

TEXT: Changing Hearts and Minds

I have been serious about deepening my thoughts about the way that all Americans can live together in our diverse and pluralistic society.

I think there are some lessons that Americans from all political persuasions might learn in this regard, lessons that I take to heart each day. We have to start by remembering the role that values play in addressing some of our most urgent social problems. The problems of poverty and war, the uninsured and the unemployment are not simply technical problems. They are rooted in societal indifference and individual callousness in the imperfections of man.

I believe in tough law enforcement and commonsense gun laws to keep our children safe from an epidemic of violence. When a gangbanger shoots indiscriminately into a crowd, this is not just a government problem. It is a moral problem. Solving problem like this will require changes in government policy, but it will also require a change in hearts and a change in minds. Constructive moral values issues must be addressed in our families, our communities and our government.

My values speak to the 47 million Americans suffering without health care, the care of soldiers and civilians in Iraq and veterans back home, the single mothers struggling to provide for their families and the fathers who are too often absent from the scene. We actually have to stand up for policies that value families.

Barrack Obama, *in Time*, November 7th, 2008.

Notes:

To deepen: to make or become deep or deeper.

Callous: hardened in mind; unfeeling.

QUESTIONS (20 points)

I- READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (5 points)

A. Multiple choice questions (1 point)

Copy the complete sentence containing the correct answer.

1. Obama is thinking how Americans can ...

- a. Reject moral values
- b. Fight in Iraq
- c. Live together in harmony
- d. Abandon their families.

2. Individual callousness refers to ...

- a. Man's indifference
- b. People hardened in mind
- c. Man's cruelty
- d. People's mediocrity.

B. True / False questions (2 points)

Copy the true sentences and correct the false ones.

- 1. America is a diverse and pluralistic society.
- 2. Values play a role in social problems.
- 3. Unemployment is only a technical problem.
- 4. A moral problem requires a change in hearts and a change in minds.

C. Answer the following questions (2 points)

- 1. What can keep American children safe from an epidemic of violence according to Obama?
- 2. Whom must constructive moral values be addressed to?

II- LANGUAGE (10 points)

A. Copy down each word from the list on the left with one from the right so as to make pairs of synonyms. (2 points)

A	B
thought	demand
tough	to contend
require	firm
struggle	reflection

B. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form (gerund or infinitive). (2 points)

- 1. Don't forget (lock) the door before (go) to bed.
- 2. My mother told me (not speak) to anyone about it.
- 3. I can't understand her (behave) like that.

C. Put the following into indirect speech. (2 points)

"I have been serious about deepening my thoughts about the way that all Americans can live together in our diverse and pluralistic society," said Obama.

D. Translate into English. (2 points)

Les valeurs morales jouent un rôle très important dans le développement d'un individu. De ce fait, il est bon de faire apprendre aux élèves les valeurs sociales aussi bien en famille qu'à l'école.

E. Translate in French. (2 points)

I have been serious about deepening my thoughts about the way that all Americans can live together in our diverse and pluralistic society.

III- COMPOSITION (5 points)

Choose only **one** topic.

1. "The problems of poverty and war, the uninsured and the unemployed are not simply technical problems. They are rooted in societal indifference and individual callousness-in the imperfections of man."

In a ten-line essay, referring to this quotation, tell how learning social values can bring a change in people's behavior.

2. Adama Sissoko TSE, LKDK, Koutiala, sends a postcard to his friend Oumar Camara, TLL, LDKK, Kayes, giving him his holiday travel plans. Write Adama's postcard.