Lycée Départemental de Donsin School Year: 2014-2015

Teacher: Mr. RAMDE Level: 2nde A

Date: 22-01-15 Duration: 2h

**English Test n°3**

**Text: Women’s Rights**

Women’s rights around the world are an important indicator to understand global well-being.

A major global women’s rights treaty was ratified by the majority of the world’s nations a few decades ago. Yet, despite many successes in empowering women, numerous issues still exist in all areas of life, ranging from the cultural, political to the economic. For example, women often work more than men, yet are paid less; gender discrimination affects girls and women throughout their lifetime; and women and girls are often the ones that suffer the most poverty.

Many may think that women’s rights are only an issue in countries where religion is law, such as many Muslims countries. Or even worse, some may think this is no longer an issue at all. But reading this report about the United Nation’s Women’s Treaty and how an increasing number of countries are lodging reservations will show otherwise.

Gender equality furthers the cause of child survival and development for all of society, so the importance of women’s rights and gender should not be underestimated.

These are two “two key periods in many women’s lives when the pernicious effects of both poverty and inequality can combine”. Shockingly, “It is estimated that each year more than half a million women- roughly one woman every minute- die as a result of pregnancy complications and childbirth,” 99% of which occur in developing countries. Yet “many of these women’s lives could be saved if they had access to basic health care services”. In addition, elderly women may face double discrimination on the basis of both gender and age. Many older women are plunged into poverty at a time of life when they are very vulnerable. However, “Children’s rights are advanced when programmes that seek to benefit children and families also include elderly women.”

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**I. GUIDED COMMENTARY**

1) Why is it said that the importance of gender equality should not be underestimated? (2pts)

2) Who is affected by gender discrimination in the text? Give one example of gender discrimination in the text. (4pts)

3) What are the key periods when women’s lives are affected by poverty and inequality, according to the text? (4pts)

4) How can we save pregnant women’s lives? Answer, according to the text and from your own experience. (5pts)

**II. VOCABULARY**

Give the meaning (in French) of the following words or group of words, according to the text. (5pts)

1. Women’s rights 2. Well-being 3. Empowering women

4. Throughout their lifetime 5. Basic health care services