LYCEE DEPARTEMENTAL DE DONSIN SCHOOL YEAR: 2014-2015

TEACHER: M. RAMDE LEVEL: 1ÈRE A

DATE: 02/12/2014 DURATION: 3H

**English test n°2**

**Text**: Okonkwo’s Exile

The only course open to Okonkwo was to flee from the clan. It was a crime against the earth goddess to kill a clansman, and a man who committed it must flee from the land. The crime was of two kinds; male and female. Okonkwo had committed the female, because it had been inadvertent. He could return to clan after seven years.

That night he collected his valuable belongings into head-loads. His wives wept bitterfly and their children wept with them without knowing why. Obierka and half dozen other friends came to console him. They each made nine or ten trips carrying okonkwo’s yam to store in obierka’s barn. And before the cock crowed, okonkwo and his family were fleeing to his motherland. It was a little village called Mbanta, just beyond the borders of Mbaino.

As soon as the day broke, a large crowd of men from Ezeudu’s quarter stormed Okonkwo’s compound, dressed in garbs of war. They set fire to his houses, demolished his red walls, killed his animals and destroyed his barn. It was the justice of the earth goddess; and they were only her messengers. They had no hatred in their hearts against Okonkwo. His greatest friend; Obierka was among them. They were merely cleaning the land which Okonkwo had polluted with the blood of a clansman.

Obierka was a man who thought about things.When the will of the goddess had been done, he sat down is his obi and mourned his friend’s calamity! Why should a man suffer grievously for an offence he had committed inadvertently? But although he thought for a long time he found no answer .He was merely led thrown away? What crime had they committed? The earth had decreted that they were on offence on the land and must be destroyed. And if the clan did not exact punishment for an offence against the great goddess, her wrath was loosed on all the land and not just on the offender. As the elders said, if one finger brought oil it soiled the others.

Chinua ACHEBE; Things Fall Apart

**Vocabulary:**

**Inadvertent**: by accident, unintentionally

**To storm**: to suddenly attack

**Wrath**: extreme anger

**To loose**: to release

**I. Guided Commeritary (14 pts)**

1. Why should okonkwo leave the clan? **(2 pts)**
2. What happened when okonkwo left the clan?**(3pts)**
3. What did obierka think of tradition?**(4 pts)**
4. Isn’t the tradition some times too severe to punish a person who commits a crime inadvertently? Justify your answer.**(5 pts)**

**II.Translation (6 pts)**

Translate the first paragraph into French (from “The only course”…. down to…. after seven years”)