

	Devoir Synthese 2	• 4 ème année Techniques
	Lycée Monji Slim Sfax	• Mr. Ali Tahri
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	Nom & prénom :.....	Note :...../20

I. READING COMPREHENSION (12 marks)

THE TEXT

1. My father didn't put me in school. I started taking jobs wherever I could. I got a job with Bayer Pharmaceuticals in Connecticut as a forklift operator in the 1990s. I worked there for 18 years, until the factory was shut down in 2008. I was devastated because I thought I would be retiring from **there**. I was 59.

2. I went to the unemployment office where the guy there said, "As long as you're in school, the office will continue and pay for your education." I told him I didn't even have a high school diploma. He said, "Then **we**ll send you to get a one." I thought, "Oh boy, at my age I'm not even going to make it at school." But he said, "You don't live that far from Housatonic Community College (HCC)-- go sign up." And I was like, "College ... me?"

3. Though perplexed by the idea, I found myself motivated enough to go and enrol at the HCC. I was ashamed, but the young kids there didn't belittle me, and there were some people who were older. My kids, husband and sister in California encouraged me; they said, "You can do it Priscilla, keep going." I was taking three to four classes at a time.

4. When my mom got very ill; I went to Virginia and stayed in the hospital with her for three weeks. I dropped one course but my teachers let me email my stuff online. I had to go back and take my final exams, and I said, "Mom, don't go anywhere, I'll be back." But she passed away while I was gone. I was depressed, but I was still able to graduate with my class, and proud that I had succeeded.

www.huffingtonpost.com

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Tick (✓) the most suitable alternative (1 mark)

The main message of this text is that:

- a. ☐ You can't teach an old dog new tricks
- b. ☐ Old people can't learn anymore
- c. ☒ **It's never too late to learn** ✓

2. Find details in the text showing that the following statements are false (2 marks)

- a. The death of Priscilla's mother prevented her from graduation.
"I was still able to graduate with my class"
- b. Younger students made Priscilla feel embarrassed due to her old age.
"The young kids there didn't belittle me"

3. Complete the following table with the right information from the text (2 marks)

Cause		Effect
a.	The Bayer Pharmaceuticals was shut down.	Priscilla was unemployed (jobless)
b.	She didn't even have a high school diploma	Priscilla had to enrol at the HCC.

4. What was the hardest thing that faced Priscilla before achieving her goal (1 mark)

Old age/ studying with young kids / the death of her mother..

5. Find out the words in the text meaning approximately the same as the following (2 marks)

- a. Overwhelmed and distressed (p. 1) : **devastated**
- b. Look down on someone (p. 3) : **belittle**

6. Circle the feeling that is not related to Priscilla (1 mark)

Pride	Embarrassment	Confusion	Guilt	Depression
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7. What does Priscilla mean through her expression? Tick (✓) the right option (1 mark)

"Mom, don't go anywhere." (p.4) means:

- ☐ a. Mom, don't leave the hospital till I come back.
- ☐ b. Mom, stay awake and don't fall asleep.
- ☒ c. **Mom, promise me not to die while I'm away.** ✓

8. What do the underlined words refer to? (2 marks)

- a. "there" paragraph 1 refers to: **Bayer Pharmaceuticals in Connecticut / the factory**
- b. "we" paragraph 2 refers to: **the unemployment office**

II. LANGUAGE (6 marks)

1. Fill in the blanks with words from the box- There are TWO EXTRA words (3 marks)

variety / skills / taught / indeed / few / unlike / engineer / despite
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It's a typical classroom scene: Students working at their desks as the teacher calls out instructions. But, (1) **Unlike** your average teacher, this one is made of plastic and computer circuits. This isn't a sci-fi movie; it's an English language class (2) **taught** by Engkey, a robot teacher, in the coastal city of Masan in South Korea. Part of a pilot program launched by the South Korean government, students in two elementary schools in the city are being taught English by robot teachers. In high-tech South Korea, robots serve a (3) **variety** of educational purposes and the government is pressing ahead with plans to expand its robot learning, or "R-learning," program. Mun-Taek Choi, a senior research (4) **engineer** at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology, told CNN that government evaluation has shown that "the educational robot system (5) **indeed** helps increase students' interest and self-motivation in studying English and improves their English (6) **skills**."

2. Supply the right tense or form to the bracketed words: (3 marks)

Miraca Gross, the University Professor of Gifted Education, says that grouping kids by chronological age is the product of an impractical view of human development. She also says that very bright kids often start **(read) reading** before the entry to school. If you've got a kid in kindergarten or preschool who is a very fluent **(read) reader** - quite a bit beyond the level of age-peers - that's a very good indication of high intellectual **(able) abilities**. Also if the kid spontaneously teaches oneself basic maths, addition and subtraction, that's a good indicator. Kids who are very bright and very **(intellectual) intellectually** and academically mature for their age can be good candidates for acceleration. Some kids who are in years four to five at school are as **(gift) gifted** as a year six kid; so they wouldn't have any difficulty with that level of academic work. Unfortunately, schools **(organise) are organised** by age rather than subject areas.

III. WRITING (12 marks)

1. Add the necessary elements to get coherent sentences about ‘adult education’ (4 marks)

a. Adult education **is** the process which **(that)** lets adults gain new forms **of** know**ledge**.

b. Adults **are** engaged**d** in lifelong learn**ing** centres.

c. During **the** 1990s, many adults enrolled **in (at)** computer train**ing** courses.

d. **The (These, Those, Such)** courses provide adults **with (the)** basic computer skills.

2. **Essay (8 marks)**

“My son is a smart kid at a secondary school. Yet, he has no friends other than who's online with him. He hates going to school. Besides, he has suffered from bullying more than once. He's terribly asking me to let him enrol at one of those online schools. I still hesitate about it....”

After reading this article in a local English Magazine, you have decided to write a 12-line letter to the mother in which you express your opinion, highlighting the benefits of online learning.

DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME

Dear Madam

Truly Yours
Sam(anth) Cruise