OPTION B: Malala

“Dear brothers and sisters of the United Nations Youth Assembly, I am Malala Yousafzai, I am sixteen and I was shot on the left side of my forehead on October 9, 2012 by the Taliban. I am just one girl out of thousands of people who have been injured or killed by terrorists because they are frightened of the power of education: they are afraid of books and pens, and they fear the power of the voice of female teachers. This is why terrorists kill innocent students. I remember a boy in our school who was asked by a journalist: ‘Why are the Taliban against education?’ He answered very simply by pointing to his book, and said: ‘A Taliban doesn’t know what is written inside this book.’

So I speak not only for myself, but also for all those without a voice. I want them to be heard. I am here to speak for the right to education for every child, even for the sons and daughters of the Taliban. Dear brothers and sisters, we must not forget that millions of people are suffering from poverty and injustice and ignorance. We must not forget that millions of children are out of their schools. We must not forget that our sisters and brothers are expecting for a bright, peaceful future.

Today, we call upon the world leaders and all governments to ensure free, compulsory education all over the world for every child, no matter their caste, creed, sect, colour or religion. Let us fight against illiteracy, poverty and terrorism, let us pick up our books and our pens. Education is the most powerful weapon, and the only solution to change the world.”

I * COMPREHENSION (4 points: questions 1-3, 1 point each; 4-5, 0.5 points each)
ANSWER QUESTIONS 1-3 ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE TEXT. USE YOUR OWN WORDS.
1. Why do terrorists murder students?
2. What did the boy mean when he said: “A Taliban doesn’t know what is written inside this book”?
3. What is Malala asking the United Nations leaders to do?

ARE THESE STATEMENTS TRUE OR FALSE? JUSTIFY YOUR ANSWERS WITH THE PRECISE WORDS OR PHRASES FROM THE TEXT, OR USE YOUR OWN WORDS.
4. Malala is the only person who has been shot by terrorists.
5. Malala defends the right to education for everyone.

II * USE OF ENGLISH (3 POINTS; QUESTIONS 6-9, 0.25 POINTS EACH; 10-13, 0.5 POINTS EACH)

6. FIND IN THE TEXT ONE SYNONYM FOR “obligatory” (adjective).
7. GIVE ONE OPPOSITE FOR “forget” (verb) AS IT IS USED IN THE TEXT (line 9).
8. FIND IN THE TEXT THE WORD WHICH HAS THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: “any object used in fighting or war, such as a gun, bomb or a knife”
9. FILL IN THE GAP WITH THE CORRECT PREPOSITION: “We must not forget the people who are suffering ..., poverty and injustice and ignorance”. (to / of / about / from)
10. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO REPORTED SPEECH: A reporter asked the boy: “Why are the Taliban against education?”
11. TURN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE INTO THE ACTIVE VOICE: “Dinner was being cooked when we arrived.”
12. GIVE A QUESTION FOR THE UNDERLINED WORDS: “Extremists are afraid of books and pens.”
13. JOIN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING A RELATIVE. MAKE CHANGES IF NECESSARY. There are millions of children in developing countries. They have the same right to education as the rest of us.

III * PRODUCTION (3 points)
14. WRITE A COMPOSITION OF APPROXIMATELY 120 WORDS ABOUT THE TOPIC PROPOSED. YOU MUST FOCUS STRICTLY ON IT:

Would you like to take part in the Erasmus Programme in the future? Give reasons.