

Name: _____ class: _____ Nbr: _____

I- Reading comprehension: (15 mks)

Fears grow for the Gambia as food insecurity increases



Rural communities in the Gambia have been particularly hard hit by late, erratic and unevenly distributed rainfall. Photograph: Nicholas Reader/IRIN

In 2011, the rains failed in the Central River region of the **Gambia**, where Mawdou Danso, a farmer, struggled to raise a crop big enough to tide him over to the next harvest. **He** invested in an early-maturing, high-yielding rice called Nerica (New Rice for **Africa**), which had recently become available and promised to fit in well with the erratic rainfall patterns.

He ended up harvesting very little. "I had only two months of feed for my 48-member family from all the lands I put under cultivation, compared with last year when I had 15 [50kg] bags of Nerica and [was] able to have six months of food stock," said Danso. "I can only manage to feed my family for the rest of the year by working for other people for survival ... I do not have any money to invest in the next planting season."

The rainfall has been too capricious even for Nerica. There is mounting concern that the Gambia, Africa's smallest country, could face yet another shortfall in the 2012-13 agricultural season. The failure of key crops such as rice, millet, maize and groundnuts has crippled its efforts to become food secure.

The planting season has begun, yet there is a huge seed deficit. "It is essential that farmers receive quality **drought**-tolerant seeds, as well as fertiliser and other production support by the end of May 2012 to start their next production campaign," said Sonia Nguyen, a spokesperson for the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in the **Sahel**.

Patrick Ezeala, spokesman for Oxfam America in the Gambia, said there had been huge declines in the main food crops: rice (-79%), groundnut (-67%) and early millet (-53%). "Coupled with this production drop, food prices have gone higher than normal, surpassing the high food prices experienced during the 2008 global food crisis," he said. "The drop in production combined with rising prices suggests that seed insecurity will increasingly become a challenge for farmers."

A 50kg bag of rice costs at least \$5 more than it did in 2011. Even though the Gambia has made tremendous progress in poverty eradication since 2003, at least 48% of **its** population live on little more than \$1 a day. Almost 60% of its people have been affected by food shortages – 1 million of the 1.7 million population are in need – according to the agriculture ministry.

Adapted from:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/may/22/fears-grow-gambia-food-insecurity>

Questions:

1/ Tick (✓) the correct choice: (2 mks).

The above article is taken from:

An encyclopedia.

A novel.

An online newspaper.

2/ Fill in the table below with information from the text: (4 mks).

<i>The threatened country</i>	<i>The continent of the country</i>	<i>The farmer's name</i>	<i>The invested rice</i>
.....

3/ Read the text carefully and answer the following questions: (6 mks):

A/ How many members does Danso have in his family?

.....

B/ What are the four key crops for the Gambian people?

.....

C/ What are the **two** main causes leading to fears of seed insecurity, according to Patrick Ezeala?

a/..... b/.....

4/ Mention the organisations to which these two people are affiliated? (2mks)

The person	The organisation
Sonia Nguyen
Patrick Ezeala

5/What do the underlined words refer to in the text: (1 mk).

He (paragraph 1 line 2) refers to:

its (paragraph 6 line 2) refers to:

//- language: (10 mks)

Task n° 1/ choose the right option of the bracketed words: (4mks).

Millions of people could be suffering from asthma and bronchitis because of acid air caused by (**pollute - polluting - pollution**). Acid air is responsible for occurring acid rain. The problem (**coming – comes – come**) from car exhausts, power station emissions releasing sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and other pollutants. People (**who – which – whose**) breathe the polluted air are subject to bronchitis and asthma risk than anyone else.

Task n° 2 /put the words under the appropriate headings. There are *two* irrelevant words: (1, 5 mks).

trash - pills - headache - dustbin - student - vitamin - oxygen - supermarket

THE ENVIRONMENT	HEALTH
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Task n° 3/put the verbs in () in the right tense [simple past /past progressive/ simple present / present progressive] (4, 5 mks)

Last week, Mr and Mrs stokes (¹sit).....in the garden when I (²arrive).....to interview them and their fourteen-year-old son, Carl. “Carl is always sitting upstairs. He doesn’t leave his room”. At the moment, Carl (³work).....on a programme for a new computer games. Computers have become his whole life. Last year, he (⁴earn).....over £ 25,000 from writing programmes.

“When did he buy the computer?” I asked. “We (⁵buy).....it for him eighteen months ago for his birthday”, said Mr stokes. “We didn’t know what we were doing. Our son has changed. Now, he (⁶not-talk)about anything else.”

Carl’s parents do not understand computers, but Carl certainly (⁷do).....” I love computers”, he said. “I soon got tired of playing games, though. I (⁸like).....writing programmes much better. I (⁹ not-earn)..... much money from selling my computer game programmes at first, but now I do.

III- writing: (15mks)

Task n°1

The words written in bold type are misspelt. Correct them: (5 mks).






In many **(1) countrys** valuable agricultural land is lost **(2) because** of erosion. Erosion is caused **(3) buy** the wearing away of the soil, usually because of wind and rain. In ancient times there was **(4) mutch** less erosion, because most of the soil was **(5) protectid** by plants and trees.

(1).....	(2).....	(3).....	(4).....	(5).....
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Task n°2

You want to keep your school clean and green. You decided to write a 10 – line article in the school magazine to sensitize students to keep the school clean and green and to suggest solutions to this issue: (10 mks).

These notes could help you:

-  *garbage /plastic bags.*
-  *It's very essential /planting and watering the garden.*
-  *Turn off the tap /we see it running or dripping.*
-  *At break time, we help the school caretaker clean the courtyard.*
-  *We put rubbish in dustbins / not throwing it on the ground.*

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