



The phenomenon of sports betting<sup>(1)</sup> has rapidly invaded Africa, captivating the attention of millions of young people across the continent. While initially perceived as a harmless pastime, the proliferation of betting is gradually affecting the lives of African youth. With the increasing use of smartphones and the internet, more people have access to online sports betting platforms, making it easier for them to place bets from anywhere at any time. The rise of mobile money has also made it easier for people to deposit and withdraw money from these platforms. Many youths find themselves caught up in a cycle of obsessive gaming.

Betting often exploits vulnerable populations, including unemployed youth and students with limited financial resources. Many young people consider betting as a way of escaping the harsh realities of unemployment or poverty, hoping for a chance to get rich and improve their conditions suddenly. But, the truth is dramatic; as the majority of bettors end up losing more money than they can afford to lose, aggravating their financial difficulties.

In addition to the financial implications, betting can also have a negative impact on the mental health and well-being of African youth. The constant cycle of hope, disappointment, and regret associated with gaming can affect individuals' mental health negatively, causing anxiety, depression, and other psychological problems. The humiliation of addiction to betting often prevents young people from seeking help or support, aggravating their suffering in silence.

Adapted from: <https://www.observer.co.ke/lifestyle/the-perilous-grip-of-sports-betting-on-africas-youth/>

**NB:** (1) Sports betting = Les paris sportifs, la loterie autour du sport

**I. COMPREHENSION: 08 marks**

**A) Complete the following table with information from paragraph 1.**

(0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

What Phenomenon?	Where?	Age of Victims	Number of Victims	Types of Betting Technology
Sports Betting	I.	I.	I.	I.

**B) Look at the following list. Only 4 types of people ARE MENTIONED in paragraph 2. Write a tick (✓) in front of each of them. Two types of people will have NO tick.**

(0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| I. People with no protection             | I. People who don't work                     |
| II. People who can afford to lose money  | II. People who want to pay for their studies |
| III. People who improve their conditions | III. People who want to become rich          |

**C) Read paragraph 3 and complete these statements.**

(0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

II. Gaming is believed to cause two disagreeable feelings. The first disagreeable feeling is \_\_\_\_\_ and the second is \_\_\_\_\_

III. Young people addicted to betting don't ask for help because of \_\_\_\_\_

**D) Indicate the paragraph in which each of these ideas is detailed.**

(0.5 x 3 = 1.5 marks)

- II. Reasons why young people bet
- III. Factors facilitating betting for young people
- IV. Dangerous effects of betting on young people

- i) Paragraph 1
- ii) Paragraph 2
- iii) Paragraph 3

Answer Box		
II.	III.	IV.

E) Choose option a), option b), or option c) to answer question 16.

(0.5 x 1 = 0.5 mark)

II. A good title for this text could be:

- a) Modern African Youth       b) African Youth and Sports Betting       c) Betting in Africa

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

F) Choose the correct words in brackets to make a meaningful paragraph.

(0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

Africa has a huge problem. Its young population is falling victim to global betting companies. In recent years, these companies (17) \_\_\_\_\_ (*have promoted* ⊕ *are promoting* ⊕ *promote*) their operations across the continent, using aggressive marketing techniques. They have a considerable advantage, which is Africa's passion (18) \_\_\_\_\_ (*at* ⊕ *of* ⊕ *for*) football. The European leagues are extremely popular, and gambling companies use this popularity to attract young bettors. (19) \_\_\_\_\_ (*Many* ⊕ *Much* ⊕ *Few*) big European clubs are sponsored by betting companies, which gives the impression that football and betting are part of the same product. Local celebrities are paid big money to promote gambling, while a financial bonus is offered to attract new (20) \_\_\_\_\_ (*customers'* ⊕ *customer's* ⊕ *customers*).

Adapted from https://www.playthegame.org

G) Indicate which sentence beginning in X corresponds to which sentence ending in Y (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

Column X: Sentence Beginnings	Column Y: Sentence Endings
11. Surprisingly, there are more gamblers in Africa...	a) ...to work together to find a solution.
12. Whether in Africa or Europe, people under 18...	b) ...next to schools is a big mistake.
13. Governments, communities, and families need...	c) ...than in European countries.
14. Allowing betting companies to open shops...	d) ...reasons why children like betting.
	e) ...should not be permitted to bet.

  

Answer Box			
11.	12.	13.	14.

H) Abdou Diaw is a schoolboy. He is having a conversation with Madior Talla, a classmate who lost a lot of money betting on XBET. Complete their conversation meaningfully. (0.5 x 4 = 2 marks)

Abdou: Yo, Madior! What's up? You look bizarre again. What did you do this time?

Madior: My dad is gonna kill me, Boy. I spent crazy money on XBET this morning and I lost it all.

Abdou: What?!? You know adolescents are (25) \_\_\_\_\_ (*forbid*) to bet on sport, right?

Madior: Yeah! I saw 45,000F in my dad's room so... I just couldn't resist. I thought I'd win so...

Abdou: At your age? Shame! (26) \_\_\_\_\_ so much money?

Madior: I wanted to buy those shoes we saw on TikTok. And now, Daddy wants his money back.

Abdou: Wow! You're a dead person? Why don't you (27) \_\_\_\_\_ your mom?

Madior: I did but she said "No!" From now on, I promise you I (28) \_\_\_\_\_ again.

Abdou: I hope so. At least, you've learned a great lesson from this.

**III. WRITING: Choose ONE topic only and write about 80-120 words. 06 marks**

**Topic 1:** "Many young people view betting as a way to escape the harsh realities of unemployment or poverty, hoping for a chance of getting rich." Do you share this idea? What are your reasons?

**Topic 2:** There are more and more betting shops around schools, which has a bad influence on students. Imagine a conversation between Mère Fanta, a student's parent, and Paa Joe, a respectable man whose house is next to your school. Write down the conversation.