



Competitive Entrance into First Year

Warning!!!

**All questions must be answered on this question paper.
The answer paper given to you should serve as a file jacket only.
Do not write your name on this question paper!
Failure to heed to this instruction will attract serious sanctions.**

A) SECTION A: GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)

1. Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in simple present perfect tense or present perfect progressive tense. 2.5 marks.

- a) We (already, bake) _____ the cake. Now, we just have to decorate it with icing.
- b) Have you ever been to Africa? I (see) _____ pictures of it before. It looks beautiful.
- c) The President (speak) _____. His decision is final.
- d) The letter you sent me (not, arrive) _____ yet. I do not know what happened to it.
- e) I (clean) _____ my room all morning. It looks much better now.
- f) I (wait) _____ for you the last thirty minutes. Where (you, be) _____ ?
- g) (Edward, receive) _____ the money yet? I sent it to him three days ago. He should have gotten it by now.
- h) They (build) _____ a statue in your honour. You should be very proud.
- i) (You, hear) _____ the news? There was an earthquake in Haiti!



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SERIE C, D, E, F, TI, GCE/AL

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Time : 3 Hours

Yaoundé, September 2, 2020

2. Change this direct speech into reported speech. 2.5 marks.

- a) "He works in a bank".

She said _____.

- b) "We went out last night".

She told me _____.

- c) "I'm coming!".

She said _____.

- d) "I'd never been there before".

She said _____.

- e) "Lucy will come later".

She said _____.

3. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the word in brackets. 2.5 marks.

- a) Before we came back home, our brothers _____
our food. (eat)

- b) The _____ of the Princess in 1997 was a shock to the
entire royal family. (die)

- c) Michelle is my _____ sister but she respects me a lot. I like her
very much. (old)

- d) We _____ the exam if we studied hard.
(pass)

- e) Chantal is _____ than Brigitte. (beautiful)

4. Pick the correct option from the brackets to complete the sentences. 2.5 marks.

- a) In my village, people always help _____. (each other, one
another, them)

- b) Paul is neither a tennis man _____ a footballer. He plays basketball.
(or, nor, either)

- c) There was _____ at the door when I opened. (anybody,
nobody, nowhere)

- d) Very _____ students passed their exam last year. (few, lot, little)



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- e) This is the most talented footballer Cameroon has _____ had. (no, never, ever)
- f) We had to rush back home as it was getting darker and _____. (dark, darker, darkest)
- g) _____ you have a voting card, you will not be allowed to vote. (Until, Unless, By)
- h) We went to Bafoussam last week, _____? (are we, did we, didn't we)
- i) Daniella is the girl _____ father died last month. (who, whom, whose)
- j) In five years, Brian _____ a medical doctor. (is, was, will be)

B) SECTION B: VOCABULARY AND SPEECH WORK (10 MARKS)

1. Choose the correct word or phrase for each blank.

- a) Before he entered _____, he made a fortune in private industries. (POLITICS / POLICY / POLITICIANS / POLITICAL)
- b) The plane flew circles over the airport until the _____ was clear. (RUNWAY / HIGHWAY / TERMINAL / LANDING)
- c) It was one of the few crimes he did not _____. (ACCUSE / COMMIT / PERFORM / ACHIEVE)
- d) The president _____ all accusations made against him. He said it simply was not true. (REFUSED / DENIED / REGRETTED / DISAGREED)
- e) I do not like reading history or biography books. I prefer reading _____. (FICTION / DESCRIPTION / INVENTION / NARRATION).
- f) When I tried to walk a felt a sharp _____ in my left leg. (DAMAGE / HURT / PAIN / WOUND)
- g) The team have practiced so hard that they could _____ the trophy. (REWIND / REPLACE / RETURN / REGAIN)



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- h) We advise all our customers to _____ advantage of the low prices next week. (PUT / TAKE / HAVE / MAKE)
- i) If you work hard, you will definitely _____ a lot this term. (REACH / ACHIEVE / SUCCEED / GAIN)
- j) Carbon emissions have _____ the atmosphere very badly. (UPSET / EFFECTED / DISTURBED / AFFECTED)

2. Fill each blank with an antonym of the underlined word. 2.5 marks.

- a) Michelle is a very beautiful girl. I love her. _____
- b) Pele is known as one of the best football players of all times.

- c) These butterflies are very harmful insects. I need insecticide to kill them.

- d) Poor countries are often referred to as underdeveloped or developing countries.

- e) These children are not as stupid as I thought at the beginning of the program.

3. Complete the sentences with the appropriate form of the words in brackets. 2.5 marks.

- a) My wife trades in dress _____. Her shop is situated near the market.
(produce)
- b) Her mother started an enterprise, which is highly _____ today. (profit)
- c) My sister does electrical _____ at the University. (engineer)
- d) The _____ to Paris from the Douala Airport is at 10p.m. (fly)
- e) Do not forget to collect your _____ when you pay for something. (receive)

4. Choose the word closest in meaning to the underlined word in each sentence and write in the space provided. 2.5 marks.

