Lycée départemental de Donsin School year: 2014-2015

Teacher: Mr. RAMDE Level: Tle A

Date: 21/10/2014

Text: Domestic violence

No single factor explains why men and women assault and abuse their partners. The factor most closely related to spouse abuse are youth or both the offender and victim (between 18 and 30 years old), low income, growing up in a violent family, alcohol or abuse, unemployment, sexual difficulties, and low satisfaction. While no single personality factor causes domestic violence, offenders committing the most serious abuse, tend to have antisocial personality disorders. People with such disorders have an impaired ability to feel guilt, remorse, or anxiety.

Some analysts believe that patriarchy accounts for the historical pattern of violence directed against women in intimate relationships. The violence is often institutionalized, or formalized in societal structures for instance in traditional laws and customs that permit husbands to physically punish their wives. Also, analysts say, patriarchy contributes to lower economic status for women, which may make women dependent on men. This dependence may increase a women’s ability to leave such relationship.

Domestic violence often involves repeated episodes of violence. In the past people sometimes blamed victims for failing to leave abuse relationship. However, studies find that many factors – economic, interpersonal, cultural and social – prevent victims from leaving such violent relationships. Victims who seek help from community services often find that agencies are overwhelmed and limited in their resources. People who are dependent on their partners emotionally and economically learn to endure abuse and remain in unhealthy relationships, a process that has been labeled “learned hopefulness.” Learned hopefulness refers to an abuse victim’s belief that the abusive partner will change his or her personality some day.

Most experts agree that economic and cultural factors play an especially powerful role in contributing to and perpetuating repeated abuse of women. Because women, as a group, tend to have less power in the society, they are more likely to be victims and are less able to end abuse once it begins. Traditional beliefs, customs, and laws restrict the roles women may play and limit their economic opportunities, contributing to their dependence on men. Some scholars assert that the process of socialization teaches boys and girls a belief system that devalues women – especially unmarried women- and creates a sense of female responsibility for the maintenance of the family. Women who believe that the end of a relationship or of a marriage represents a failure are less likely to leave abusive relationships.

***English test n°1***

**Text: Domestic Violence**

I. Guided Commentary

1. Give three categories of factors of domestic violence. For each category, quote one example. (3pts)
2. What is the most common psychological weakness of people committing domestic violence.(2pts)
3. Why is it, sometimes, difficult for victims to leave unhealthy relationships.(4pts)
4. Do you share the opinion according to which “for a victim to leave an unhealthy relationship is a personal failure”?(5pts)

II.Translation (6pts)

Translate the second paragraph into French ( from “some analysts ...” down to”... such relationship”).