

## **Level: 2nd Year License M.D (All the groups)**

### **Module: Text Typology**

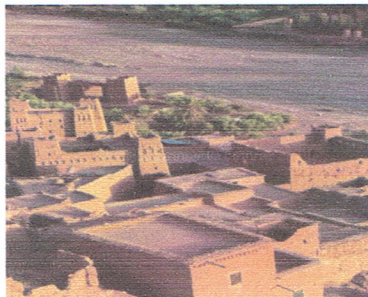
Text n° 04:

### **Traditional Houses in Hot Dry Regions of Algeria**

Algeria has a traditional architectural heritage which can be noticed through the knowledge in the construction field based on vernacular architecture integrating climatic data and local resources.

In the south west of Algeria (hot and dry climate), the traditional architecture had developed an empirical knowledge, particularly oriented to the achievement of the comfort in hot season.

The city of Kenadsa is characterized by long periods of overheating, where discomfort is strongly felt. Kenadsa is located in the south west of Algeria about 20km west of Bechar city and from 950km south west of Algiers, at the altitude of 806m. It lies at the bottom of a valley by a mountainous area, surrounded by a cliff called Barga which is composed of white rocks (silica sandstone) and fine sand in the north and the west, which offers an optimal protection against the harsh climate.



The 'Ksar' is accessible by a route called 'derb' which is presented in the form of a labyrinthine course, which indicates the dynamics of the course during displacement. This course which is a long narrow street is shaded during the day, except when the sun is high in the sky.

The house, known under the terminology of 'dar', is the house of the family where several families having their parental relations cohabit. It consists of three elements: 'bab' (entry door), 'skifa' (central space) and 'bit' (room).

The general orientation of the house is towards the east. The questions of the orientation illustrate the convergence of the climatic, cultural and religious considerations. Moslem directs their prayers and thoughts through the direction of 'qibla' (means the direction towards Mecca). The houses were completely turning inward.

The walls that overlook the outside, particularly on the street 'derb', are blind. All openings of the rooms are towards the inner courtyard, while the windows are long and narrow. This shape is very effective to obscure the sunrays. A very thick wall made a significant shadow over the opening. There are generally small openings for ventilation situated on the wall opposite to the courtyard near the ceiling and which remain always open during the summer.

The exterior walls are made with stones and are 40cm in thickness, but the interior partition walls are composed of adobe (30cm), and the roof is in adobe of 17cm thickness with a wooden false ceiling of 4cm. The partition walls are in hollow perpend of 15cm, and the roof is in hollow blocks of 17cm. for each type of construction, the floor is on full ground in a concrete slab with a tiling of 2cm.

The new houses built during these last decades in Algeria, particularly in the south, called modern construction, are high-energy consumer and are completely not adapted to the hot climate. Indeed, the high demand of housing combined with the economic management of the public authorities made that the qualitative aspect of the built houses was sacrificed to the profit of the quantitative aspect to solve the enormous deficit in housing. It was urgent to find immediate solutions, resulting in the importance of new housing models, completely unsuitable for the climatic, cultural and social contexts of the region.





1. What type this text is?
2. How many paragraphs are there in the text?
3. What is the theme of the text?
4. Give synonyms of these words taken from the text.  
a. vernacular-                                      b. optimal-                                      c. harsh-
5. Give antonyms of these words taken from the text.  
a. narrow≠                                      b. traditional≠                                      c. convergence≠
6. What does the author mean in the following expressions?  
a. 'The city of Kenadsa is characterized by long periods of overheating where discomfort is strongly felt...'  
b. 'The walls are blind...'  
c. 'The convergence of the climatic, cultural and religious considerations...'  
d. 'The qualitative aspect of the built houses was sacrificed to the profit of the quantitative aspect to solve the enormous deficit in housing...'
7. According to the text; are these statements correct, false, or not mentioned.  
a. 'hawsh' is located at the middle of the house.  
b. Nowadays, we are building new and suitable houses in Algeria.  
c. The city of Al-Qunadsa rises above sea level
8. Complete the chart as shown in the example.

	Verb	Noun	Adjective
Example	to educate	education	educational
			qualitative
		knowledge	
	to cohabit		

9. Join the two clauses using the conjunction between parenthesis.
- a. Bechar is not a coastal city. Ghilizane does not have a coast. (neither... nor)
  - b. The sahravian buildings still are cold. The southern houses are very old. (but)
  - c. The vernacular architecture is influenced by hot weather. Religious considerations affect this architecture. (both)
10. Divide the following words into roots and affixes. completely, unsuitable, architectural, generally.

Root	Suffix	Prefix

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