

Mamoudou Gassama – a Malian in illegal situation in France – was caught on video climbing a building in Paris to rescue a child who was dangling from a fourth-floor balcony. It took Gassama only about half a minute to reach the 4-year-old and pull him to safety. “I did not think of the floors... I did not think of the risk,” Gassama told journalists, “I did it because it’s a child.”

Paris Mayor, Anne Hidalgo, called the 22-year-old hero “Spider-Man of the 18<sup>ème</sup> arrondissement,” as the rescue happened in there. “Gassama explained to me that he had arrived from Mali a few months before, dreaming of building his life here,” Hidalgo told the press. “I told him that his heroic act is an example to all citizens and that the city of Paris will obviously be very keen to support him in his efforts to settle in France.” Two days later, French President Emmanuel Macron met with Gassama, thanked him, gave him a medal and said he would get him the French nationality.

The child was under the care of his father while his mother was outside of Paris. The father was not home at the time of the incident. French prosecutor\* François Molins told journalists that the father had left the house to go shopping and was also playing “Pokemon Go” video game, while his son was in danger of death. “The father is now under arrest and faces up to two years in prison,” said Mr. Molins.

Adapted from Ed Mazza, *HuffPost*, May 28, 2018.

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/real-life-spider-man-scrambles-061542988.html>

\*Prosecutor = Procureur

**I. READING COMPREHENSION: 08 marks**

A) Read the text and write the paragraph numbers corresponding to these titles.

(01.5 marks)

Titles	Paragraph numbers
1. Reaction of French authorities	Parag.
2. An irresponsible father	Parag.
3. Saving a child in danger	Parag.

B) Tick (✓) the right option (a, b or c).

(02 marks)

4. Gassama climbed the building in...

a) a minute and a half;

b) 30 seconds;

c) half an hour.

5. The word “Here” (paragraph 2) refers to...

a) the building in Paris;

b) Mali;

c) France.

6. President Macron offered Gassama to...

a) become a French citizen;  
medal.

b) thank him;

c) give him a

7. At the time of the incident, the child’s mother was ...

a) in Paris;

b) away from Paris;

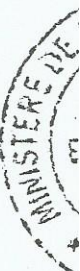
c) playing

“Pokemon Go” with the father.

C) Fill in the gaps with words from the text (one word per gap).

(01.5 marks)

Mamoudou Gassama – a 22-year-old illegal migrant from Mali – climbed a building to (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a young boy suspended on the balcony of a building in Paris. Jumping from balcony to balcony, he saved the child under the eyes of a stupefied crowd. Gassama’s (9) \_\_\_\_\_ act was praised by French authorities. The father, who had (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the child alone in the apartment, was arrested by the police.



D) Are these statements True or False? Justify your answers by quoting the text.

(03 marks)

11. The Mayor of Paris advised the French people not to follow Gassama's example.

12. President Macron was thankful to the Malian's act.

13. The child's parents could be sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

**II. LINGUISTIC and COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE: 06 marks**

E) Underline the right option to complete this passage.

(02 marks)

When the French authorities asked Mr. Gassama what he wanted after (14) (saving / saved / save) the child, he said that his dream was to be a firefighter. Later he was enrolled in one fire brigade in Paris and (15) (her / his / him) dream came true. The fire brigade was so proud to have a man (16) (as / such / like) him. He was immediately (17) (adopted / adopting / adoption) by all the other firefighters.

F) Complete this mini-dialogue with meaningful questions.

(02 marks)

Mayor Hidalgo: When \_\_\_\_\_? (18)

Gassama: I arrived here a few months ago.

Mayor Hidalgo: Why did you leave your country? (19)

Gassama: \_\_\_\_\_

G) People reacted against the child's father. Choose four (4) reactions of indignation from the following.

(02 marks)

a) "Should he be blamed?" / b) "That man deserves prison!" / c) "I'd never let that man stay with my kid!" / d) "If I were this child's mother, I would leave him!" / e) "What a father!" / f) "How could he be so careless?" / g) "This man needs support as this can happen to anyone!"

20. \_\_\_\_\_

21. \_\_\_\_\_

22. \_\_\_\_\_

23. \_\_\_\_\_

**III. WRITING: 06 marks**

Choose one topic only and write about 80-120 words.

**Topic 1:** Today, more and more parents have troubles taking care of their children. What do you think are the reasons for this phenomenon? What are its effects on children? Suggest some solutions to the problem.

**Topic 2:** After the Paris incident, the father of the child is at the police station for investigation. Write out the dialogue between the police officer and the man.

**Topic 3:** Many people condemned the father of the child saved by Mamoudou Gassama in a local newspaper. Write a letter to the newspaper to explain why you think his punishment should not be too severe.