

1/ « I've been living on the streets ever since I was sixteen years old, when I run away from my foster home. My parents died when I was very young so I went into foster care. It wasn't so bad but I wanted to make it on my own. I stayed on friends' couches at first, but eventually their parents grew tired of having me around. So, I caught a train to London, thinking that it would be easier to survive in the big city. How wrong could I be! I tried to find a job but no one would take me without a fixed address. I slept in a cheap B&B for a few nights, but then my money ran out and I spent my first night in a sleeping bag on a park bench. I'll never forget how alone I felt that night. I lay awake, terrified and shivering with cold.

2/ Living rough, you sort of go back and forth between temporary accommodation and the street. I spend the odd night in a hostel for homeless people, and there are loads of squats around the city centre too. These are usually in abandoned houses, empty office buildings, disused warehouses, places like that. Usually you share a cramped little room with around fifteen others. Some of these people are drug addicts or alcoholics, and usually the room's filthy and there's no running water or electricity. But at least it's a roof over your head, which can mean the difference between life or death when there are sub-zero temperatures outside. On the streets, the cold eats into your bones. I have my favourite doorways and I try to stick to busy, well-lit streets. Sometimes traffic fumes almost choke me, the noise is deafening and there's no privacy whatsoever. But that's a small price to pay for safety...

3/ So how do I survive? Well, it's barely enough to eat. I just about make ends meet by begging, selling The Big Issue* ... whatever I can really. I hate asking for money from people. Some take pity on me and toss me a few coins or buy me a sandwich or a hot drink. But most just rush past me and avoid looking me in the eyes. They just want to get back to their posh houses in the suburbs, you know. Basically, you lose your identity, your dignity, everything, on the streets. It's so boring not having a job, having nothing to do during the day, until one of the soup kitchens opens in the evening. It destroys your soul.

4/ I don't know what the future holds. Homelessness is a vicious circle that is very difficult to break out of. It's very hard to get work, because no one takes you seriously, and then you lose your confidence and your self-esteem and it becomes even harder. I'm on a council waiting list for a flat though. I want nothing more than to have a place of my own one day. A place that I can call home."

The Big Issue : a magazine sold by homeless people in the UK

Secondary School Bembla	English global test N°2	Level : 2 nd Sc 5&6
Time allocated : 2 hours		2011/2012

Name :

Class:

A/ Reading comprehension (15 marks)

1/ Tick (✓) the write alternatives (1mk)

- The speaker is ⇨ a child labour
 ⇨ an orphan
 ⇨ a handicapped

2/ Why did she leave the foster home? (1mk)

.....

3/ Complete the following sentences with words/expressions from the first paragraph (3mks)

The first night she spent in London was horrible, because she slept in

She felt and

4/ Pick out 2 details from paragraph 2 showing the terrible conditions that the homeless suffer from. (2mks)

☞

☞

5/ How did the speaker manage to survive? (Paragraph 3) (1mk)

.....

6/ What is her dream? (1mk)

.....

7/ Find in the text words/ expressions meaning nearly the same as: (2mks)

☞ a home in which children are raised by people other than their natural parents (§ 1) =

☞ very dirty (§ 2) =

☞ get enough money for one's need (§ 3) =

8/ What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2mks)

☞ others (§2) =

☞ some (§3) =

9/ How could we help the homeless people? Give a personal answer. (1mk)

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B/ Language (10marks)

1/ Put the bracketed words in the right tense and/ or form: (3mks)

Dear Penelope,

Janet and I have been best friends for ten years. She has been dating Brad for a year. They're engaged and they're going to get married in two months. Janet is (excite) ----- and happily planning her wedding. I like Brad, so I was happy at first, too. The problem is last weekend I saw Brad in the park with his old girlfriend. The (meet) ----- was not innocent. They were holding hands. He (not /see) ----- me, so he doesn't know that I saw him. Now I (not/ know) ----- what to do. My husband says to stay out of it. But how can I just (stand) ----- by and watch my (good) ----- friend gets married to a cheater? What do you think? Should I tell her?

Confused in California

2/ fill in the blanks with words from the list below. (There are 2 extra words) (3.5mks)
equal / when / study / from / fight / political /enough / allow / reason

American women have made terrific gains toward equality in many ways. However, there is one glaring exception—the military. The armed services allow women to join but will not allow them to fight. ----- one considers the evidence with an open mind, there is absolutely no intelligent ----- for women not to be in combat roles. There are -----, patriarchal, religious and misogynistic reasons but no logical reasons. One of the main reasons the military establishment gives for not allowing women to ----- concerns physical strength. Military officials claim that women are just not strong ----- to undergo the rigors of combat. That argument has now been disproven. The army's own research published a ----- that concludes that when a woman is correctly trained, she can be as tough as men. Today, over 200,000 women serve in the armed forces.

2/ Circle the correct alternative: (3.5mks)

Slavery was officially established in Virginia in 1654, when Anthony Johnson, a black man, convinced a court that his servant (also black) John Casor was his for life. Johnson (he/ him/himself) had been brought to Virginia some years earlier as an indentured servant (a person (who / how / what) must work to repay a debt, or on contract for so many years in exchange for food and shelter) (moreover /despite /but) he saved enough money to buy out the remainder of his contract and that of his wife. The court ruled in Johnson's favor, and the very first officially state-recognized slave existed (of/in/at) Virginia. Johnson eventually became very (wealth/ wealthy/wealthier) and began importing his own black slaves from Africa, for which he (granted /is granted/ was granted) 250 acres (at the time, any person importing a slave would be paid 50 acres per person). Eventually the unfortunate repercussions of this (decision/idea /opinion) would come back to haunt Johnson when his land was confiscated and given to a white man because Johnson "was a Negroe and by consequence an alien."

C/ writing (15marks)

1/ Guided writing (5marks)

