

BACCALAUREAT
SESSION 2023

Coefficient : 2
Durée : 3 h

LANGUE VIVANTE 2 : ANGLAIS

SERIE : A2

Cette épreuve comporte quatre (04) pages numérotées 1/4, 2/4, 3/4 et 4/4.

PART ONE: READING

40%

Read the text below and do all the activities that follow it.

SOS FOR MIGRANTS

The chilling effects of Europe's crackdown on immigration were crystallised in June 2016 with the recovery of 458 corpses of mostly African migrants from a boat that sank in the Mediterranean Sea, which divides Europe from North Africa.

5 When a converted wooden fishing trawler collided with a Portuguese merchant ship responding to its SOS distressing signal, it was found to be carrying around 900, mostly African, migrants travelling on the Central Mediterranean route from Libya to southern Italy. It sank about 60 miles off the coast of Libya and 120 miles from the Italian Island of Lampedusa.

10 With some of the victims' bodies unlikely to ever be found, Italian authorities have put the death toll at 700. They say nationals of Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Mali, Gambia, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea – including women and children – were among those who perished.

Members of the Italian recovery team described scenes of shocking cruelty reminiscent of the slave cargo ships of the past, with five African migrants packed per square metre in the hold by smugglers operating in the booming migrant trafficking trade.

15 With traffickers charging around €1,000 for each migrant on the Central Mediterranean crossing, those behind the doomed April 2015 crossing would have netted around €800,000.

Increasingly, the journeys of African migrants fleeing conflict, repression and devastating poverty in search of better lives in Europe are ending in tragedy along the migrant route. The death is rising in tandem with Europe's expansion of legal barriers to keep out an unprecedented flow of migrants and refugees from the poor, developing world.

20 The more the UK and European Union member states fortify themselves, the more desperate migrants and refugees from Africa and elsewhere are forced to risk their lives on the treacherous routes to enter their borders. And the Central Mediterranean Sea route is one of the most deadly.

25 According to a new report from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), 3772 migrants died on the Central Mediterranean route in 2015. This year, 2,600, mostly African migrants, have died on the route.

Adapted from an article by Santorri Chamley, New African, August/September 2016, p. 48/49