



Direction des Examens et de l'Évaluation
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Séries : Scientifiques, Techniques, LMA, LMB

Epreuve d'anglais

Text: Why do Mauritanian brides marry in black?

In the West and most Arab countries, women traditionally celebrate their marriage in white, a symbol of purity. Black, meanwhile, is reserved for funerals. Not so in Mauritania. There, donning a black robe on your wedding day is a custom rooted in Bedouin tradition, and applies only to women: grooms get married in white. "Mauritanian women used to have incredibly pale skin and teeth," said Amina, a Mauritanian teacher. She added, "The black dress that we wear to get married in is called the 'lakhel'. It's a richly embroidered cloth of great quality, which starts getting sewn as soon as a girl is born. Not wearing it would be an affront to your tradition and customs. It's worn for three reasons: esthetic, medical, and religious."

The story goes that Mauritanian women used to have incredibly pale skin and teeth, a sign of beauty that was amplified by wearing black. It's also said that the fabrics used to make the dress - natural, and imported from neighboring countries like Mali - help to get rid of dark spots on your skin. And finally, Mauritians say that the Prophet Mohammed MPBUH wished victory for those dressed in black."

Questions:

A. Are the statements true (✓) or false(x)?

1. Brides marry in black all over the world.
2. Mauritanian law states that women must marry in black.
3. Men can wear white clothes on the wedding day.
4. Black clothes make brides less beautiful.
5. Black clothes help women get cleaner.

B. Match each word in A to its meaning in B:

A	B
1. Amplified	a. entrenched
2. Wedding	b. wearing
3. Donning	c. made stronger
4. rooted	d. marriage

C. Add the right question tag:

1. He's been away, *Isn't he?*
2. Marriage became difficult, *didn't it?*

D. Turn into the passive voice:

1. The policeman took the thief to jail.
2. Masons build houses.

E. Report the following:

1. The boy told me, "I can show you the way to the hotel"
2. The foreigner asked us, "Where did you study English?"

F. Join the pairs of sentences using the words between brackets:

1. Omar is intelligent. He's polite. (Both and)
2. My friend didn't phone. He didn't write. (Neither nor)
3. You eat. You get sick. (Either or)

