

The First English Exam

Malek Bennabi is a famous Algerian writer, thinker and philosopher. He was born on January 1st 1905 in Constantine into a poor family and a conservative community. He was also called “Seddik”. He had three sisters and no brothers. When he was a child, his family was forced to move to Tebessa because of his father’s job. Bennabi continued his studies in Algiers and Paris until he graduated as an engineer in electricity. After his graduation in 1925, Bennabi tried many jobs in Constantine, Tebessa and elsewhere but he did not stay long at any of them. So he decided to go back to France. In 1930, he got married with a French girl named Paulette. Later, he moved to Cairo, where he continued his intellectual production until the independence of Algeria. In 1963, he returned to Algeria and was appointed minister of High Education until his resign in 1967. After that, he devoted himself for his intellectual project. He wrote many articles and published more than 25 books in his life. Malek Bennabi died on October 31st, 1973 in his house in Algiers. He is considered one of the most remarkable intellectuals in modern Islamic History.

Adapted from www.arabphilosophers.com

Section One : Reading & Interpreting

A/ Reading Comprehension Read the text carefully then do the following activities (7pts)

Activity One: I read the text then answer these questions (2pts)

- a. Did Malek Bennabi have any brothers?
- b. What did he study at university?

Activity Two: I read the text again and complete the ID Card (3pts)

ID CARD	
Name :	Nickname : <i>Seddik</i>
Date of birth : <i>1st January 1905</i>	Occupation :
Place of birth :	Date of death :
Nationality:	Place of death:

Activity Three:

1- I find in the text words that are closest in meaning to the following (1pt)

- a) author =
- b) came back =.....

2- I find in the text words that are opposites in meaning to the following (1pt)

- a) rich ≠
- b) ancient ≠

B/ Mastery of the Language

(7pts)

Activity One: I reorder the words to get a meaningful sentence: (2pts)

war / participated / independence / Many / in the / writers / for / Algerian / .

Activity Two: I choose the correct word between brackets (3pts)

- a) The Algerian national anthem was (*wrote* / *written*) by Moufdi Zakaria.
- b) The National Liberation Front “FLN” (*was* / *were*) founded in 1954.
- c) Assia Djebar did not (*study* / *studied*) Arabic at school.

Activity Three: I find in the text a word for each sound (2pts)

<i>/ ei / name</i>	<i>/ ai / nine</i>	<i>/ əʊ / know</i>	<i>/ aʊ / now</i>
.....

Section Two : Situation of Integration

(6pts)

Topic: My English friend asked me to tell him about an Algerian outstanding figure. I write a short biography about the scholar and Islamic reformer Abdelhamid Ben Badis.

Use the clues below:

- (*to be born*) December 4th, 1889
- (*to memorize*) the Quorane at the age of 13.
- 1908 (*to travel*) to Tunis and (*to study*) at Zaitouna University.
- 1913 (*to return*) to Algeria and (*to settle*) in Constantine. (*to start*) teaching Islamic sciences, Arabic language, literature, and history at Sidi Qammouch mosque.
- 1931 (*to found*) the Association of Algerian Muslim Ulama.
- (*to die*) 16 April 1940 Constantine.

Best of luck