

### Morocco expands youth services

1 Young Moroccans will soon get easier access to a number of services, from employment to transportation, healthcare and cultural opportunities. A new special “youth card” is part of a global approach aimed at the advancement of young people through a number of initiatives, Youth and Sports Minister Mohamed Ouzzine told Parliament on January 14<sup>th</sup>. “This gives young people what they’ve been asking for. It sends out a strong signal that we’re thinking about young people who are looking for practical measures which will have positive effects on their everyday lives,” the minister said. In particular, he cited the need to guarantee them quality training to improve their skills.



A new special “youth card” will allow poor Moroccans to benefit from a raft of opportunities

2 “We are in the process of bringing together all the recommendations from the young people who took part in the national debate. An inter-ministerial commission is working on the matter, which covers a number of aspects such as employment, the use of foreign languages, culture and so on,” Ouzzine added. He said that the ministry had not yet set the age range for those who will receive the card, given that discussions on the matter are still ongoing. “The challenge is to specify what is meant by ‘youth’. There are a number of different definitions. The United Nations sets the age range at 18 to 25 years, but the Arab League puts it between 16 and 35,” he said. The ongoing discussion is part of Morocco’s national youth strategy.

3 Sociologist Siham El Ouardi said that setting up a card for young people is a major step in the advancement of Moroccan youth. “By receiving this card, young people will be better able to travel around and take advantage of the cultural and tourist services it offers. This is a good practical initiative,” she said. As for young people themselves, some have welcomed the measure while others think it is still not enough.

4 Hakima Cherrat, a 22-year-old secretary, is in the first camp. She said that young people in Morocco had enjoyed no privileges up until now, whereas in other countries they are a top priority. “By launching this card, they’ll move from the discussion phase to concrete action. Young Moroccans really need this initiative, which will simplify their daily lives,” she said.

5 Said Mrabi, 20-year-old student, said the card was a step in the right direction, but action should be taken in other areas “such as education and training to improve their integration into the labour market”. “Steps need to be taken to help take young people out of unemployment. Politically speaking, we need to value Moroccan youths more,” he added.



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

A    **Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIF. (3 pts)**

1    All Moroccan youths will benefit from the new card.  
.....  
.....

2    Young people agree that the youth card is very useful.  
.....  
.....

3    Like all young people in the world, Moroccan youths have benefited from a lot of initiatives.  
.....  
.....

B    **Answer these questions with information from the text. (3 pts)**

1    What is the long term objective of the government when it issued this card? .....

2    Which problem is the government facing at the moment? .....

3    What is the most important problem for some Moroccan youths? .....

C    **Find in the text words and expressions that mean the same as the following. (3 pts)**

1    continuing (para 2): .....                      3    work (para 5) .....

2    but (para 4) .....

D    **What do the underlined words refer to? (3 pts)**

1    them (para 1) .....                      3    he (para 5) .....

2    it (para 3) .....

E    **Complete these sentences with information from the text. (3 pts)**

1    In particular, he cited the need to guarantee them quality training so that .....

2    Young people with limited financial means will not only be better able to travel around, but .....

3    Action should be taken in other areas although .....

**II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)**

**A Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the words between brackets. (3 pts)**

- 1 Many NGOs try to (development) ..... citizenship values in our country.
- 2 Women have become very (action) ..... members in a number of NGOs.
- 3 The job advertised requires a good (know) ..... of at least two languages.

**B Put the verbs between brackets into the correct form. (3 pts)**

Ahmad Hi, Jamal! Any news about Ibrahim? I (not / see) ..... him for weeks now.  
Jamal Oh yes, he finally (get) ..... his visa yesterday; and I think he (travel) ..... to Montreal next week.

**C Choose the correct answer. (3 pts)**

- 1 I'm ..... our trip to France. We're leaving next month.  
 a resorting to                       b coping with                       c looking forward to
- 2 He needn't ..... to hospital, but he went just to reassure himself.  
 a go                                       b have gone                       c to go
- 3 That little boy always makes up excuses for ..... late.  
 a being                                       b to be                                       c be

**D Fill in each blank with the right connector. (2 pts)**

owing to                      in spite of                      because                      though                      furthermore

- 1 I went home early ..... I wasn't feeling well.
- 2 ..... all our careful plans, a lot of things went wrong.
- 3 I went to the doctor's the next day ..... a terrible headache I had.
- 4 ..... it rained a lot, we enjoyed our holiday.

**E Rewrite the following sentences as suggested. (4 pts)**

- 1 The association has funded many social projects.  
Many social projects .....
- 2 The train left the station. Then, Leila got there.  
Leila ..... got ..... to ..... the ..... station ..... after .....
- 3 Young people will regain confidence in political parties in the 2015 elections.  
By 2016, young people .....
- 4 The organization gives help and support to people in need. It raises money for local charities.  
The organization gives help and support to people in need as well as .....

