### MATE NEWSLETTER

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#### **MATE Newsletter Supplement**

Reading Comprehension Tests For Level 1 of English

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#### **Rationale:**

Starting from this issue. MATE newsletter will include a supplement that contains ready to use teaching and learning materials. The idea of the supplement stems from a real need that is expressed by teachers, formally or informally, for teaching and learning materials that respond to different Moroccan ELT settings and contexts. The supplement is also another opportunity for teachers to exchange experiences that have proved to be effective and successful. Furthermore. it is an enrichment to the newsletter and another way to bring it nearer to MATE members.

#### **Description:**

The activities that will be included in every supplement should be

- ready-to-use materials that have proved to be successful after implementation
- varied in content, methodology and technique
- up-to-date, relevant and innovative
- responding to Moroccan teachers and students
- clear in their objectives, stages, and instructions

- complete and self-contained.

### Reading Comprehension tests for level 1 of English:

The reason for choosing the topic of the current supplement is two-fold. First, reading is a bit problematic in level 1 of English. Second, it is even more problematic for testing purposes.

#### **Content:**

The supplement contains varied passages that can respond to the Moroccan ELT context. The passages are of different types. They include: a dialogue, an interview, a postcard, emails, an advertisement, a biography, articles, statistics, etc.

#### **Themes:**

The themes of the texts are:

- introducing oneself – daily activities – school subjects – house description – clothes – appearances – holidays – the weather – biography – celebrations – city versus country life – traveling – entertainment – education.

(continued on page 16)

#### At the bank

Mr. Peter Williamson is at the bank. Here is his interview with Mr. Robson, the bank manager.



Bank Manager (BM): Good morning Mr. Williamson. Client (C): Good morning. **BM:** Please sit down. C: Thank you. BM: Now, one or two questions. C: Yes, of course. BM: How old are you, Mr. Williamson? C: Thirty-eight. **BM:** And you are Australian, aren't you? C: Yes, that's right. **BM:** Are you married? C: Yes, I am. **BM:** What's your wife's name? C: Clara. BM: And your wife's age, Mr Williamson?

#### A. Are the following statements TRUE

or FALSE? (3 points)
1. Mr Williamson has got two boys and a girl. (.....)
2. Clara is a teacher. (.....)
3. Mr Williamson is Australian. (.....)

#### B. Answer the following questions from

# the text: (3 points)1. Where is Mr Williamson now?2. Is Mrs Williamson at the bank?

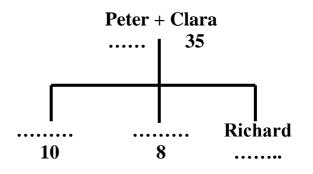
C: Pardon? **BM:** How old is Mrs. Williamson? **C:** Oh, she's thirty-five. BM: Thirty-five. I see. And is she Australian. too? **C:** No. she is British? **BM:** And what's her job? **C:** She is a nurse. **BM:** A nurse, yes. Have you got any children? **C:** Yes, three. Two boys and a girl. **BM:** Two girls and a boy. C: No, two boys and a girl. BM: Oh, yes. I'm sorry. And what are their names? C: Nick, Sandra and Richard. **BM:** And their ages? C: Ten, eight and four. BM: I see. Now one more question, Mr. Williamson. What's your job? **C:** I'm a university teacher. **BM:** A university teacher. Right. Thank

you. You want £80,000 to  $\dots$ 

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# 3. What does Mr Williamson do?

### C. Complete the following family tree from the text. (4 points)



#### Lupita's Day

Hello. My name is Lupita Gonzalez. I work in а large company in We make Monterrey, Mexico. bottles and cans for soft drinks. I am a secretary. I answer the telephone and take messages. I also use a fax machine and a computer. My first language is Spanish but sometimes I speak English. Many of our clients are from the United States. My supervisor is Mr. Torres. He is an engineer. I start work at 8:00. I usually drive to work. I have lunch from 1:00 to

#### A. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? (4 points)

Lupita works in a small company.
 (.....)

