

**Collège Notre-Dame  
de Jamhour**

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Nom.....  
Classe.....  
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total

English Exam  
Grade 8 - 60 minutes  
June 2012

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## **Desert Flower**

*The Extraordinary Life of a Desert Nomad*

Waris Dirie was born in Somalia. Her name means 'desert flower'. Her mother was quite well-off but her father was from a poor family. After they married, her parents were on the move all the time with their goats and camels. Life was hard but Waris had a happy childhood. (1) .....

When she was **12**, her father arranged for her to marry an old man in exchange for **5** camels. (2) ..... It was such a horrible idea that she decided to run away to the capital, Mogadishu. There, she moved from one relative to another. Finally, a kind aunt got her a job as a maid in the Somalian Embassy in London. When the ambassador returned to Somalia, she lost her job. Suddenly, she was in real trouble. Waris was on her own and out of work in a foreign country. She lived by herself, had no money and her English was so bad that it was difficult for her to find work. Eventually, she got a job as a cleaner at McDonalds.

One day, everything changed. By chance, a fashion photographer came in for a burger and saw Waris cleaning the floor. She looked like a perfect model, so he straight away offered her work. (3) ..... She became a top fashion model, advertising Revlon beauty products, and her face was on the covers of **2,000,000** issues of magazines around the world; she would take around **3,540 pictures / day**. She was even in a James Bond film, *The Living Daylights*, in **1987**.

Waris had such a warm and attractive face, her hair had not been dyed, no piercing... that her modeling career was a huge success. (4) ..... She wrote her autobiography, *Desert Flower*, about her travels, her jobs, her exciting and exceptional life. "It's very sad," she says. "I had to make the choice to leave my country." What was it like in Africa? "Africa was different," she says. "I was young. I had nothing to worry about. I had my family, I had my animals, I had my simple life."

(5) ..... She works for the United Nations and campaigns for women's rights all over the world. There is never a dull moment. "I'm trying to sit down for a moment and there's no time for that," she laughs. "In Somalia, we don't care what time it is!"

**1- Read the text.** (6 minutes)

**2- Complete the gaps (1-5) in the text with the sentences (a-f). There is one extra sentence you don't need.** (4 minutes) 5 points

- a- The man was **60**.
- b- Waris now lives in New York.
- c- She used to race camels with her brothers and sisters.
- d- Within months, she had started a new career.
- e- She was an illegal immigrant at first.
- f- However, in **1998** she decided to give up her life as a model.

**3- Answer the questions in complete but brief sentences and in your own words.** (8 minutes) 5 points

**a-** Was Waris born in Africa?

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**b-** What was her childhood like?

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**c-** Why did she leave her country?

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**d-** What changed her life?

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**e-** What rights does she campaign for?

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**4- Write True or False and justify from the text.** (10 minutes) 12 points

**a-** Her parents come from unfortunate families. ....

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**b-** Waris married the man she loves and who offered her father 5 camels. ....

- .....
- .....
- c- Friends helped her earn a living in Mogadishu. ....
- .....
- .....
- d- After Waris lost her job at the embassy, she was left with no income. ....
- .....
- .....
- e- *The Living daylights* made Waris famous. ....
- .....
- .....
- f- Waris says that she prefers Africa to her life now because of its simplicity. ....
- .....
- .....

5- Explain the 8 underlined words or expressions according to their meaning in the text. (7 minutes) 7 points

- a- **Nomad:** .....
- b- **On the move:** .....
- c- **Foreign:** .....
- d- **Straight away:** .....
- e- **Dyed:** .....
- f- **Campaigns:** .....
- g- **Dull:** .....

6- Write the numbers of the text in letters and according to their place in the text. (5 minutes) 7 points

- a- **12:** .....
- b- **5:** .....
- c- **2,000,000:** .....
- d- **3,540:** .....
- e- **1987:** .....
- f- **60:** .....

g- 1998: .....

### REWRITING

**Direct/Reported: When the sentence is in the direct speech, rewrite it in the reported and when it is in the reported, rewrite it in the direct speech. (7 minutes) 12 points**

a- "Can you do this for me?" John asked his sister.

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b- "I'm going to sleep," Jim said to his mum. (use the verb 'to tell')

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c- Sandra said that she would open the window.

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d- He confirmed that he was working with a dietician.

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e- She asked, "What do you like?"

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f- Thierry Henry once said, "I eat football, I sleep football, I breathe football. I'm not mad, I'm just passionate."

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### PASSIVE

**Is the usage of the passive or the active correct? If yes, justify. If not, correct the mistake and justify your correction. (10 minutes) 12 points**

1- My bike is stolen by the thief last week.

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2- The director was hit by one of the students.

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3- Chinese people grow rice in China.

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4- Someone came and asked about you.

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**5- Someone took my car.**

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**6- My book has been lost by me.**