

**BACCALAUREAT MALIEN**

**EPREUVE : D'ANGLAIS (LV1)**

**SERIE: TLL**

**DUREE: 3H**

**COEF: 3**

**Text: The issues of Women's rights**

Starting in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, and throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, rights, as a concept and claim, gained increasing political, social and philosophical importance in Europe. Movements emerged which demanded freedom of religion, the abolition of slavery, rights for women, rights for those who did not own property and universal suffrage. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the question of women's rights became central to political debate in both France and Britain. At the time some of the greatest thinkers of the Enlightenment, who defended democratic principles of equality and challenged notions that a privileged few should rule over the vast majority of the population, believed that these principles should be applied only to their own gender and their own race. The philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau for example thought that it was the order of nature for woman to obey men. He wrote, "Women do wrong to complain of the inequality of man-made laws" and claimed that "when she tries to usurp our rights, she is our inferior."

In 1791, the French playwright and political activist Olympe de Gouges published the *Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen*, modeled on the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 1789. The Declaration is ironic in formulation and exposes the failure of the French

Revolution, which had been devoted to equality. It states that: "This revolution will only take effect when all women become fully aware of their deplorable condition, and of the rights they have lost in society." *The Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen* follows the seventeen articles of the

Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen proclaims that "Men are born and remain free and equal in rights. Social distinctions may be based only on common utility." *The first article of Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen* replied: "Woman is born free and remains equal to man in rights. Social distinctions may only be based on common utility." De Gouges expands the sixth article of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, which declared the rights of citizens to take part in the formation of law, to: "All citizens including women are equally admissible to all public dignities, offices and employments, according to their capacity, and with no other distinction than that of their virtues and talents."

**Questions: ( 20 pts)**

**I. Comprehension questions: (5pts)**

**A. Multiple choice questions: Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. ( 1 pt)**

- 1) De Gouges said the French Revolution would be effective if ..... a) Women realized that they hadn't enough rights.
- b) Men took part in making laws.
- c) Women usurped men's rights.
- d) Women had virtues and talents.
- 2) The first article of De Gouges' book insinuated that..... a) Men are born superior to men.
- b) Women are born superior to men.
- c) All men and women are born equal.

d) Only women are born equal.

**B. True or False: Copy down the true statements and correct the false ones. (2pts)**

- 1) The issue of women's rights has been discussed over long periods.
- 2) Thinkers of the Enlightenment were in favor of giving women more rights.
- 3) De Gouges thought the French Revolution didn't help women. 4) The whole passage is against women's rights in general.

**C. Answer the following questions: (02pts)**

- 1) When did the issue of women's rights become more important in Europe?
- 2) Did Rousseau agree with women when they demanded more rights?
- 3) What was the aim of De Gouges's declaration?
- 4) According to De Gouges, why do women have fewer rights than men? **II. Language: (10 pts)**

**A. Find in the text the synonyms of *fairness; conscious; stated; show one's dissatisfaction.* (2pts)**

**B. Put the verbs in parentheses in the gerund or the infinitive as appropriate. (2 pts)**

Ali decided that the he wanted (study) abroad. (achieve) his goal, he had many things that he had (do). Unfortunately Ali disliked (learn) English so this would not be much fun.

**C. What would you say in this situation? You don't want your friend to enter a private property because it is forbidden (2pts). Give two different ways.**

**D. Translate into French:** From: "In the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century the question of women's rights".....to... "their own gender and their own race." (2pts)

**E. Translate into English: (2pts)**

Au cours des siècles, les femmes ont eu beaucoup de difficultés à obtenir des droits. Les hommes les ont toujours traitées comme des êtres inférieurs et les traitaient mal. Cependant, avec l'éducation, beaucoup d'entre elles ont réalisé que les femmes ne sont pas moins intelligentes que les hommes et qu'elles doivent avoir les mêmes droits qu'eux. De nos jours, même si beaucoup reste à faire, les femmes ont obtenu beaucoup de droits.

**III. Composition: Choose only one topic. (5pts)**

- A.** Women have always been victims of discrimination. Say in a ten-line essay what you would do to improve their rights if you had the power to do so.
- B.** Adama KONE, a trader at Dabanani, Magasin N° 25, has a brother in the village who always insults the women of his place, saying that they are good for nothing. Adama thinks he is wrong so he writes him a letter to ask him to change his behavior towards women.

Write Adama's letter with the appropriate layout.