**2.** Lupita is an engineer. (.....)

**3.** Mr Torres is Lupita's supervisor. (.....)

4. Lupita doesn't watch television.(.....)

### **B.** Answer the following questions from the text: (4 points)

**1.** How does Lupita go to work?



2:00. I finish work at 5:30. I go home and help my mother prepare dinner. We have dinner at 9:00. After dinner I usually watch television a while. I usually go to bed at 11:00.

2. Who lives with Lupita? **3.** What time does she leave her office? **4.** What does Mr Torres do? C. Complete the sentences from the text? (2 points) 1. Before she goes to bed, Lupita ..... **2.** Lupita speaks Spanish, but she ..... 

#### Dear mom and dad,

Well I want to tell you about my first week of classes at the University. I get up at 6:00 every morning. That is really early for me. I don't like to get up early you know. I usually eat breakfast in the school cafeteria. The food here is pretty good. I have German class every morning at 7:30. After German class I have Business and Economics on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10:00. I have a lot of homework in that class but I really like it. I also have English Composition on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Tuesdays and Thursdays I have United States History.

The campus here is really big. After some problems during the first days, I now know where all the buildings and classrooms are. My dormitory is close so I walk to all my classes. My roommate's name is Eric. He is from Los Angeles. We are good friends now. He is quiet and doesn't make a lot of noise. Sometimes Eric and I have dinner together. We don't see each other much because our school programmes are really different.

During the evening I study. Sometimes I study in the library and sometimes in the dormitory. I usually go to bed around eleven.

Mom, I sure miss your cooking. Could you send me some of your homemade chocolate cookies? Well, I have to go. Take care.

Love, Jerry



## A. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? (2 points) 1. Jerry lives with his parents. (.....)

2. Eric is American. (.....)

### **B.** Complete the sentences from the text? (2 points)

1. Jerry wants his mother to .....

### C. Answer the following questions from the text: (3 points)

- 1. Where does Jerry have breakfast?
- ••••••

**2.** Do Jerry and his roommate see each other much?

**3.** Is Jerry's room far from the classrooms? Explain

### **D. Complete the table:** (3 points, ½ pt each)

Subjects	German	Business	English	US
		&	Composition	History
Days		Economics		
Monday	$\checkmark$			
Tuesday			$\checkmark$	
Wednesday	$\checkmark$			
Thursday				
Friday				

#### Pedro's house

Pedro is from Portugal. He lives with his parents in Lisbon in an old house by the sea. The house is not big but he likes it very much.

There are three bedrooms upstairs; one for his parents, one for his sister and one for him. The bathroom and the living room are downstairs. In the living room there is a lovely fireplace. Next to the living room is the kitchen. The kitchen is not modern but they have a new washing machine.

In the evening, all the family sit in the living room to watch TV and have dinner. At the back of the

<ul> <li>A. Are the following statements TRUE</li> <li>or FALSE? Justify. (3 points)</li> <li>1. Pedro's house is old and small.</li> </ul>		2. What the even
<b>2.</b> Pedro usually goes to the beach in his free time.		3. What time?
3. Pedro likes his bedroom because it's big		C. Com text. (2
<b>B.</b> Answer the following questions from the text: (3 points)		<ol> <li>Pedro</li> <li>There</li> <li>living ro</li> </ol>
1. What nationality is Pedro?	•	D. Find these w
	-	<ol> <li>terrib</li> <li>likes</li> </ol>
MATE Newsletter	5	W

house there is a small but very beautiful garden with different plants and flowers. His father likes to spend his free time there.



Pedro likes to spend most of his time at home in his bedroom. It's also his study room where he has a desk and a stereo. He loves his room because he can see the sea from the window. It's a fantastic view.

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John and Barbara are at home in their new apartment. They are watching the shops from their apartment's window. A clothes shop is close to their apartment. They can see the clothes and the prices.

**Barbara:** John, John! Look. There's a great clothes shop just down there.

John: Oh, yes.

**Barbara:** And there is a beautiful dress in the window. It's so perfect for me. It's pink and just right for summer. It's on sale. Really John, I need it.

