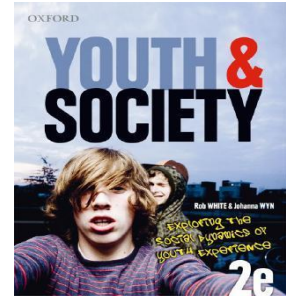


1 Whenever reading about youth, one is likely to encounter such expressions as: Youth are energetic, youth are creative, youth are idealistic, and youth are perfection seekers. Indeed, this is quite true because youth approach many things with a clean state and are not affected by the accumulated prejudices coming from previous life experiences. These characteristics are supposed to render youth a very essential part of society because they have the potential and energy needed to develop any country, in addition to the imagination to create new ideas. However, youth in reality may not always enjoy these criteria, and may not direct their attention and energy in the right direction.



2 Politics, as an example, is a very important domain that is worth the interest of youth, because **it** is the platform that can make their ideas remarkable and influencing. However, in Morocco, which constitutes our main concern, youth do not seem to be interested in politics nor they have a good attitude towards politicians. Politics in the Moroccan youth perception is synonymous with corruption, and politicians are held accountable for the miserable situation of the country. These ideas, in turn, hinder Moroccan youth from invading the world of politics. Still, there are two important questions that come to the surface: Why do Moroccan youth abandon politics? And is it the right thing to do?

3 In attempting to understand the poor participation of Moroccan youth in politics, one should take a step backward in Moroccan history. Among the things the Moroccan youth inherited is the fear from "Almakhzen" (authorities) coming from "Sanawat Arasas" (years of lead) when demonstrations were faced by force, and youth were sent to prisons as the famous "Derb moulay chrif." I think that the dark history of Morocco is still affecting the youth's perception of politics, and pushes them to reconsider the idea of participating in political life. This may account for the famous answer I got from the majority of my respondents: "politics is too risky."

4 Evidently, media is shaping our point of views, attitudes and all aspects of life regardless of age or gender; it is the glass through which we see the world. Youth, hence, are not an exception. It is not an exaggeration to say that the interests and tendencies of youth are shaped by media. So, do media encourage youth to participate in the political life?



5 From my point of view, I would never hesitate to assert that the media do not encourage and orient youth towards politics. Whenever you turn on TV, you find one of these so called "programs" inviting an "artist" and asking him/her such typical questions as "what are your latest projects?" and "would you please share your career with the audience". The interviewee starts preaching about his career and the privileged life s/he is having now. Youth, are by consequence affected and relate success to artists, and ironically every young man or woman starts dreaming of taking "the flag of the Moroccan art or sport" very high, but only few are left to express some interest in politics or devote as much time as they spend analyzing football matches or Turkish TV series to analyze political events.

6 I think that monopolizing the political scene by old people hinders the ambitions of youth who need some space to express their creative ideas. It goes without saying that old people are valuable and have a lot to contribute with their long experience, but this doesn't mean underestimating the value of youth, the latter who should be given the chance to express their ideas and updated way of thinking.

I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS)

{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWER ON THE TEXT}

A Answer these questions

(3 pts)

1 State three of the characteristics that make youth a very important part in a society.

.....
.....

2 Why do Moroccan youth shun politics?

.....
.....

3 How do Moroccan media shape youth's tendencies and interests?

.....
.....

B Are these statements true or false? Justify

(6pts)

1 Moroccan youth are excited about things other than politics

.....

2 Youth's perception of politics is negatively affected by the dark side of Moroccan history

.....

3 Old people impede youth's wishes and creativity

.....

C Complete these sentences with information from the text.

(2pts)

1 Youth not only have the potential and energy to develop any country, but.....

.....as well

2 Youth's value should not be underestimated by the old people although the latter

.....

D Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as:

(2pts)

1 meet (paragraph 1).....

2 explain (paragraph 3).....

E What do the underlined words in the text refer to?

(2pts)

1 It (paragraph 2)

2 I (paragraph 3)

