



Test N°2

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Name:

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Class:

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Final Mark / 40

“Boulevard of Young Musicians” Festival in Casablanca

Most people think that there is an activity they excel at and they enjoy a lot. It could be playing a sport, speaking a language, singing, cooking, designing websites, or even driving. They, therefore, **seize** any opportunity to express **their** special talents and skills. Such is the case of a handful of Moroccan gifted youths who consider ‘Le Boulevard des Jeunes Musiciens’ as the most favourable time to bring their musical genius into light and share their joy with others.

The festival started in 2000 as a one-day event with merely a few amateur artists playing on a dark small stage. Today, **it** has become a massive four-day long celebration drawing over one hundred thousand of fans each year. An incredible success of an event run by a few voluntary youngsters. This event takes place every June in Casablanca and features musical acts ranging from Hip-hop, to Rock-metal, and fusion. It was a dream of ambitious youngsters to build an alternative music scene in Morocco. The festival has become the most important platform for local distinguished youth bands.

I went there on the third day, accompanied by two colleagues of mine. Moroccan youths have never seen anything like it. That’s how we all quickly figured out the secret of this festival’s success. “The Boulevard is our place under the sun”, one guy was shouting in French. The expression made me smile, seeing all those people escaping the sun for shade next to tree and fences.

Live concerts are rare in Casablanca and when there is one, most people cannot afford the pricey ticket. So, the free admission fee means that people come from the farthest corners of the city. They are all in search of a moment of ecstasy, away from the so many frustrations of daily life. The Boulevard’s real driving force lies in the fact that it gives young talented musicians the opportunity to play in front of thousands of people. For many of these creative musicians, it is their sole occasion to express their gifts and perform in public during the whole year.

Moroccan music has always been described as rich, with a mixture of influences: Amazigh, African, Latino and Arab. In the festival, we have a highly skilful combination of Rap, Rock, Reggae and Fusion: a celebration of diversity, creativity and universality.

In the closing ceremony, we had the pleasure to listen to some bands who managed through the years to get to fame like Hoba Hoba spirit, Dayzin, H-Kayne, Fnaire and Darga. The intimate atmosphere and the excited audience make of the festival a world of dreams. Apart from **that**, lyrics in clear Moroccan dialect express the hopes of a whole generation for a better life and a more perfect world, not to mention their love of their country as well.

At the same time, as a place for cultural exchange and joyful friendship, I was impressed by the open spirit of this generation of young Moroccans. I realized that there is a deep love of life and a determination to change things for the better. As someone put it clearly to me: “The Boulevard is a place of freedom and diversity. It’s our greatest chance to share our talents with others.

II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)

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

- 1 You know Hamid (still / look for) a job.
- 2 They (not do / often) their homework.

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

- 1 Many teachers would like to be more (adventure) and creative.
- 2 He is usually punished because he tends to (disobedient) orders.

C Rewrite the following sentences using a modal. (3 pts)

- 1 It isn't necessary for you to buy another car.
You
- 2 Perhaps he works very hard.
He
- 3 I advise you to put your money in the bank.
You

D Cross out the incorrect verb forms. (2 pts)

- 1 I'm not used to (eat) so much at lunchtime.
- 2 You are expected (know) the safety regulations of the college.
- 3 I am looking forward to (see) you.
- 4 He made me (do) the work all over again.

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

laughter joy activities fun anger humour

- 1 I can't stand people who have no sense of
- 2 The trip was such a success and we had so much
- 3 They all burst into when he cracked a joke.
- 4 Leisure such as sailing and horse riding are a rather expensive.

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

- 1 She wanted to get a good seat. She went to the theatre very early. (*in order to*)
.....
- 2 He went to work and tried to concentrate. He was feeling bad. (*however*)
.....

G Respond to the following sentence as suggested. (2 pts)

Your friend: Pat is suffering from sour grapes.
First, express lack of understanding
Then, ask for clarification

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}

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

- 1 The festival was created thanks to some professional musicians.
.....
- 2 Foreign bands also participated in the festival.
.....
- 3 A lot people cannot pay tickets to attend the festival.
.....

B Answer these questions. (3 pts)

- 1 What are the things that contribute to the success of “The Boulevard”?
.....
.....
- 2 Why do people from distant areas in Casablanca go to the festival?
.....
.....
- 3 What did the writer become aware of at the end of the festival?
.....
.....

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

- 1 take (para 1)
- 2 understood (para 3)
- 3 great happiness (para 4)

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

- 1 their (para 1)
- 2 it (para 2)
- 3 that (para 6)

E Complete the following sentences. (3 pts)

- 1 Moroccan gifted youths consider ‘Le Boulevard des Jeunes Musiciens’ as the most favourable time to bring their musical genius into light. Besides,
- 2 The expression made me smile when
- 3 In the festival, we have a highly skilful combination of Rap, Rock, Reggae and Fusion: a celebration of diversity, creativity and universality because

III WRITING (10 POINTS)

Some people are against the idea of having fun in any way and think that all means of entertainment are just a waste of time. And so, they tend to promote “over-seriousness”. They think in this way people can have the desired results. Write an essay about the role of recreational activities in our life and their benefits and the problems that might arise if they are used inappropriately. Give examples to support your point of view.

(Approximately 250 words)

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