**John:** But Barbara, your wardrobe is full of clothes.

**Barbara:** How can you say that? I haven't got a thing to wear.

**John:** Seriously, Barbara. Come here. Now look at all these clothes.

Barbara: Well, what about *them*?

John: Now look, what's

wrong with this dress? **Barbara:** I can't wear it. **John:** Why not?

Barbara: It's too small. John:Then give it away. Barbara: No, I can't. John: Why not?



**Barbara:** It's one of my favourite dresses. **John:** All right, all right. What about this

dress, and this, and this, and this?

A. Circle the correct completion. (4 points)

**1.** There is a *coat/ dress/ skirt* in the window of the clothes shop.

2. At the end of the story, John is *watching TV*/*going out*/*coming home*.

3. John's pay is about \$80/ \$74/ \$45 a day.

**4.** John is **happy/ sorry/ nervous** at the end of the story.

**B.** Answer the following questions from the text: (4 points)

**Barbara:** Well, that one's too small, and that one's too short, and that one's very old. Really, John, I'm telling you –I don't have a thing to wear, and the dress in the clothes shop is just perfect.

John: How much is <u>*it*</u>?

Barbara: Not very much, really.

John: How much? Come on, tell me.

Barbara: Only \$89. It's on sale.

John: No. No, absolutely not. That's almost 2 days' pay. No. We can't afford it. Barbara: John. Sit down. I have something to tell you.

John: What? What's that? What's that package? No. It isn't from the clothes shop. Tell me it isn't from the clothes shop. No, I can't believe it. Barbara. What's in the package? It's the same dress in the shop's window. All right. Just take it back in the morning.

Barbara: I can't.

John: Why not?

Barbara: You can't return things on sale.

John: All right. All right.

**Barbara:** John? John? Where are you going?

John: Out.

Barbara: Where?

John: Out!

**Barbara:** When are you coming home? **John:** I don't know!

**1.** What colour is the dress in the clothes shop?

2. What's wrong with Barbara's clothes?

**3.** Why doesn't John want her to buy the dress?

4. What does Barbara have in the package?

### C. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 points)

**1.** them: ..... **2.** it: .....

		Reply	<b>Reply All</b>	Forward	Delete	Send	hasna_safi@dotmail.com
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#### Hi Andrew,

Nice to hear from you. Replying to your email, here is some information about my family and me. I am from Tangier, north of Morocco. I have a sister and a brother: Leila 14 and Jamal 11. I am 16 years old. My father is a fireman and my mother is a nurse. We live in a small but nice house by the sea.

I am taller than my mother and I weigh 54 kilos. That's less than my sister who weighs 58. I have long black hair, brown eyes and a short nose. I can swim and I usually ride my bicycle to school. I am quite fit and strong. In fact, I am stronger than a lot of girls. My sister can't swim but she can play tennis better than me. My brother is crazy about football and basketball and he has pictures of football players all over his bedroom walls.

I prefer quiet places and slow music. I am a little shy, but I am doing my best to be open and have more friends. My brother is quite different. He is the noisiest and most active. He likes loud music like techno and rap. He is cheerful and amusing. We all love him for that.

My best subjects at school are languages, history and geography but I am not good at maths and science. I'd like to be a lawyer in the future. My sister is totally the opposite. She is good at scientific subjects and she wishes to be an engineer or a doctor.

My brother, my sister and I are a little different from each other, but we are happy together. I think we are a happy family. What about you? Tell me more about you and your family.

Cheers, Hasna

A. Is the text: 1. a letter; 2. a postcard;3. an email; or 4. an article? (1 point)

### **B.** Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify. (3 points)

- **1.** Jamal is the youngest.
- 2. Hasna's mother does not work.
- **3.** Leila is good at maths.

### **C.** Answer the following questions from the text: (4 points)

Who is heavier: Hasna or Leila? Explain.
 How does Hasna go to school?

- **3.** Why do the family members like Jamal?
- **4.** What does Hasna want Andrew to do?

