Figure W8.4: Sample Treatment of Different Needs for Moroccan

الثقافة: التعليم في بلدان شمال إفريقيا

In North African countries such as Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, one of the most visible legacies of French colonialism is in the educational system. Like elsewhere in the Arab world, most students in North Africa attend a primary, middle, and high school. At the end of high school, all students must pass a lengthy, comprehensive exam known as الباك in order to graduate and continue on to college. This test is similar to الثانوية العامّة in the eastern Arabic-speaking world, and students feel much of the same pressure to perform well on it. Students who succeed at الباك can choose to continue their education at university, لافاك, where one must complete a 3-year program to obtain the equivalent of a Bachelor's Degree, الليصانص.

In *maghribi*, two terms are used in order to differentiate K-12 students from university students. The same terms are found in the formal variety:

المعنى	🔊 المغربية	🔊 الفصحى
student (university)?	طالِب/ة ج. طَلَبة	طالِب/ة ج. طُلاب، طَلَبة
student (K-12)	تلميذ/ة ج. تلامد	تَلميذ/ة ج. تَلاميذ

Meanwhile, a large number of educational terms are taken directly from French. While they can sometimes be used interchangeably with their formal counterparts, these French-origin words are fully part of North African Arabic and a sign of the lasting impact of French policy on the educational system. Learn the terms below and take note of how they have been adapted into Arabic:

المعنى	🔊 المغربية	الفرنسية
university, college	لافاك	la faculté (la fac)
undergraduate degree	الليصانص	la licence
high school	الليسي	le lycée
qualifying exam at end of high school	الباك	le baccalauréat (le bac)
middle school	الكوليج	collège