

**Concours d'accès à la première année de l'institut supérieur des
Métiers de l'Audiovisuel et du cinéma – Rabat**

Sujet d'Anglais

Durée 2h00

The hardest language

People often ask which is the most difficult language to learn, and it is not easy to answer because there are many factors to take into consideration. Firstly, in a first language the differences are unimportant as people learn their mother tongue naturally, so the question of how hard a language is to learn is only relevant when learning a second language.

[A native speaker of Spanish, for example, will find Portuguese much easier to learn than a native speaker of Chinese] for example, because Portuguese is very similar to Spanish, while Chinese is very different, so first language can affect learning a second language. The greater the differences between the second language and our first, the harder it will be for most people to learn. Many people answer that Chinese is the hardest language to learn, possibly influenced by the thought of learning the Chinese writing system, and the pronunciation of Chinese does appear to be very difficult for many foreign learners. However, for Japanese speakers, who already use Chinese characters in their own language, learning writing will be less difficult than for speakers of languages using the Roman alphabet.

Some people seem to learn languages readily, while others find it very difficult. Teachers and the circumstances in which the language is learned also play an important role, as well as each learner's motivation for learning. If people learn a language because they need to use it professionally, they often learn it faster than people studying a language that has no direct use in their day to day life.

No language is easy to learn well, though languages which are related to our first language are easier. [Learning a completely different writing system is a huge challenge] but that does not necessarily make a language more difficult than another. In the end, it is impossible to say that there is one language that is the most difficult language in the world.

I- Comprehension:

A- True or False:

(2 marks)

1. The question of how hard a language is to learn is relevant to both first and second language acquisition. *False*
2. Portuguese is definitely easier than Chinese. *False / True*
3. A Japanese speaker may well find the Chinese writing system easier than a speaker of a European language. *True*
4. The writer thinks that learning new writing systems is easy. *False*

10. Answer the following questions about the text:

(3 marks)

1. Why does a native speaker of Spanish find Portuguese much easier to learn than a native speaker of Chinese?

2. What are the languages that are easier to learn?

3. How did the writer describe learning a completely different writing system?

II- Grammar and Structure:

A- Choose the correct pronoun.

(5 marks)

1. I saw her/she.
2. Give it to them/they.
3. She kissed him/he.
4. He took it/she.
5. Did anyone see us/we?
6. Them/They arrived on time.
7. What did she/her say?
8. She's faster than I/me am.
9. I saw you and she/her there.
10. Between you and me/I I really didn't like it.

B- Choose the correct answer.

(5 marks)

1. are you doing tonight? What/when
2. time do you get up? When/What
3. is going with you? Who/ Whose/ Whom
4. is the dark-green coat? Who/ Who's/ Whose
5. How does it take you get home? Long/Long time
6. often do you go to the theatre? When/ how/ what
7. people were there at the meeting? How much/ How many
8. are you going on holiday? What time/ When
9. have you been? I've been waiting for ages. Why/ What /Where
10. did it cost? How / How much/ How many

C- Write a short conversation in which you present yourself and your company to a new client?

(5 marks)