### **D.** Complete the following table. Tick $(\sqrt{})$ where appropriate. (2 pts, ½ pt each)

	Jamal	Hasna	Leila
can swim			
can't swim			
plays tennis better			
good at languages			
the noisiest			

#### Dear Julia,

I'm writing this postcard from Morocco. I'm having a nice holiday with John. The weather is fantastic. This is our second week <u>here</u>. After Fez and Rabat, here we are in Marrakech.

John and I are happy to be in the Red City as people call it here. All the buildings are in red and it's always sunny and warm. We don't stay much in the hotel.

This is our third day in Marrakech. Today John and I are going to visit Jamaa Lafna Square for the second time. It's a very fascinating place, full of activity and people. There are acrobats, singers, dancers, snake charmers, storytellers... We are also going to have lunch in the Souk (the market in the local language). We are going to eat a Tagine and Couscous; two special Moroccan dishes. I am going to buy the ingredients for Couscous and cook some for you. I've got the recipe. I'm sure you're going to like it.

We're going to spend two more days in Marrakech then go down south to Agadir; a seaside city famous for its warm weather and long beaches. We are going to come back to Liverpool next weekend. I'm going to phone you when I get <u>there</u>.

Are you having a nice time with Peter? John and I miss you a lot!

Take care, Ann

### A. The following statements are FALSE. Correct them. (3 points)

The text is an email from Ann to Julia.
 Today is the first time John and Ann visit Jamaa Lafna Square.

**3.** The weather is terrible in Marrakech.

### **B.** Answer the following questions from the text: (3 points)

What are they going to do in the Souk?
 How many more days are they going to stay in Marrakech?

**3.** When are they going to visit Agadir?

### **C. Complete the sentences from the text?** (2 points)

### **D.** What do the following words in the text refer to? (2 points)

- **1.** here (paragraph 1)
- **2.** there (paragraph 5)

#### Come to Agadir for an unforgettable holiday!

Stay in one of the fine hotels in Agadir. Don't worry about the language. A lot of people <u>here</u> speak English. You can sunbathe on the beautiful beaches of Taghazout (20 kms far from Agadir), lie on



the golden sand or swim in the warm blue water of the Atlantic Ocean.

The weather is usually very nice all year long. Yes, it's sometimes windy and cold in March and April, but there are sports you can practice then. Agadir is also a good place for surfers. But don't spend all your time on the beach and in sports. This is Agadir and Agadir is also a good place for shopping. There are hundreds of souvenir shops. You can also visit "SOUK LHAD" (a traditional market in the center of the city). All you need is <u>there</u> and it's a cheap place.





For more information and hotel reservations, this is our email address: AgadirSurf@yahoo.com

A. Is the text above: (1 point)

- **1.** a newspaper article?
- 2. an advertisement?
- **3.** a letter?

**B.** Are the following statements **TRUE or FALSE?** Justify. (2 points)

**1.** The weather in Agadir is nice all year long.

2. Nobody speaks English in Agadir.

C. Find in the text words which are the opposite of the following: (2 points)

terrible (paragraph 2)
 expensive (paragraph 3)

**D.** What do the following words in the text refer to: (2 points)

**1.** here (paragraph 1) **2.** there (parag. 3)

### **E.** Answer the following questions from the text: (3 points)

1. How far is Taghazout from Agadir?

2. List four activities you can do in Agadir.

**3.** How can you get more information about Agadir?

#### <u>Edward Said (1935 – 2003)</u>



Edward Said is one of the very famous Palestinian writers. He was born in 1935 in Jerusalem, Palestine. In the 1947 partition of Palestine, he

and his family became refugees and moved to Cairo where they lived with relatives.

His father was strict about discipline in both work and study. His hobbies as a young man were reading novels and listening to classical music. He learned to speak several languages and to play the piano.

He graduated form Princeton University (USA) where he received his Masters Degree and then attended Harvard University (USA) where he received his Ph.D. He then took a position in Columbia University (USA) as an Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature.

