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Epreuve du 1<sup>er</sup> groupe

ANGLAIS

Arabic is the language of religion for millions of African Muslims, especially the Wolof ethnic group in countries like Senegal, the Gambia and some parts of Mauritania. They use it to recite the Quran and to perform the rituals of Islam such as prayers, the pilgrimage and others. Arabic is also used in other domains of their everyday life. But how did the Arabic language come in these West African countries and how has it impacted the Wolofs?

The contact between Arabic and the Wolofs dated back to the tenth century. It first arrived with the spread of Islam and became an instrument of education because it was the language of the noble Quran. The second contact between Arabic and the Wolofs was with Arab traders who came to Senegal for economic reasons. Thirdly, the migration factor contributed to increasing the role of the Arabic language among Wolofs. Before Islam, some Arab tribes emigrated from Egypt and the Arab peninsula to the far west of Africa for economic and political reasons.

As a result of this contact, Arabic has impacted Wolof language in different domains. The first one is phonetics and phonology. In fact, the two languages share some sounds like /a/, /b/, /dz/, /i:/ and // . The second one is vocabulary. In fact, Wolof language borrowed many words from Arabic in different fields such as the religious field. Among these words, we can have /alhamdulla/, /amiin/, /farata/, /saraq/, /deram/ ect... The impact is also visible in conjugation and gender.

Adapted from Muna Aljhaj Saleh Salama Al Ajrami Language center at the University of Jordan, published in theory and practice in language studies, vol 6, No 4 pp. 675- 680, April 2016.

I. COMPREHENSION (8 marks)

A. 1. Choose the right title for the text ( a, b or c) (1 mark)

- a. The Impact of Wolof on Arabic.
b. The Impact of Arabic on Wolof.
c. The impact of Arabic and Wolof on each other.

B. Find in the indicated paragraphs words that can be the synonyms or equivalents of the ones in brackets. (2 marks)

Arabic is used by many black African Muslims to 2. \_\_\_\_\_ (= practice ,par. 1) Islamic acts of devotion. In fact, the Arabic language came to West Africa with the 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (= propagation par. 2) of Islam. It was also introduced by Arab 4. \_\_\_\_\_ (= merchants, par. 2) and immigrants. As a result, Wolof and Arabic 5. \_\_\_\_\_ (= have in common par 3.) many words.

C. Fill in the table with information from the text (2 marks)

Table with 2 columns: Two reasons why Wolof tribes use Arabic, Two domains where Arabic has impacted Wolof language. Rows 6-7 and 8-9.

D. Statement 10 is false, Statement 11 is true. Give specific justifications from the text. (2 marks)

10. African Muslims use Arabic for religious reasons only. False

Justification: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Many Wolof words come from Arabic language. **True**

**Justification:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E. What do the following words refer to in the text?**

**(1 mark)**

12. **these west African countries** (par. 1) = \_\_\_\_\_

13. **It** (par 2) = \_\_\_\_\_

**II. COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (6 marks)**

**F. Below is an extract of a conversation between Abdulah and Mourtalla. Complete it meaningfully. (3 marks)**

**Abdulah:** Hello Sir, people say that you know a lot about the history of Arabic language in Senegal.

**Mourtalla:** That is true. 14. \_\_\_\_\_ you need information on the subject?

**Abdulah:** Yes I do. Well, when 15. \_\_\_\_\_?

**Mourtalla:** In the tenth century.

**Abdulah:** Ah really? That's a long time 16. \_\_\_\_\_ !

**Mourtalla:** It is indeed.

**Abdulah:** So, 17. \_\_\_\_\_ brought it in Senegal?

**Mourtalla:** Arab merchants and immigrants.

**Abdulah:** Arabic is a 18. \_\_\_\_\_ (*more difficult- most difficult- the most difficult*) language.

**Mourtalla:** You are right. Arabic is 19. \_\_\_\_\_ (*not-well- too*) easy at all.

**Mourtalla:** Thanks a lot.

**Abdulah:** You are welcome.

**G. Choose the right option to complete the following passage. (2 marks)**

Today, many students learn Arabic 20. \_\_\_\_\_ (to – of – at) school. Most of them do not know that Arabic arrived in Senegal many centuries 21. \_\_\_\_\_ (since – for – ago). The long contact of Arabic with local languages is the reason why many Arab words are 22. \_\_\_\_\_ (find- found- finding) in those languages. So, consciously or unconsciously people 23. \_\_\_\_\_ Arabic words (use – using- used) in local languages every day.

**H. Choose from the box the notions corresponding to the statements in the table. (1 mark)**

Advice – preference – similarity – condition- likes

STATEMENTS	NOTIONS
24. Abdu <b>enjoys</b> learning Arabic.	
25. " I'd <b>rather</b> continue my studies in Egypt than in Morocco " says Abdu.	

**III. WRITING: Choose one topic and write about 150 words on it. (6 marks)**

**Topic 1:** Aisha and her father are having a conversation about the importance of Arabic. Aisha doesn't want to study Arabic at the university after her Baccalaureate. She thinks that English is more interesting but her father does not agree. Write out their conversation.

**Topic 2:** Every year on December 18<sup>th</sup>, World Arabic Language Day celebrates the Arabic language. On this occasion, write an e-mail to your friend to tell him or her about the importance of learning Arabic in countries like Senegal.