

Morocco's street children live a difficult life, often filled with harmful drugs and crime. Efforts to reintegrate them into families and schools are somewhat successful but experts say the problem is large and its root lies in poverty and difficult social circumstances.

Othmane left his home and school at the age of fourteen to live on the street. He no longer wanted to see his mother fight the daily battle to get bread for his five little siblings and pay for his school expenses. "The street is not a better place to live in," Othmane says, "but at least she will not have to think about my daily living. In the meantime, I may be able to help her." Othmane carries bags of vegetables and other purchases for customers at a nearby market. In this way, he earns a few dirhams a day, enough to bring a little money back home

Othmane is one of the growing numbers of street children in Morocco. These are the homeless and marginalized youths without identity or family. The sidewalks, public gardens, and the buildings doorsteps are their beds.

In Casablanca, these children's main residences are alleys in the old city, the port, the train station, and the fruits and vegetables wholesale market. The port provides them with an opportunity to emigrate illegally. The wholesale market gives them the chance to work as porters. At the train station, they can earn little money from helping passengers or by begging from tourists.

According to the most recent statistics, 7,000 street children live in Casablanca Wilaya alone. 8,800 more live in other major cities such as Marrakech, Fez, and Meknes. The government and many non-governmental organizations have adopted a strategy of building centers to shelter some of these street children and reintegrate them into schools and families, but the challenge is enormous. The number of children usually exceeds the centers' capacities; there are not enough beds for all of them, and urgent is the need to act at once to save those children!

COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT

A. Answer these questions. (3pts)

- 1/ Why did Othmane become one of the street children?
- 2/ What does he do to earn money?
- 3/ What has been done to solve the problem of street children?

B. Pick out from the text expressions or phrases which show that:(2PTS)

1. Othmane doesn't like living in the street. (parag 2)
2. There is a need to build more centres for street children. (parag5)

C. Fill in the chart with the right information from the text. (3PTS)

<i>Place of residence for street children</i>	<i>The opportunities it offers</i>
1. The port
2. The wholesale market
3. The train station

D. Find in the text words or expressions which mean in the same as: (4PTS)

- 1- **Origin** (parag1):.....
2. **Clients** (parag2):.....
3. **without a place to live in** (parag 3):.....
- 4- **a plan** (parag 5):.....

E- What do the underlined words in the text refer to: (3pts)

1- Its.....

2- she.....

3- them.....

LANGUAGE

A/ Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense: (5pts)

Mr. Wilson works at National Bank. He rarely (go) home for lunch because his office (be) always busy. People (come) and (go) all the time, so he usually (have) a sandwich when he (find) a free moment. Today, Mr. Wilson (have) a very bad day at the office because he (do) everybody's job. Right now, he (answer) the telephone because the receptionist who usually (answer) it (be) at the dentist's.

B/Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets: (2,5pts)

- 1-.....(you/ find) the house of your dreams yesterday?
- 2- When I saw Peter, he(talk) to the estate agent about his flat.
- 3- I (write)..... a lot of letters to my sister while I was working abroad.
- 4- They (organize)..... a fantastic party at the radio station last week.
- 5- As he (travel)..... to London on the train, he got a call about a job interview.

VOCABULARY

A/ Write the words between brackets in the correct form: (3pts)

Many people in the (*medicine*) profession (*argument*) that such an official (*acknowledge*) of patients rights might (*eventual*) result in an increase in complaints. This will (*negative*) influence the relationship between doctors and their patients. Patients' relatives will accuse doctors and sue them for medical (*neglect*).

B/ Fill in the blanks with: arrange, find, make or write: (2pts)

- 1- Students.....a lot of mistakes while writing compositions.
- 2- We are.....a meeting for Monday at 2:0'clock.
- 3- I didn'tmy wallet. I lost it yesterday.
- 4- Don't forget to..... a phone call to your mum, she is worried.

C/ Choose the appropriate word from the list to fill in the blanks in these sentences :(2,5)

<i>Sale / poverty / achieve / popular / independent / creative /clever /image /designer</i>

- 1-What do you have to do tofame?
- 2-Most big cities have areas where people live in absolute.....
- 3-Do you know if that new house on the corner is for.....?
- 4-He'sHe always brings new ideas.
- 5-She was too ; she didn't become an actress like her mother.

WRITING (10points)

You have been staying at a friend's house for two weeks and are now back home. Write an e-mail to your friend thanking him/her for your visit and saying how much you liked his/her house.