### A. Put the following events in a chronological order: (2 points, ½ pt each)

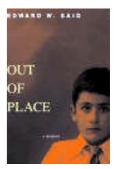
a	He died in 2003.	5
b	He graduated from Harvard	
	University.	
c	He became a member of the Palestine National Council.	
	Palestine National Council.	
d	He joined Princeton University.	
e	He left Palestine.	

### **B.** The following statements are FALSE. Correct them. (3 points)

**1.** Edward and his family lived in their own house in Cairo.

When the Arab-Israeli war broke out in 1967, he began to review his career in Comparative Literature. He began thinking of his own identity as a Palestinian. At this time his life changed and he began to get involved with his cultural origins. He became intensely interested in literary scholarship and Palestinian rights. He was once a member of the Palestine National Council and a leader in the Palestinian cause.

Edward Said wrote many important books. like Beginnings (1975), The Ouestion of Palestine (1979), Orientalism (1980), Literature and Society (1980),Musical Elaborations (1991), Out of



Place (1999), Reflections on Exile (2000), etc. He died on Thursday, September 25, 2003.

2. E. Said taught English in the USA.3. He never belonged to any Palestinian institution.

### C. Answer the following questions from the text: (3 points)

How did Edward's father educate him?
 What was he interested in when he was young?

**3.** When did he start to think of his Palestinian identity?

### **D.** Find words in the text meaning the same as: (2 points)

**1.** job (paragraph 3) **2.** strongly (parag.4)

#### Halloween Fun



Halloween is one of the most famous holidays in the U.S., and it is on October 31. People carve pumpkins and make funny faces on them. These

are called "Jack-O-Lanterns." On October 31, children wear a special costume such as a witch, ghost, or clown. They go to many houses and they knock on the door saying, "Trick or Treat!" It means that if people don't give them a treat, they will play some kind of trick on the household. So, usually people give candy to <u>them</u>.

I carved my first Halloween pumpkin at my Friendship Family's house. First, I cut open the top of the pumpkin



and pulled the seeds out. It was not good for me because it was sticky and smelled awful. I had never carved a pumpkin, so it was interesting for me. Next, I carved the eyes and the mouth. I



wanted to make a face like a pirate. When I finished making the face, I put a candle inside. It was very beautiful, so I was happy.

I had a good experience because I learned one new idea about American culture by taking part in it. I think Halloween is an interesting American holiday which involves all family members and neighbours too!

#### A. Circle the numbers of two activities that people DON'T do during Halloween: (2 points)

 making funny faces -2- eating pumpkins
 -3- wearing special clothes -4- playing tricks on people -5- lighting candles
 -6- writing letters to each other.

### **B.** Complete the following sentences from the text: (2 points)

C. Answer the following questions from the text: (4 points)
1. Is the writer American? Explain.
2. When exting the language

**2.** Who participates in Halloween celebrations?

**3.** Why do people give candy to children on Halloween?

**4.** What does <u>*them*</u> (paragraph 1) refer to?

**D.** Find words in the text meaning the same as: (2 points)

took out (paragraph 2)
 bad (paragraph 2)

 Reply
 Reply All
 Forward
 Delete
 Send
 james\_wade@dotmail.com

Dear Editor,

I read your article about the difference between life in the city and that in the countryside; and I am writing to tell you and the readers why I disagree with <u>you</u>.

I was born in London and grew up there. I know this city very well. I also know some countryside in England very well thanks to my job. These days I am working in the countryside, south of England. My company sent me <u>here</u> a few months ago. That's why I believe I have an interesting opinion to give you about this topic.

Many people believe that life in the countryside is much better than in the city. Well, they are wrong. Living in the countryside is really difficult. Last week, for example, I wanted to go out at night but I couldn't. There's nowhere to go to enjoy oneself. Another thing is that one of my colleagues fell sick and it was difficult to find an ambulance at night. It took us more than three hours to get to the nearest hospital.

You also said that people in the city are not as nice as those in the countryside. This is another wrong idea. People are the same everywhere. They are nice to you if you are nice to <u>them</u>.

