



Le sujet comporte 4 pages numérotées de 1/4 à 4/4

READING COMPREHENSION (15 marks)

THE TEXT

- 1- Back in 1999, when Medellin, the capital of Columbia, was known as the most violent city in the world, no-fee music schools began popping up in the poorest and most crime-ravaged slums. These were part of the Amadeus Foundation, a social initiative where children are encouraged to sing, play instruments and appreciate classical music. According to its choir director, once you put a violin in the hands of children and teach them how to play, they will never pick up a gun.
- 2- "We bring classical music to children who would otherwise never be able to access it. With the help of the local mayor and private funds, we work in 27 marginalised neighbourhoods across Medellin. There, free music schools run by dedicated teachers provide high-quality music education.
- 3- It was very difficult to convince community leaders that classical music was fun, and could have a social benefit. People were skeptical. A parent said that classical music is not for the poor. Over time, our concerts had more support from the local community and in some families, Mozart and Beethoven have now become household names. Some of our pupils now make a living from music, either as music teachers or professional musicians who perform with the Medellin Symphony Orchestra.
- 4- Being part of an orchestra and practising hard every day gives children a sense of purpose. Parents come to concerts and feel proud. They are also grateful to the Amadeus Foundation because their children are involved in something positive and not just hanging round on the street. A young child involved in the programme is less likely to commit a crime. Children tend to do better at school and are also less likely to drop out of school.
- 5- But there is a lot more than just playing an instrument or turning children into professional musicians. Our aim is our slogan: "making people better human beings". I believe that music can teach you about life. Playing in an orchestra means commitment, respect for the person sitting next to you, teamwork, discipline and being organized. It also improves mental agility. I've seen young people change their attitudes towards themselves, their family and community since starting with us."

Abridged from *The Guardian Weekly*
February 5th, 2009



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Circle the most appropriate title to the text: (1mark)

- a- Parents' gratitude to the Amadeus Foundation
- b- Medellin swaps violence for violins
- c- Medellin provides poor kids with rap music education

2. For each of the following statements, find a detail showing that it is false : (2marks)

- a- The Amadeus Foundation music schools target all Medellin children (paragraph 1)

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- b- Children pay for their music lessons (paragraph 2)

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3. State 3 changes in the lives of children involved in the Amadeus programme. Focus on paragraph 4. (3 marks)

- a-
- b-
- c-

4. Complete with words from the text (3 marks)

At first, parents were but when they noticed their children's achievements, they became both of their children and to the foundation.

5. Tick 3 positive values children acquire through the programme (3 marks)

improved self-image honesty organization commitment gratitude

6. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (2 marks)

Its (par 1) refers to

It (par 5) refers to

7. Has the text changed your attitude towards classical music? How? (1 mark)

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