



Written paper

Wednesday, April 29th, 2015

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

*This paper aims at assessing your ability to read an informative text and to write both to inform and creatively.*

*The allotted time for this paper is 90 minutes.*

*You are advised to spend 45 minutes on reading the text + answering questions 1, 2 and 3.*

*You are advised to spend 45 minutes answering EITHER question 4-1 OR 4-2.*

*No document allowed.*

## Masai Runners go the distance

When Isaya O’Leporu and five other Masai tribesmen completed the London Marathon, arriving at the finishing line was only one of their achievements. They were, in fact, the first members of their village to leave the region. They became very popular with the British public when they made a successful appearance on television, showing their enthusiasm and determination to succeed. Most importantly, however, they raised over £100,000 while they were there to pay for the cost of bringing clean water to their isolated village.

The need for clean water was very obvious. Many Masai people were getting seriously ill. A number of children in the village were missing school in order to make the exhausting ten-kilometre walk to the nearest water source, where they often faced dangerous animals. The men were forced to drive the village’s precious cows far onto neighbouring land in search of watering holes, at the risk of angering rival tribes.

It is hard for most Masai to imagine travelling to a place that cannot be reached on foot. When the plan to run the marathon was first suggested, many villagers tried to stop them leaving because they were convinced that they would not return. For Isaya and his fellow tribesmen, however, the trip provided many new experiences. It was the first time they had seen snow, which was very cold and painful to touch. They noticed the crowds in London who, they said, walked very fast and looked very serious.

After successful completion of the marathon, Isaya and his fellow runners were welcomed home as heroes, with their remarkable stories. They also brought with them enough money to cover the cost of searching and drilling for water.

But it soon became clear that the essential water would not appear overnight. It took some time for the authorities in Tanzania to collect the tax on money that they had earned from the run. There was the long process of searching, with experts continually failing to find evidence of water beneath the earth. The villagers were frustrated by the length of time taken by the surveyors to locate the sources of water.

Isaya found himself trapped between the villagers, who were impatient for water to start overflowing, and the surveyors, who faced the challenge of finding water in one of the driest regions on Earth. As Isaya said, ‘I had to explain to my people that sometimes you can drill many times and not find water. They were concerned that so much money was being spent and no water was being found.’

Finally, a surveyor confirmed that water had indeed been found some distance of the village. The entire village worked for days to clear a route so that the trucks of the drilling companies were able to reach the site. One day later, water trickled slowly to the surface, to the great excitement and delight of all the village people.

For Isaya and his companions, the success of this project –almost exactly one year after they had completed the marathon – was a huge reward for their efforts.

Exercise 1

*You are going to give a presentation to your school's Geography Club about the Masai tribesmen and the marathon run. Make brief notes to use as the basis for your talk.*

*Make two notes under each heading.*

Achievements during the visit to London:

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Negative effects of lack of water on the villagers:

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Reasons for delay in finding water for the village:

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Exercise 2

*Imagine that you have made your presentation to your school's Geography Club. Now your teacher wants you to follow this up with a summary for homework.*

*Look at your notes in Exercise 1. Using the ideas in your notes, write a summary about the efforts of the Masai tribesmen to bring clean water to their village.*

*Your summary should be no more than 70 words. You should use your own words as far as possible.*

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Exercise 3

Suggest a translation in French for the following words.

Tribesmen (l.1): \_\_\_\_\_

Achievements (l.2): \_\_\_\_\_

Raised (l.6): \_\_\_\_\_

Watering holes (l.11): \_\_\_\_\_

Completion (l.17): \_\_\_\_\_

Overnight (l.20): \_\_\_\_\_

Surveyors (l.23): \_\_\_\_\_

Route (l.29): \_\_\_\_\_

Drilling company (l.29): \_\_\_\_\_

Trickled (l.30): \_\_\_\_\_

Exercise 4

Answer EITHER question 1 OR question 2 in 300 words minimum.

- ✓ Question 1 : Imagine an interview between Isaya O’Leporu and a journalist from BBC News, one year after the London Marathon.
- ✓ Question 2 : choose one charity among the following ones and convince the jury they should give you money for your cause.



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