

1 In an age of far-reaching globalization and transnational mobility, which have become increasingly easier thanks to the new means of transportation; in an age of blurred boundaries due to the revolutionary technological inventions that connect the extremes of the world, the phenomenon of mixed marriages is remarkably increasing worldwide. When two racially and culturally distinct individuals marry, they bring their cultural backgrounds under the same roof, the contact zone where the latter either co-exist or clash. A successful interracial marriage is one where each member tolerates the other and accepts their right to be different. However, some argue that a multi-ethnic marriage carries within it the factors of its failure, no matter how long it persists.



2 The breakdown of Khalid Sekkah's transnational marriage to his Norwegian wife Anne Cecile Hopstock caused uproar in Morocco a few years ago. This intensified after his arrest in France because his divorced wife accused him of abusing their two children, Tariq and Salma. He denied the fact that cultural disparities were behind their failed love. One of the big challenges in a multicultural marriage, in addition to culture, is the legal and institutional differences between the countries where the partners come from. In this case, disagreements over inheritance, citizenship and child custody surface.



3 People who have undergone the experience have different outlooks on the issue of mixed-race marriages. "It doesn't matter whether the partner is from another culture if the relationship is based on love and dialogue from the very beginning. I have been living with my Moroccan husband for eight years so far, and I have never thought that my life will be such a blessing," said Stephanie Z., a German teacher of English who married a Moroccan engineer in Germany. Stephanie converted to Islam. "I wouldn't be married to Mohammed if I didn't love the Moroccan culture. I converted out of conviction, i.e. of my own accord, of course."

4 Guan-yin left her family in Beijing, China and came to live in Fez after she had married a Moroccan importer who frequently visits China to buy technological devices and sell them in Morocco. Guan-yin lives with her in-laws as her husband travels a lot. When asked about her experience, she said, "Hamdollah (Thank God). In the beginning I found problems because the culture is far different, but with time I started to adapt and learn about it." Guan-yin said she has two girls now and she will do her best to keep harmony and love in her family.

5 For Rachida C., the situation is different. She has been married for seven years now. She met André R. when he came to spend his holiday in Morocco with her father, who was a worker in France. "Life is ups and downs," Rachida said. "Sometimes we quarrel, others we calm down. After all, I have to be patient because I have no other choice!" Giving her opinion on mixed marriages based on her experience, she said, "A mixed marriage is more difficult for a woman than for a man. I don't advise Moroccan women to marry Europeans. It is difficult to preserve your identity and practise your religion even if your partner doesn't object."

**I COMPREHENSION (15 POINTS) {BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT}**

**A Are these sentences TRUE or FALSE? JUSTIFY your answers. (3 pts)**

- 1 Some people think that mixed marriages are sure to fail. ....  
.....
- 2 Stephanie Z. was forced to switch to Islam. ....  
.....
- 3 There have been some happy moments in Rachida C.'s multiracial marriage. ....  
.....

**B Answer these questions. (3 pts)**

- 1 What is a mixed marriage? ....  
.....
- 2 Which factors make a mixed-race marriage a failure? ....  
.....
- 3 Why is Rachida C. against transnational marriages? ....  
.....

**C Find in the text words or expressions that mean the same as the following. (3 pts)**

- 1 unclear (para 1) .....
- 2 differences (para 2) .....
- 3 attitudes (para 3) .....

**D What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)**

- 1 the latter (para 1) .....
- 2 it (para 4) .....
- 3 we (para 5) .....

**E Complete the following sentences. (3 pts)**

- 1 Far-reaching globalization and transnational mobility have become increasingly easier since .....
- 2 Khalid Sekkah not only divorced his wife, .....
- 3 Guan-yin married a Moroccan importer who frequently visits China so that he .....

**II LANGUAGE (15 POINTS)**

**A Put the verbs between brackets into the correct tense. (3 pts)**

Ahmed and his wife (<sup>1</sup> have) ..... a few problems recently and I have to admit that their relationship (<sup>2</sup> get) ..... a bit boring these days. I hope that they (<sup>3</sup> overcome) ..... those obstacles by this time next month.

**B Put the words between brackets into the correct form. (3 pts)**

- 1 His (refuse) ..... to discuss the matter is very annoying.
- 2 That was a (tempt) ..... offer.
- 3 Governments (foundation) ..... schools and universities every year.

**C Circle the correct answer. (2 pts)**

- 1 He's decided to look up / take up / use up golf once he retires.
- 2 Her voice was shaking in spite / although / despite of all her efforts to control it.
- 3 His mother, in who / whom / whose he confides, said she would support him unconditionally.
- 4 He bitterly regretted ever have / to have / having mentioned it.

**D Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word. (1 pt)**

access                      livelihood                      comply                      conform                      discord

- 1 Some countries refused to ..... with the UN resolution.
- 2 Students must have ..... to good resources.

**E Rewrite the following sentences as suggested. (4 pts)**

- 1 He didn't pass his exam last year because he was careless with his studies.  
If .....
- 2 "Why don't you go to the bank and get some money?" she asked him.  
She suggested .....
- 3 I wasted a lot of time while I was working on the research project.  
I ought .....
- 4 They have already done the shopping.  
The shopping .....

**F Write appropriate responses to the following situations beginning with the words given. (2 pts)**

- 1 Your classmate wears odd clothes.                      [Give him / her advice]  
If I .....
- 2 Your friend told you that he had lost his job.                      [Respond to this piece of bad news]  
I .....

