



MOCK EXAM

المدة: ساعة ونصف

الاختبار التجريبي لمادة: اللغة الإنجليزية

Text: Qal'at Beni Hammad: "The First Zellige Artwork in Africa"

Qal'at Beni Hammad (Arabic, قلعة بني حماد): also known as Qal'a Beni Hammad or Qal'at of the Beni Hammad, stands as a silent witness to centuries of history, culture, and artistic innovation. In the 11th century, it served as the first capital of the Hammadid dynasty.

Situated in the Hodna Mountains northeast of M'Sila, Algeria, UNESCO recognized its significance and inaugurated it as a World Heritage Site in 1980 under the name Al Qal'a of Beni Hammad. Within its 7-kilometer long walls.

It is also characterized by four complexes echo the lives of its inhabitants, a monumental structure, similar to the Grand Mosque of Kairouan, charms the city. Its 20-meter minaret pierces the sky, excavations revealed terracotta, jewels, coins, and ceramics, a demonstration to the high civilization developed by the Hammadids, lion's motifs decorate these fountains, adding artistic touch.

The first slippery or "Zellige" artwork in Africa is found there, within these ancient walls, artisans perfected the technique, creating ceramics with a smooth, glossy surface. This innovation marked a pivotal moment in Algerian artistry.

Qal'at Beni Hammad, a silent echo of creativity, resilience, and the interaction of civilizations.

Adapted from: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/102> and https://www.facebook.com/DrDoumir?locale=ar_AR
Part One: (14pts.)

A/ Reading Comprehension: (7pts.)

Read the text carefully and do the following activities.

Activity One: Read and complete the table with information from the text. (3pts.)

Name of the landmark	Date of inauguration	Location	Walls Length	Minaret Height	Characteristics

Activity Two: Answer the following questions. (2pts.)

- Is Qal'at Beni Hammad the second capital of Hammadid dynasty?
- Where is the first Zellige artwork found?

Activity Three: Lexis. (2pts.)

a/ Find in the text words that are closest in meaning to the following. (01pts.)

- 1- located = ...
- 2- old = ...

b/ Find in the text words that are opposite in meaning to the following. (01pts.)

- 1- undeveloped ≠
- 2- on ≠



B/ Mastery of Language: (7pts.)

Activity One: Supply punctuation and capital letters where necessary. (2pts.)

The Great mosque is the largest mosque in algeria africa.

Activity Two: Complete the following passage using the superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.(3pts.)

Al-Quds is known for its touristic landmarks. Al-Masdjid Al-Aqsa is (eminent) one

It is (old).....Qibla for Muslims. Also, Qubat Assakhra gives photographers (good) artistic shots.

Activity Three: Write the following words in the right box according to their final "ed" sound. (2pts.)

ended - served – developed – located

/ t /	/ d /	/ id /

C/ Situation of Integration: (6pts.)

Context: Your history club at middle school is arranging a touristic visit to El-Mechouer Palace in Telemcen.

Your teacher organized a competition of the best note taker about this landmark.

Task: write a short article about El-Mechouer Palace.

Support:

Name of the landmark	Era of Construction	Location	The Founder of The Palace	Structures	Capital of Islamic Culture Event Date
El-Mechouer Palace	13th century (Zianide dynasty)	Telemcen	Yaghmurassen Ibn Zyan	- Residences - Pavilions - Gardens - Mosque - Hammam	2011

Era: فترة

Zianide dynasty: الدولة الزيانية



DO NOT SIGN YOUR NAME

Prepared by: Mr. Abdelmalek AISSAT



THE SUGGESTED CORRECTION OF MOCK EXAM

Text: Qal'at Beni Hammad: "The First Zelige Artwork in Africa"

Qal'at Bani Hammad (Arabic, قلعة بني حماد): also known as Qal'a Bani Hammad or Qal'at of the Beni Hammad, stands as a silent witness to centuries of history, culture, and artistic innovation. In the 11th century, it served as the first capital of the Hammadid dynasty.

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It is also characterized by four complexes echo the lives of its inhabitants, a monumental structure, similar to the Grand Mosque of Kairouan, charms the city. Its 20-meter minaret pierces the sky, excavations revealed terracotta, jewels, coins, and ceramics, a demonstration to the high civilization developed by the Hammadids, lion's motifs decorate these fountains, adding artistic touch.

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Part One: (14pts.)

A/ Reading Comprehension: (7pts.)

Read the text carefully and do the following activities.

Activity One: Read and complete the table with information from the text. (3pts.)

Name of the landmark	Date of inauguration	Location	Walls Length	Minaret Height	Characteristics
Qal'at Beni Hammad	1980	M'Sila , Algeria	7 kilometers	20 meters	All 3rd paragraph words

Activity Two: Answer the following questions. (2pts.)

- Is Qal'at Beni Hammad the second capital of Hammadid dynasty? **No, it is not.**
- Where is the first Zelige artwork found? **The first Zelige artwork is found in M'Sila / Algeria.**

Activity Three: Lexis. (2pts.)

a/Find in the text words that are closest in meaning to the following. (01pts.)

- 1- located = **situated**
- 2- old = **ancient**

b/ Find in the text words that are opposite in meaning to the following. (01pts.)

- 1- undeveloped ≠ **developed**
- 2- on ≠ **under**

B/ Mastery of Language: (7pts.)

Activity One: Supply punctuation and capital letters where necessary. (2pts.)

The Great **M**osque is the largest mosque in **A**lgeria , **A**frica.

Activity Two: Complete the following passage using the superlative form of the adjectives in brackets.(3pts.)

Al-Quds is known for its touristic landmarks. Al-Masdjid Al-Aqsa is (eminent) **the most eminent** one
It is (old) **oldest** Qibla for Muslims. Also, Qubat Assakhra gives photographers (good) **the best** artistic shots.

Activity Three: Write the following words in the right box according to their final "ed" sound. (2pts.)

ended - served – developed – located

/ t /	/ d /	/ id /
developed	served	ended located

C/ Situation of Integration: (6pts.)

El Mechouar Palace: A Glimpse into History

Centrally situated within Tlemcen, El Mechouar once served as the official residence of the Zayyanid rulers. Originally part of the greater Mechouar Citadel, this palace stands as the sole major element preserved from that era. In 2011, it played a prominent role during the selection of Tlemcen as the Capital of Islamic Culture.

Yaghmurasen Ibn Zyan, the founder of the Zayyanid dynasty, initiated the construction of El Mechouar. The reasons for abandoning the old palace near Tlemcen's Great Mosque remain mysterious. It might have been due to concerns about exposing the harem to prying eyes or the desire to assert royal dignity with a new residence. The site of El Mechouar was previously occupied by a kasbah established by the Almoravid leader Yusuf ibn Tashfin and later used by the Almohads.

The palatial complex comprised multiple structures, including residences, pavilions, gardens, a mosque, and a hammam (bathhouse). The main residences took the form of courtyard buildings, each centered around a fountain or water basin. During the Zayyanid period, four primary palaces existed: Dar al-Malik (the royal residence), Dar Abu Fahr (associated with joy and delight), Dar al-Surur (the house of happiness), and Dar al-Raha (the abode of comfort.)

Ingeniously, the Zayyanids adapted their palaces for different seasons: the summer residence featured mudbrick construction, keeping the interiors cool, while the winter residence was built of stone, providing warmth during colder months.

El Mechouar Palace stands as a silent witness to the grandeur, creativity, and resilience of a bygone era—a place where history, culture, and architectural finesse converged.

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Prepared by: Mr. Abdelmalek AISSAT

