

The First Test of English

Najib Mahfouz is one of the greatest Arab writers. He was born on 11th December 1911 in Cairo. He was a novelist and playwright. He is considered as the father of modern Arabic literature. He was awarded the Noble Prize for Literature in 1988. He die in his birthplace on 30th August 2006.

Mahfouz grew up in a middle-class Muslim family in Cairo. He attended the Egyptian University, where he graduated in philosophy in 1934. He decided to be a professional writer. He got a job in the Ministry of Culture, where he stayed until 1972. While working as a civil servant, he wrote more than 45 novels, 350 short stories, dozens of movie scripts and five plays. Many of his works were made into Arab-language movies. He published his first novel in 1939. The appearance of the Cairo Trilogy ('Between the Palaces', 'Palaces of Longing', and 'Sugarhouse') in 1957 made him famous.

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A. Reading Comprehension:

Activity One: read the text and complete the chart below (3 pts)

Dates	Events
1934
1988
2006

Activity Two: read the text again and answer these questions (3 pts)

1. Where was Najib Mahfouz born ?
2. Did he study at the university ?
3. How many short stories did he write ?

Activity Three: find in the text the synonyms of these words (1 pt)

1. dramatist =
2. well-known =

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B. Mastery of the language:

Activity One: supply punctuation and capital letters (2 pts)

in 1943 Najib mahfouz published his novel “Radobis”

Activity Two: write the verbs between brackets in the correct form (3 pts)

1. “Oliver Twist” was (*to write*) by Charles Dickens.
2. Abdelkader Houamel (*to found*) contemporary Algerian painting.
3. In 1963, he (*to be*) given a gold medal in Arabian art.

Activity Three: classify the words according to ‘ed’ pronunciation (2 pts)

located – worked – decided – received

/ t /	/ d /	/ id /

Situation of Integration: (6 pts)

Malik Bennabi is a prominent thinker. He is well known for his political lectures and his works about modern Islamic society.

• Use the following ID Card and the cues below to write a short biography about him.

- 1925: graduate (Paris)
- 1930: get married
- 1963-1967: Minister of High Education

ID Card

Name: *Malik Bennabi*

Birth: *1st January 1905, Constantine*

Nationality: *Algerian*

Education: *electricity engineering*

Occupation: *philosopher, writer*

Books: *“The Conditions of Renaissance”*

Death: *31st October 1973, Algiers*

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