

[1] Upon the release of make-up baccalaureate exam results in 2018, Lahcen Chakiri, 69, the oldest candidate in Morocco at the time, secured his place in education history as he finally passed his baccalaureate in arts with a score of 11.29 after he had failed in the normal session.



[2] Wearing traditional clothes, a turban and Djellaba, you could make the mistake of thinking that he is illiterate, but Lahcen took up the challenge to refute all our demeaning perspectives towards people like him. Moreover, he didn't go along with the way his fellow locals and generation perceive life. Mr. Chakiri believed he still had the right to reconnect with his dreams and jump-start his personal transformation, and so, overwhelmed with passion and determination, he gave himself a chance and massively nailed it!

[3] For three consecutive days, Lahcen sat for the exams in the June session as an unofficial candidate. During this time, his family along with many people all over the country, were wholeheartedly rooting for him. Unfortunately, he didn't pass. However, Mr. Chakiri's perseverance didn't dwindle. With "the help and support of teachers from Ibn Tachfin, Boumalne Dades and Abdelkerim El Khattabi High Schools, he could get the *BAC in the bag!*" reads a post on Tinghir MEN provincial directorate Facebook page.

[4] It is worth noting that Lahcen is a retiree who tried different jobs. He had first worked as a miner before he emigrated to France where he worked as a mechanic. He is from Msemrir, a purely Amazigh mountainous town in the High Atlas in Tinghir, 164 away from Ouarzazate.

[5] "I attended my primary school in Aman n' Iqidar, then went to high school in Boumalne Dades, but I had to drop out of school in 1967 because my family was with very limited resources then," Lahcen opened up in a televised report by Tamazight. Though it was a long procedure to apply for baccalaureate, Mr. Chakiri painstakingly worked his way around to get it. "I consulted the headteacher of Boumalne Dades High School about what it takes to be a baccalaureate holder and told me that I had to get middle school completion degree first, and I went straightforward for it," added the same report.

[6] Giving a very strong, inspirational message to people in general and to today's youth in particular, Mr. Chakiri told the local press in a report by Tinghir Press 24, "I do advise you to take care of your studies. One's worth emanates from a good education, not from juvenile delinquency! Education comes first; without it, nothing can be achieved." He added, "I am an old man, but I will continue to study until the last breath."

Adapted from elhanafimourad.wordpress.com

READING COMPREHENSION

A. CHOOSE THE BEST TITLE FOR THE PASSAGE.

- 1. Education issues in Morocco
- 2. Education has no age
- 3. A Journey from miner to mechanic in France

B. ARE THE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE. JUSTIFY.

- 1. Mr. Chakiri passed the baccalaureate exam on the first try.
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- 2. He worked as miner in France.
.....

C. ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

- 1. Who supported Mr. Chakiri on his way to the baccalaureate dream?
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- 2. Why was he forced to quit school?
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D. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES WITH INFORMATION FROM THE TEXT.

- 1. What makes Mr. Chakiri different is.....
- 2. Mr. Chakiri thinks that education is important because.....

E. FIND IN THE TEXT WORDS, PHRASES OR EXPRESSIONS THAT MEAN THE SAME AS:

- 1. Unable to read or write =
- 2. decrease =
- 3. Youth crimes and illegal acts =