

2007 Brevet de fin d'études moyennes (BFEM)

Épreuve d'anglais LV1

The story of St Valentine

Do you know why we celebrate St Valentine's Day ? Nowadays it is the opportunity to tell people how much you care about them, to give and receive presents. But according to one legend, St Valentine's Day is meant for people to remember a brave martyr whose name was Valentine.

Roman emperor Claudius II was fighting many wars. He wanted a strong army, but many men did not want to be soldiers. Claudius thought the men wanted to stay with their wives and children instead of leaving to fight wars.

Claudius thought of an awful solution to his problem. He decided to cancel all marriages !

No one in all of Rome could get married. Claudius thought that if men couldn't get married, they would ignore women and want to be soldiers.

Valentine, who was a priest, believed that people needed to get married. He thought that if people were not married, they would be tempted to sin by living together without being married. So he secretly and illegally married couples anyway ! He performed the weddings in secret places, so Roman soldiers would not find out.

But they did find out. Valentine was arrested and brought before the emperor. The emperor thought Valentine was a well spoken and wise man, and he encouraged him to stop being a Christian and become a loyal Roman. Valentine would not deny his beliefs, and he refused.

He was sent to prison until he could be executed. While in prison, he sent out letters to his friends and asked them to pray for him by writing {Remember your Valentine.}

Valentine was killed on the 14th or 24th of February in year 269 or 270. We celebrate St Valentine's Day on February 14th in honour of St Valentine.

Slightly adapted from www.abcteach.com

I. Text comprehension (8 points)



A. 1. Give a suitable title to the text. 1 pt

B. Say if the following statements are true or false. Justify your answer by quoting the text. 3 pts

2. Yevgueny's father was one of the labourers of the expedition.

3. The boy wasn't ashamed of not knowing how to swim.

4. According to the author, the best way to learn is to attend lessons with a teacher assisting.

C. Match the words in column A to their synonyms in column B : 2,5 pts

A	B
5. disgraced	a. threw
6. stream	b. die
7. flung	c. pull
8. perish	d. discovered
9. drag	e. river
	f. dishonoured
	g. foam

D. Choose a, b, or c to complete the following sentences :

10. Yevgueny joined the expedition

- a) in order to work and earn some money
- b) because he wanted to learn things of life
- c) because he couldn't live without his father

11. The boy worked as a labourer in the expedition

- a) because his father hadn't recognised him
- b) because the other labourers didn't like him
- c) in order not to be favoured by the others

12. Young Yevgueny rescued the geologist

- a) by pulling him out of the water with a rope



b)by relieving him of his sack

c)by calling out for help



II. Linguistic competence (6 points)

E. E. Fill in the blanks by using the words from the box :

though	as	despite
While	since	during

13. the man entered the village, a dog barked menacingly.
14. Their supporters shouted at our players..... all the match.
15. He managed to rescue us his age.
16. knew nothing about mechanics, he could drive as expertly as Daddy.

F. Rewrite the sentences without changing their meaning.

17. His knapsack was dragging him down
He was

18. « That isn't going to make a man of you ».

He told me that.....

G. Rewrite the following sentence using "if" 1 pt

19. He wasn't killed because he was rescued in time.
20. You must work harder. Otherwise you'll fail your exams.

H. Complete these sentences using : rather, like or better. 1 pt

21. I'm sure it's going to rain. We'd..... stay at home.
22. She doesn't like Dakar very much. She'd..... spend her holidays in Ziguinchor.

I. Choose the correct form of the verb in brackets :

23. He won't tell you anything. It's no use (ask — asked — asking) him.
24. When I was in the first form, Mathematics ...(is — were — are — was) my best subject



III. Writing : choose one topic and write at least 10 lines. 6 pts

Topic n°1 : You have witnessed a very bad accident in your town, village....
(Description) Describe it saying how it happened, how you behaved, what you or someone else did.

Topic n°2 : A snake has bitten one of your friends. You're discussing with the others on the (Dialogue) best, quickest and safest way to rescue him.

Topic n° 3 ; Write a letter to a friend telling him about the way you think a child should be (Essay) educated.

