untrue. No hints are given about the dangers. One popular brand brazenly advertises the dangerous ingredient, hydroquinone. The manufacturers say it is 'the complete skin-lightening treatment. The lighter you look, the lovelier you look. Extra fast. Extra effective'.

5 These are some of the lies behind the 'beauty creams' being sold to African women (and some men). The dangerous skin bleaching creams and lotions are, once again, taking the African continent by storm. The hidden truth kept from eager users is that hydroquinone is poisonous. It is toxic and causes horrific scarring. It is also potentially fatal as it can cause damage to internal organs, particularly kidneys and the liver. Hydroquinone prevents and
10 curtails the production of melanin – the vital skin protection and pigmentation that gives black people their dark brown colour. (Albinos lack melanin, and that is why they look white and are prone to skin cancers). Melanin protects the skin from the cancer-causing ultra- violet rays of the sun. It also helps slow down the ageing process.

15 A report written by professor George Findlay and published by the *British Journal of Dermatology*, describes the harmful effects of hydroquinone thus : "The chemical first bleaches the skin, but then coarsens it, creating black lumps which can develop into abscesses and ulcers. **These effects** seem to be accelerated by exposure to the sun, making them particularly dangerous in Africa".

20 Skin bleaching in fact, is a multi-million dollar industry in Europe and Africa itself which hosts the subsidiaries of the Western companies. The most popular skin bleaching products used in Africa are British made. Manufacturers of the creams take advantage of the ignorance of the majority of their customers who believe a lighter skin makes **them** look more beautiful and sexually attractive.

25 But as Dr Denis Lwimbo, a psychiatrist, puts it : "It's all done because of low self-esteem. If **these people** felt good about themselves, and if there were an official campaign worldwide to educate people, as well as a worldwide ban on their manufacturing, this market could be killed", he told *New African*.

30 Dr Hillary Carman, a south African dermatologist, describes the British exports of skin lightening creams as "immoral" : "It is another example of the exploitation of the third world... Africans are buying a dream and being sold a lie.

Adapted from Regina Jere – Malanda, New African, April 2000, pp. 34-36.

LANGUE VIVANTE II

I. READING COMPREHENSION

(08 marks)

A. Match the following words with their equivalents in the text (2 marks)

1. Without any shame (paragr.1)
2. Enthusiastic (parag.2)
3. Reduces (parag.2)
4. Prohibition (parag.5)

B. What do the following words refer to ? (1.5 mark)

- 5. These effects (These effects seem to be...) p.3 :
- 6. them (... a lighter skin makes them...) p.5 :
- 7. these people (... if these people felt good...) p.5 :

C. Give three negative consequences of hydroquinone (1.5 mark)

- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

D. Say whether these statements are true or false and justify your answer by quoting specific passages from the text (3 marks)

- 11. Hydroquinone can ultimately cause death.
.....
- 12. The more melanin you have, the quicker you get old.
.....
- 13. Most of the users of skin bleaching products don't know about the dangers of hydroquinone
.....

II. COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (6 marks)

E. Complete the following passage with the correct form of the words between brackets (2 marks)

In order to gain (popular) 14....., some black artists, journalists and t.v presenters resort to skin – bleaching products. Manufacturers of such products are (lie) 15.....since they deliberately omit to tell them the truth. Instead of having their skin (bleach) 16.....these people should be proud of their ebony colour and denounce the (immoral) 17.....of this trade.

F. Fill in the blanks with one of the quantifiers below (2 marks)

Much – many – few – little – a few – a little

It's crazy ! Our women spend so 18.....money on skin – bleaching products. They seem to think that the lighter they are, the more beautiful they will be, which is totally false. Very 19.....of them accept their black complexion.

In fact, most women are victims of manufacturers who do 20.....to inform them about the dangers of skin – bleaching. Worst of all, these manufacturers flood the market with these dangerous products they advertise outrageously. As a result, the products which give an effect in 21.....time have the most devastating consequences.

- G. Marième, a lady in her early forties has come to see a doctor; Complete their dialogue meaningfully with questions or question tags (*n'est ce pas*) (2 marks)

Marième : I haven't been able to sleep for several days because of severe itching and my whole body is aching, Doctor!

Doctor : 22..... ?

Marième : Nearly two weeks now. I can't sleep and I have to scratch a lot.

Doctor : From your complexion I can guess you are using skin – bleaching creams, 23..... ?

Marième : Yes I am, like most married women here.

Doctor : It's probably the reason for your sufferings. 24..... you know that skin bleaching products poison your body?

Marième : No, I really didn't know. Are you sure of that?

Doctor : I don't want to frighten you but this is serious! Stop now, 25..... ?

Marième : Well it will be difficult but I'll try to follow your advice.

III. WRITING (6 marks)

Choose ONE of the following topics

Topic 1 : Do you agree with those who use skin – lightening products ? Give your arguments for or against..

Topic 2 Two black women have different opinions on skin lightening. Write down their conversation.