

Balai Citoyen

BAC blanc 2022

Epreuve d'Anglais série A.

Durée 4h. Coefficient:2



Text: Underdevelopment

The plight of certain underdeveloped countries like Burkina Faso as well as many in Africa is something that we are all aware of. The children have barely enough food to eat, let alone the fancy clothes, toys and other things that children of more developed countries are lucky enough to have. Instead of going to school to gain a good education, children in underdeveloped countries set out to work from as young as four or five years old. By the age of twelve, most of them are given the responsibilities of looking after and supporting their parents who are often weak from hunger and ill health.

Deprived of any form of education from such a young age, these underprivileged children are forced to take up illegal odd jobs, which often have hazardous and unsuitable working conditions. Since it is illegal for young children to work, the corporations or factories that hire these children hide them away from the main working areas. The children are thus **trapped** for long stretches of time in dark and dirty rooms. The working hours in these factories are long and the work **tedious**. Not only these children risk their lives by working, but they are also exploited as they are paid minimal wages.

Children in third world countries have also been found to be working in garment factories which supply jeans and other modern wear to the rest of the world at a price that can be ten times the wage paid to each child monthly. In 1990, the United Nations encouraged countries to prohibit the import of products made by children under the age of 15. This threat led to great panic in the Bangladesh garment industries which immediately dismissed child workers. However, once the attention disappeared after some time, it was back to business for some companies, but more discreetly this time.

We may think such measures will stop the problem of child exploitation, but the truth is they may lead to other problems. Even though the garment factories may be exploiting children by paying them low salaries, they do nevertheless

provide them with a more or less safe working environment and proper jobs. Dismissing children from work does not necessarily mean that children will no longer work. In fact, they may end up in the hands of drug pushers or other criminals and lead a life of vice selling drugs or steal for a living.

Adapted from Englishdaily.com

Vocabulary: **trapped** : caught ; **tedious**: boring, monotonous.

I. **GUIDED COMMENTARY** (15 points)

1. Basing on the text, list three (3) issues deeply rooted in developing countries. (3 pts)
2. Why do corporations which hire young children hide them away from the main working areas? (2 pts)
3. What problems could children face if some measures are taken to stop the problem of child exploitation? (4 pts)
4. In your opinion, should developed countries help developing countries to fight global poverty? Why or why not? (6pts)

II. **TRANSLATION** (5 points)

Translate into English from “Children in third world countries” down to “more discreetly this time.”