

Devoir de synthèse n°2.	
Classe : 4^{ème} année Lettres	Matière : Anglais
Date : Le 6 Mars 2010	Durée : 2 heures (de 08 H à 10 H)
Nom & Prénom:	Classe : N°:

The text

It's Never Too Late to Get an Education.

By re-entering college after a 20-year interruption, I not only completed what was unfinished, I developed a rewarding career in a field that didn't even exist when I attended college in the 1960's.

Although I worked on campus, it was frightening to return to the classroom after 20 years. How would I fit in with students who were right out of high school? My math background was limited. In high school I'd taken only pre-algebra and geometry and that had been 25 years ago. My fears proved unfounded and my nervousness soon dissipated. I took some remedial math classes **to catch up**. Participating in study groups and being a student was fun and I was surrounded by supportive friends and family, some of whom tutored me in math along the way.

As an older student, people sometimes questioned me. For instance, in deciding on my field of study, I wanted a subject I was passionate about. I chose art with an emphasis on art history. "Why are you going to college **at this stage of the game?**" was a frequent question I encountered. "What does it have to do with your ability to earn a living?" At the time, it appeared to have nothing to do with work. I always felt my education was incomplete and I wanted to finish it. And I did. I graduated *Magna Cum Laude*; my family proudly watched me receive my degree.

It all came together though the first time I set eyes on a website. Websites seemed to talk to me: Information organization, writing, problem-solving, and art all combined into one. For years, I took advantage of any opportunities within my job at Fresno State to learn website design. Eventually I realized I had to decide whether to stay at my Fresno State job, which I loved, or choose self-employment as a Freelance Web Designer/Developer so I could focus on design. Swallowing hard, I struck out on my own.

My life's trajectory has surpassed my wildest dreams! Continuing to work, learn, and study brings me immeasurable joy and satisfaction in a field I love that didn't even exist until the mid 1990's. My degree in art, combined with my work experience, gives me opportunities I couldn't have predicted twenty years ago. And, how wonderful to be able to return to my previous employer, Fresno State, and assist them as a web developer.

A) Reading comprehension: (15 marks)

1. Tick the right option. (2 marks)

a. The text is mainly:

narrative

descriptive

argumentative

b. the text is mainly about

lifelong learning

online learning

website design learning

2. Correct the following false statements with details from the text. (4 marks)

a. After being away from school for a long time, it was easy for Robin to adapt. (paragraph 2)

.....

b. Robin never worried about finishing her studies. (paragraph 3)

.....

c. Robin found it easy to leave her job with Fresno State. (paragraph 4)

.....

d. Now, Robin regrets having decided to go back to the company where she used to work. (paragraph 5)

.....

3. What do the underlined expressions mean in the text? Tick the right option. (2 marks)

a) "I took some remedial math classes to catch up." (paragraph 2)

to make it to the top unlike the other students.

to evaluate myself compared to other students.

to reach the same standard as the other students.

b) "Why are you going to college at this stage of the game?" (paragraph 3)

at this advanced stage

at this particular age

at this step of the play

4. Circle the two adjectives that best describe Robin. (2 marks)

hopeless - ambitious - indifferent – enthusiastic

5. Complete this summary with words from paragraphs 3 and 4. (4 marks)

Re-entering college after being away for a long period was not an easy decision for Robin to make. She chose a.....of study whichstrange to her college friends. However, she worked hard and eventually Robin's family was proud of her achievement. Now, she can go back to Fresno State and enjoy her new work as a.....

6- Give a personal justified answer to the following question: (1mark)

What do you think of Robin's achievement? Why?

.....
.....



C) Language: (10 marks)

1- Fill in the blanks with words from the box. There are 2 extra words. (3.5 marks)

virtual – flexible – more – for – really – which – take – positions - due

The two female winners of this year's Nobel Prize in medicine immediately used their new fame to urge change in career structures to help more women reach top positions. Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn and Dr. Carol Greider gave a press conference, focusing on the obstacles to advancement for women with children..... to a lack of flexibility by scientific institutions. Blackburn said by adopting a more.....approach allowing part-time research and career breaks, institutions would be able to..... advantage of the talent of women in science. She stated that "The career structure is very much a structure that has workedmen, and many women are very daunted by it. Not by the science in which they are doing.....well." Greider added that she would like to see.....women get onto committees and into decision-makingand said, "I think that something active needs to be done"

2- Supply the right tense and/or form of the bracketed words (3.5 marks)

Ken kutaragi is the father of the play station. As a child he always had the desire to take apart toys to see how they worked. This (**curious**)carried from childhood led him as a teenager to learn the intricacies of electronics. Eventually, his love of electronics made him (**to enrol**)in Denki Tsushin University, where he (**to acquire**)an Electronics degree. Immediately after graduation, Kutaragi began working for Sony in the digital research labs. He (**quick**) gained a reputation as an excellent problem (**to solve**)..... and a forward thinking engineer, earning that reputation by working on many (**succeed**) projects including digital cameras. He didn't realize the potential that existed within video games only after he (**to watch**)his daughter playing a Famicon.

3- Circle the correct alternative: (3 marks)

Whenever a wave of teenage violence strikes, movies, TV, or video games often take the heat. Some adults assume that video games have a (**worst - bad- better**) influence on kids, and they blame these media for causing various problems. A variety of studies (**show - appear – discover**) to support the link between media violence and bad behaviour among kids. But media don't necessarily cause violence, says James Gee (**which – how - who**) is a professor at Wisconsin University. Video games are (**funny – innocent - interesting**) of most of the charges against them, Gee says. The games might do (**much - a lot - few**) of good. A growing number of researchers agree with Gee. (**If – Unless - Although**) used in the right way; video and computer games have the potential to inspire learning. And they can help players improve coordination and visual ski.