- a) He went to the market and got some fresh pineapples for his breakfast.
_____ (bought, took, found)



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- b) The mob ran after the thief and tried to kill him. _____ (Police, athletes, angry people)
- c) Be careful, there is an animal lurking in the bush waiting for its next victim.
_____ (hiding, sleeping, eating)
- d) The long prison sentence of the criminal was just a reward for his crimes.
_____ (gift, crime, punishment)
- e) She excelled in her studies, passing with flying colours. _____ (cheated, did very well, exaggerated)

C) SECTION C: READING COMPREHENSION (10 MARKS)

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions below it. Make sure you write complete and correct English sentences. Pay attention to spelling.

IN FRANCE, THE CORONAVIRUS THREATENS A CHERISHED TRADITION: CHEEK-KISSING

By Robert Zaretsky

When Dooley Wilson, playing the role of Sam in the classic film “Casablanca,” croons to Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman that “a kiss is just a kiss,” he could not have been more wrong. They were gathered, after all, in Paris — a city where *une bise*, or kiss, is never just *une bise*. The coronavirus pandemic has just reminded the world of the complexity of kissing in France. At a news conference last Saturday, the French minister of health, Olivier Véran, discussed the government’s measures against the spread of the disease. Observing that “the smallest gestures offer the greatest protection,” Véran urged the French to avoid shaking hands with others. But does this apply, a journalist asked, to *faire la bise*, the traditional French greeting of kissing another’s cheeks? With a wan smile, Véran replied that he had already been asked this question several times. After a pause, he added that the French should, for now, ban *la bise*.

The foreign press is making the most of it. (One headline warns, “No kissing, please.”) This response is understandable. Facing the threat of a pandemic, there is no harm in a chuckle or two over this very French tradition. But the response is, in a way, also unfortunate. It glosses over not just the complexity of this tradition but its symbolism, too. As a symbol, the *bise* reveals something vital we risk losing — that is, apart from lives — in the effort to defeat this virus.

When the Romans came, saw and conquered Gaul, they gave the locals not just viaducts but verbs to build upon. The French word “*baiser*” comes from the Latin “*basium*” — denoting a friendly kiss — unlike “*saviolum*,” which means, well, a French kiss. The Romans thus introduced in France



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not just the growing of grapes for the making of wine but also the grazing of cheeks for the making of society.

Among the aristocracy, cheek grazing continued until the 14th century, when the Black Death put an end to the practice. Dead it remained for the next several centuries, only to be resurrected a little more than a century ago. Though historians cannot explain why, this resurrection may have a link to the era's "democratization of luxury," when goods once limited to an elite became available to a wider public. In short, *la bise* is, like all traditions, an invention. It is just that it was invented a bit later than, say, the wearing of tartan kilts in Scotland and a bit earlier than the swearing of the Pledge of Allegiance in America. But an invented tradition is not an illegitimate invention. With the re-creation of *la bise*, it was no longer the few but the many who now practiced it. While hands were pecked in aristocratic salons, cheeks were smooched in working-class cafes. Yet as the practice shifted and shimmied over time, the planting of lips on cheeks became the general rule. It is an accordion-like rule, however, that expands and contracts according to region. While in Paris the rule is two *bises*, it is four in parts of the north and west, while three is the practice in Provence. (In parts of Corsica, five *bises* is the rule, which helps to explain why the buses rarely run on time there.). But these variations beg the big question: why *la bise* at all? Why the complicated choreography of two sets of lips brushing simultaneously against two sets of cheeks? Why not a nod of the head, a wave of one hand or the shaking of two hands? Or, for that matter, why not the air kisses that have become an American tradition?

The answer to the question aligns with the question posed by the spread of the coronavirus in France. For many scholars, sociability is the foundation of French culture. In a nation that places such importance on this particular trait, *la bise*, as sociologist Dominique Picard observes, "represents the maximum of social contact." It is, she argues, "an integral part of our value system and, in this sense, is specifically French."

What happens, though, when practices that maintain the "maximum of social contact" lurch to a full stop? In his account of the plague in Athens, ancient historian Thucydides was the first, and hardly the last, to trace how the decay of social practices mirrored the progress of the disease. "As the disaster deepened," he wrote, "men became utterly careless of everything, whether sacred or profane."

While *la bise* began as a profane practice, it has achieved a quasi-sacred status in France. While agreeing that the suspension of this practice makes a world of sense as a prophylactic measure, we might also recall that, as a psychological measure, it underscores how easily such a world is unmade. This reminder is especially poignant for a people for whom a kiss is not just a kiss.



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QUESTIONS

1) Who is Olivier Veran and what did he mean by '*the smallest gesture offer the greatest protection.*'? 1 mark.

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2) Where did he make the above statement? 0.5 mark.

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3) Explain this statement: *The Romans thus introduced in France not just the growing of grapes for the making of wine but also the grazing of cheeks for the making of society.* 1 mark.

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4) **What two things** did the Romans introduce in France? 1 mark.

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5) Write down the countries where these traditions were practiced? 0.75 mark.

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6) Write the above traditions in their order of invention. 0.75 mark.

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7) Why do buses rarely run on time in Corsica? 1 mark.

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8) What is the difference between 'basium' and 'saviolum'? 1 mark.

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9) What is the meaning of *democratization of luxury* as seen in the text? 1 mark.

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10) With your knowledge of the preventives measures of Covid-19, why in your opinion should the French stop *la bise*? 2 marks.

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