Another misconception is about pollution. The countryside is not wholly clean. The air we breathe is not as fresh as you said. Did you know that many factories exist in many villages? The authorities believe that it's a solution to the problem of joblessness.

I hope you will publish this email in your next issue. Concerning the topic to discuss next time, I suggest the following: "How can we make life in the city much better?"

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Sincerely yours, James Wade.

#### A. The purpose of the writer is: (1 point)

- **1.** to agree with the editor.
- **2.** to disagree with the editor.

**3.** to discuss a new problem.

### **B.** Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify. (3 points)

 The writer is in the countryside on holiday.
 The writer and his colleague could not find an ambulance easily.

**3.** According to the writer, there is no pollution in the countryside.

### C. Answer the following questions from the text: (3 points)

**1.** Why does the writer know the countryside very well?

**2.** Find out two reasons why life in the countryside is difficult.

**3.** What does the editor think about people in the countryside?

D. What do the following words refer to in the text? (3 points)

- 1. you (paragraph 1) 2. here (parag. 2)
- **3.** them (paragraph 4)

1. .....? All around the world, people are travelling more. They are also spending more money on travel. In 1990 people spent \$3.2 trillion dollars on travel. In 1995 they spent \$3.4 trillion. In 2000 they spent about \$4.2 trillion.

2. .....? France is the most popular: 62.4 million people went to France in 1996. The United States is the second most popular country to visit: 46.3 million people went there in 1996. Spain was third, with 41.3 million visitors. Italy and Britain came next, and China was sixth.

**3.** .....? Europeans and some Asians travel to other countries the most. But Americans spend the most money in other countries. In 1996, Americans spent \$52.6 billion in

#### A. Copy the appropriate question for the appropriate paragraph. Paragraph 5 is done for you. (4 points)

**a.** What are the most popular destinations for travellers?

**b.** How much did people spend on travelling?

- c. Where do big spenders go?
- **d.** Why do people travel so much? (5)
- **e.** Who are the big spenders?

### **B.** What do the following words refer to in the text? (2 points)

- 1. <u>them</u> (paragraph 4)
- 2. <u>their</u> (paragraph 5)

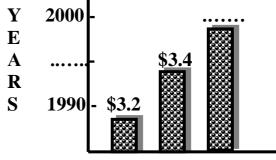
other countries. Germans were next: they spent \$49.8 billion in other countries. Japanese were third: they spent \$37 billion.

4. .....? In 1996, Americans went mostly to Mexico (20%) and Canada (13%), but they also went to Europe and the Caribbean. Germans went mostly to other countries in Europe, but about 2% of <u>them</u> came to the United States. Japanese travellers went all over the world: the United States, Europe, and Asia.

**5. d.** *Why do people travel so much?* Some people want to learn about other cultures. Some people travel for business. In the United States, many people are immigrants. They travel to their home countries to visit <u>their</u> families.

**C.** Complete the following diagram from the text (2 points)

. . . . . . . . . . .



Money spent on travelling in trillion dollars

### **D.** Answer the following questions from the text: (2 points)

**1.** Which country receives the greatest number of travellers?

2. Why do many Americans travel?

It's a warm summer's day in the school holidays but the Smiths' children are not out playing, they are in a darkened room, glued to the TV set, zapping aliens on their Nintendos or surfing the Internet.

As their friends ride their bikes, go swimming, play football and walk the dog, the only games the Smiths' children play are <u>those</u> on the computer, and their only pet is the mouse.



For thousands of children the computer and the TV now dominate their lives, turning <u>them</u> into electronic junkies

with virtual childhoods where real relationships are replaced by artificial ones. Many children, too, begin their TV viewing early and finish late. Programmes designed to entertain young viewers begin in the early morning.



So parents may still be in bed when their children are already up and channel hopping.

According to an American study for the U.S. National Institute of Education, ten hours TV watching a week is a healthy level and any more than that results in under performance at school and an unhealthy lifestyle.



