

English Language Mid-Term Exam

Part one: Reading

Score: 11/20

Read the article below issued in Alloy Magazine 2009 in which the writer exposes the plight of the domestics in Lebanon. When you are through with the reading answer the questions that follow.

Are you Diagnosed with IVE, Inhuman Voluntary Enslavement?

- 1- In Recent years, Lebanon has been appointed as the center-state of what we may call 21st century slavery. A recent media outburst declared that "10 Ethiopian women have died, either by hanging themselves or by falling from tall buildings. Six of these cases have been reported in local media as suicides and four more have been described as possible work accidents."
- 2- Ethiopian domestic workers are not the only victims of this slavery. Others coming from Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Nepal, Indonesia and other nationalities are also subject to such suicide attempts. According to the human Rights Organization and other NGO groups in Lebanon, the main reason for these suicides is due to the abusive work conditions which these domestic workers are often subject to.
- 3- The problem lies in the fact that this act of slavery is often regarded as "voluntary enslavement," since the maid willingly prepares all her documents to travel; from smiling to take her passport photo, to packing her bags, kissing her family goodbye and eagerly signing the official contract in order to migrate to the worldly state of hell, Lebanon. Amongst those who disapprove of this so-called binding contract is the Lebanese NGO forum, who regards this fictitious employment to be contract slavery, "where contracts are "legal fictions" rather than legally binding employment agreements, and thus conceal what are in reality conditions of slavery."
- 4- While it is true that not all host families treat their helpers badly, it does not undermine the severe infraction of civil liberties perpetrated by this kind of employment and living conditions, where most maids do not have their own private living quarters, a clearly defined working schedule, or freedom to come and go as they please. These maids work 24/7 non-stop with little pay, minimal rest, and no privacy. When the host family is cruel, breathing is perhaps the only freedom left that they possess, and by committing suicide, they are able to regain control over their lives –they will have had the last say for once, not the "Baba" or the "Mama" of the household.
- 5- With "more than 200,000 migrant domestic workers in Lebanon—roughly one per every four families," the chances are high that you are in one of those families or that you know someone who is.
- 6- Unfortunately, my family is one of those families.
- 7- It brings me severe pain and utter shame to reveal that, in my household, there has been a long history of domestic workers, and that presently, a total of three maids reside with us. As a child, I was always disturbed by their programmed lifestyles. No schooling, no friends, no freedom, nothing new, utter dependency, robotic bodies, and unconditional obedience to my parents. Why? Of all people I hated myself the most for being incapable of doing something to ease their situation, but I tried. Sometimes, I would pay from my own allowance to get them calling cards so that they could call their families abroad. Other times, I would give them more food to eat, hoping I could numb their pain by food, but I soon realized that my efforts were going in vain. In fact.

- 8- I had unconsciously made things worse because they felt like I pitied them, which added up to depriving them of their dignity as well.
- 9- One night, I decided to leave the luxury of my bed and started to sleep next to my maid on the floor. This gesture made all the difference in both of our lives. In a way, it helped us regain a small part of the humanity we had both lost. To Genet, Kumari, City, and Kandy, I salute you for surviving.

By Lama Darazi

- A) Answer the following set of questions using your own words.
- 1- Who are involved in enslaved treatment in Lebanon? (0.75 pt)
 - 2- Describe the hazardous situations in Lebanon that domestics live in. (0.75 pt)
 - 3- How do you know that the writer has a personal experience with the issue? (0.75 pt)
 - 4- What made the writer's domestics more frustrated? (0.75 pt)
- B) 1-How are paragraphs 8+9 thematically related? Explain. (0.75 pt)
 2-What organizational pattern does the writer use in paragraph 3? Justify. (0.75 pt)
 3-What type of writing is the above text? Explain. (0.75 pt)
- C) 1-What is the writer's tone in paragraph 1? How does it change in paragraph 9? (1 pt)
 2-What methods of support does the writer use in paragraph 5? (0.75 pt)
 3-Identify the writer's purpose in paragraph 7. Justify your answer. (1 pt)
- D) Complete the chart with sentences from the text according to the given patterns. Copy the chart on your booklet. (1 pt)

Paragraph	Pattern	Sentence
1	exemplification	
3	Listing	
4	Compare-contrast	
7	Cause-effect	

- E) Find words in paragraphs 2-4-7-9 that most likely have the following meanings. (1 pt)
- a- Restore
 - b- Lessen
 - c- Independent
 - d- Plights
- F) What do the following pronouns refer to? (1 pt)
- a- They/ paragraph 4
 - b- Their/ paragraph 7
 - c- Our/ paragraph 9
 - d- Others/ paragraph 2

Part Two: Writing

score: 9/20

Article 4 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms." Discuss the above statement and give two examples on how domestics are mistreated in your country. Suggest two ways to improve their conditions to work and live in dignity. Elaborate your ideas in a two- body paragraph essay of 250-300 words. See that you put the reader in the general atmosphere of your topic by writing a clear thesis statement that must be backed up with relevant details in the body paragraphs and end with a proper conclusion. Draft, revise and proofread your essay before you hand it in. Your writing will be assessed as follows;

5 pts for content and organization;

3 pts for language and style and 1 pt for tidiness and legibility

Good Work

Answer Key

A) 1-The ones who are involved in enslaved treatment in Lebanon are: Ethiopian women, others from Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Nepal, and Indonesia.

2-These domestics do not have independent rooms, clear schedule, free going in and out, work long hours, little wages, short rest, no privacy, and some commit suicide.

3-[paragraph 6]: Her family is "One of those families" which mistreat domestics.

4-The writer's domestics became more frustrated when she took the initiative to help them by giving them savings of her allowance, and some more food. As a result, she felt their pride as human beings was shattered.

B) 1-paragraphs 8+9 are thematically related by comparing and contrasting. Paragraph 8 reveals a feeling of frustration with both the writer and the domestics; whereas paragraph 9 reveals a feeling of relief within the two.

2-The organizational pattern is a blend of definition and listing. The writer defines the problem which is false employment that engulfs slavery and lists the procedure that maids go through starting with preparing the documents and ending with signing the contract.

3-The above text is illustration. The writer informs us about the situation of domestics in Lebanon. She supports her information with illustrations about nationalities and conditions; and moves forcefully to emphasize all this by illustrating her personal experience with them.

C) 1-The writer's tone in paragraph 1 is shameful since her country is appointed with slavery actions. This tone changes into a respectful one towards the domestics when the writer appreciates the domestic's ability to bear mistreatment to continue survival.

2-The different methods of support the writer uses in paragraph 5 are:

- a- Numbers: 200,000
- b- Places: Lebanon
- c- Statistics: one per every four families.

3-The writer's purpose in paragraph 7 is to inform the reader about three points;

- a- Writer's feeling of shame
- b- Domestics' maltreatment
- c- Writer's effort to offer help.

D)

Paragraph	Pattern	Sentence
1	exemplification	Six... accidents
3	Listing	From smiling... hell
4	Compare-contrast	While... condition
7	Cause-effect	Of all... situation...

- E) a- regain/paragraph 9
b- numb/paragraph 7
c-private/ paragraph 4
d-conditions/ paragraph 2

- F) a-maids
- b-maids
- c-writer and maid
- d-domestic workers