

1 There are approximately 30,000 street children in Morocco, a frightening statistic when you are aware of the damage such circumstances inflict on children's development and future. Living in poverty and outside the school system, they are easy targets for urban violence and all kinds of traffic, whether drugs or sex, and have a future as dark as the streets they live on.



2 In Casablanca, the biggest city in Morocco, nearly 7,000 children live in this condition. The "chamkars" are children who were abandoned or chose to flee their sometimes violent and often difficult family environments. While some of them work in the streets during the day and go home at night to sleep, others make an uncomfortable bed for the night out of a simple cardboard box or staircase step.

3 In the streets of Casa, the country's economic engine, which employs over half its population, street children sell small merchandise and basic services to pedestrians and motorists alike. This social trend is not unique to Casablanca. In Marrakech, one of the biggest souks in Morocco, the millions of tourists aren't frequenting the pavement alone – street children have also set up house there. Sometimes organized in groups, they earn a few cents by selling packets of tissues, tourist guides and other products in the most famous market there.



4 With a few Dirhams, these children can buy drugs. To alleviate the stress of their daily lives they often sniff glue, a cheap and easy-to-obtain drug, or other intoxicating substances. Their exact number in Casablanca, Marrakech and elsewhere is difficult to establish due to their mobility. According to the Moroccan Ministry of Solidarity, Women, Family and Social Development, this number varies between 10,000 and 30,000.

5 However, the source of this problem is easier to pinpoint: the poverty and unemployment affecting numerous Moroccan families and the lack of care and affection given to certain children in the family environment are some of the factors that force children to live on the streets. Moroccan civil society, represented by non-governmental organizations and associations, is trying to provide these children with its aid. Occasionally, at the government's initiative, welcome centres have been opened and struggle to reintegrate street children into the school system, a family, and society as a whole.



6 However, the number of children to care for is too high compared to the infrastructure and qualified personnel dedicated to the cause. Moreover, it is not easy to establish trust between the social and educational agents and the victims; these children, abandoned by their family and rejected by society, have lost all trust in adults and all hope for the future. Nevertheless, we must safeguard their fundamental rights and, above all, their right to childhood.

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

A Tick (☑) the most appropriate title for the text. (1 pt)

- 1 The Situation of Children in Morocco ☐ 3 Gifted Children in Morocco ☐
2 Street Children of Morocco ☐

B Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY your answers. (3 pts)

- 1 These children are exposed to all types of maltreatment.
.....
.....
2 These homeless children are all forced to live on the streets.
.....
.....
3 It is easy to determine the causes of this phenomenon.
.....
.....

C Answer these questions. (3 pts)

- 1 How do the children who live on the street in Casablanca earn their living?
.....
.....
2 Why is it difficult to know the exact number of homeless children?
.....
.....
3 What are the two causes that make it difficult to cope with the problem of street children in Morocco?
.....
.....

D Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as the following. (3 pts)

- 1 impose on (para 1) 3 protect (para 6)
2 tendency (para 3)

E What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)

- 1 they (para 1) 3 its (para 5)
2 there (para 3)

F Complete the following sentences. (2 pts)

- 1 They often sniff glue, a cheap and easy-to-obtain drug, or other intoxicating substances **so that**
.....
2 The government intends to reintegrate these children. **So**, it
.....
.....

II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)

A Fill in the blanks with the correct auxiliary and put the verbs in the correct form. (3 pts)

had to should must can't may needn't

- 1 They (discuss) the matter yesterday. I'm not sure.
- 2 I've forgotten the address. I (write) it down; it's a pity I didn't.
- 3 You (do) the exercise. It wasn't necessary.

B Put the verbs between brackets into the correct form. (2 pts)

I (¹ have) this mobile phone for about a year now. In fact, my mother (² give) it to me as a present on my last birthday. It is a pity my father (³ never / attend) any one of my birthday parties. They are divorced and he (⁴ still / look) for a wife.

C Put the words between brackets into the correct form. (2 pts)

- 1 I was going mad with (boring)
- 2 We are working on the (assume) that everyone invited will turn up.

D Rewrite the sentences as suggested. (2 pts)

- 1 I worked with Jake for a few weeks. I felt I knew him pretty well.
Before, I
- 2 Will you please water the plants while I'm away?
Do you?

E Match the words that go together to make appropriate collocations. (2 pts)

notes skills managerial conclusion granted humour livelihood

- 1 Some youths usually take their parents for, assuming that they will be there for them.
- 2 The journalist took throughout the interview.
- 3 It's difficult to earn a as an artist.
- 4 Does she have any experience?

F Rewrite the following sentences using the connectors between brackets. (2 pts)

- 1 Because Samuel wanted to improve his performance, he trained every day. (*in order to*)
.....
- 2 She walked home by herself. She knew that it was dangerous. (*but*)
.....

G Respond to the following sentences. (2 pts)

- 1 "Nuts can trigger off a violent allergic reaction." (Express lack of understanding.)
.....
- 2 I think Ifrane is the best city in Morocco. (Disagree with your friend)
.....

III WRITING (10 POINTS)

You received the following letter from your pen-friend at the end of which he / she says,

What about you? What was your first experience at school like? And how do you feel about it?

Take care!

Your friend

Write a reply to this letter.

(Approximately 250 words)

December 9th 2015

Dear friend,