### A. Choose the best title for the text: (1 point)

**1.** The TV and the computer can be dangerous.

**2.** The Smiths' children ways of entertainment.

**3.** The benefits of the computer and the TV.

### **B.** Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify. (2 points)

**1.** The Smiths' children spend most of their free time out.

**2.** Children spend more and more time in front of the TV.

### C. Answer the following questions from the text: (3 points)

 Where do the Smiths' children spend their free time?
 How much time should students normally spend in front of the TV?
 What are the disadvantages of watching TV a lot?

D. What do the following words refer to in the text? (2 points)
1. <u>those</u> (paragraph 2)
2. <u>them</u> (paragraph 3)

E. Find words in the text meaning the same as: (2 points)1. not real (paragraph 3)2. watching (paragraph 4)

#### More homework or not more homework!

Today, kids find that the amount of homework they get keeps them from playing sports, taking music lessons or just having fun after school. A recent study by the University of Michigan reports that over the past 16 years, the amount of time the average 3 to 11-yearold kid spends on homework has increased by 50 percent. More and more parents are protesting against so much homework.

"The question is whether schools are holding our children captives with homework," said Ken Kiewra, professor of educational psychology. He realized one day last year that his sixth-grade son had given up music lessons, the football team and his favourite hobby because he was loaded down with homework. "I'm home reading the paper and relaxing and <u>this kid</u> who left in the morning before I did is doing two to three hours of work," remembered Kiewra.



In response, Kiewra wrote an article for the Lincoln newspaper. Although parents responded favourably to his article, the school refused to change their homework policies. Kiewra explained that, from the point of view. school's "Research confirms that doing homework is better than not doing homework." He added that pressure for students to perform well on standardized tests has led schools to pile on at-home assignments. All work and no play can make boring kids. "Kids need to play outside and exercise or take art or music classes if they want to," said Ken Kiewra. "At the very least, they need fresh air".



#### A. The purpose of the writer is: (1 point)

**1.** to show the advantage of doing more homework.

**2.** to explain why kids need to do more homework .

**3.** to show why kids shouldn't do more homework.

### **B.** Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify. (3 points)

**1.** Kids nowadays have less and less free time.

**2.** Ken Kiewra did not react to the kids' problem.

**3.** The parents of other kids don't agree with Kiewra's opinion.

### C. Answer the following questions from the text: (3 points)

**1.** Is Kiewra for or against giving more homework to kids? Explain.

**2.** What does "this kid" in paragraph 2 refer to?

**3.** Why did the school refuse to give less homework to children?

### **D.** Find words or phrases in the text meaning the same as: (3 points)

- **1.** quantity (paragraph 1)
- **2.** quit (paragraph 2)
- **3.** positively (paragraph 3)



#### MATE Newsletter Supplement (continued from page 1)

#### Sources of the texts:

The texts are: - adaptations from different sources, Internet material - texts written specifically for the supplement.

#### Methodology:

The following methodological points were considered:

- tackling specific reading skills, such as skimming, scanning, inferring, referencing, etc.
- gradation in difficulty and type of techniques
- variety in content and testing techniques.

#### **Techniques:**

The exercises are varied and include the following testing rubrics: - false/true statements – comprehension questions – chart, graph, diagram completion – sentence completion – gap-filling – vocabulary-related exercises – multiple choice exercises – reference questions – skimming/scanning questions – events ordering.

#### Layout:

- it's a uniform layout
- it's economical; i.e. the teacher can photocopy two tests in one page
- it's attractive; some pictures reflecting the content are included.

Teachers are requested to send contributions for coming issues of the supplement. Suggested areas: *Teaching / learning activities or tests related to* 

- English for specific purposes (ESP)	- Video materials
- Information and communication technology (ICT)	- Study skills
- English for children	- The 4 skills
- English for academic purposes (EAP)	- Grammar
- English through literature	- Vocabulary
- Giving presentations & public speaking	- Light activities
	- Etc.

You don't need to send a whole supplement. Single activities are welcome. Please send the activities to the following email: matemorocco@yahoo.com