

#### 4) Example of a protest song

##### A- THE CONTEXT - Read the text and answer the questions



#### **The Freedom Riders**

Freedom Riders were civil rights activists who rode Greyhound buses<sup>1</sup> into the southern United States to defy segregation with non-violence. Singing helped the Freedom Riders in the face of great danger, as they entered the city of Jackson, Mississippi.

In Jackson, the Freedom Riders were arrested and jailed<sup>2</sup> : "The prison officials wanted us to stop singing, because they were afraid our spirit would become contagious and the other prisoners would become Freedom Riders as a result of our singing." The guards threatened<sup>3</sup> to take away<sup>4</sup> the mattresses<sup>5</sup> - their only luxury in a steel cell<sup>6</sup> - if they continued to sing.

One Freedom Rider called for the guards and said: '*Come get my mattress. I'll keep my soul*<sup>7</sup>.' And everybody started singing, « *Ain't gonna let nobody turn me round, turn me round, turn me round...* »

"They came in and took the mattresses away and people sang as they had never sung before. We thought we were winning the battle (...)"

<sup>1</sup> Ride a bus = voyager en bus

<sup>2</sup> Jailed = sent to prison

<sup>3</sup> Threaten to : menacer de

<sup>4</sup> Take away : enlever, confisquer

<sup>5</sup> Mattress(es) : matelas

<sup>6</sup> Steel cell : cellule d'acier

<sup>7</sup> I'll keep my soul : je garderai mon âme

Read the text again and tick the right answer (Sometimes, there may be 2 right answers )

1- The freedom Riders were...

People who fought against segregation

People who fought for civil rights

People who fought against a bus company

2- They were ...

Violent people

Non-violent people

3- They sang songs :

To give them strength and courage in dangerous situation

To insult their enemies

Because they loved singing

4- When they were arrested,

the prison officers didn't want the Freedom Riders to sing

Because they didn't like their songs

Because they didn't want other prisoners to join their cause

Because singing was not allowed in prison

5- The prison officers

Took away their mattresses to make them stop singing

Beat them to make them stop singing

Started singing with them

6- Who sang the song « Ain't gonna let nobody turn me round »

The freedom riders

The prison officers

The other prisoners

B- The protest song  
- complete the script and the lyrics -

**Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Round**

**Songwriter:** Traditional, adapted by the Albany Movement

**Performed by:** The Freedom Singers at the White House on the 14th of January 2014

Listen to the song and use the words below to complete the script.

segregation

injunction

the people

Struggle

the leaders

movement

Introduction by one of the singer :

In 1962 in my hometown, we were engaged in a very intense □

against racial □ and there were mass jailing.

At one point a federal judge issued an injunction with names on it of

□ (whom) they thought were □ of the □

Reverend Samuel Wells was in Shiloh Baptist church that night and

he said : « I'm not going to let no □ turn me around »

Listen to the song and choose the right words.

[Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around  
Turn me around, turn me around  
Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around  
I'm gonna keep on walkin', keep on talkin'  
Marchin' down to freedom land]

Ain't gonna let ..... turn me around

[...]

Ain't gonna let ..... turn me around

[...]

Ain't gonna let ..... turn me around