

## Women at the Top

### Exercise :

*1- Make a list of women who are leaders in different fields ( arts, sports, music, science, politics,..)*

*2- complete the following chart with information from the four texts.*

### **angela merkel**

merkel, born as angela dorothea in hamburg. Is chancellor of Germany. As chairwoman of her party. She leads a big coalition with other parties formed after the 2005 federal election. Merkel is the first female chancellor of Germany. The first former citizen of the Germany democratic republic to lead the reunited Germany and the first woman to lead Germany since it became a modern nation-state in 1871. she is also. As of 2006. the youngest person to be chancellor since the second world war merkel was considered by the forbes magazine to be the most powerful woman in the world, and is the third woman to in the world. And is the third woman to chair a G8 summit after Margaret Thatcher.

### **Nawal El Moutawakel**

Nawal El Moutawakel ( born on april 15, 1962 in Casablanca ) is a Moroccan athlete, who won the inaugural women's 400 m hurdles event at the 1984 summer Olympic, thereby becoming the first muslim and African female Olympic champion. His majesty the king declared that all girls born the day of her victory were to be named in her honour. Her medal also meant also meant the breakthrough for sporting women in morocco and other muslim countries. In 1995, she became a council member of the international amateur athletic federation, and in 1998 she became a member of the international Olympic committee. When she returned to morocco in 1989, she was appointed inspector at the ministry of sport and she became the national sprint and hurdle coach for both men and women. In 1997 she became secretary of state for sport and youth.

### **Shirin Ebadi**

Shirin, born in 1947 in Hamadan, Iran, is a human rights and democracy activist. She is a lawyer, who was awarded 2003's Nobel Peace Prize for her work promoting the rights of women and children in her country. She is the first Iranian and first Muslim woman to receive the prize. Ebadi received a law degree from the University of Tehran and became the first female judge in Iran. She has taken a number of controversial cases including human rights, journalistic freedom. And child abuse. Among other accomplishments, Ebadi is co-founder and president of the Human Rights Defence Centre. Ebadi campaigns for peaceful solutions to social problems. She has displayed great personal courage as a lawyer defending individuals and groups of people whose rights have been violated here and there.

### **Margaret Thatcher**

Margaret Hilda Thatcher was born on October 13, 1925. She was former prime minister of the United Kingdom from 1979 to 1990. She was leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 until 1990. She was the only woman to have held the office of prime minister of the United Kingdom. Thatcher was the longest-serving British prime minister and was the first woman to lead a major political party in the UK.

Thatcher was educated at the local grammar school and Oxford where she studied chemistry. She graduated with a degree and worked as a research chemist to help methods for preserving ice cream. She also became president of university conservative association.

Thatcher's first two years in office were not easy. Unemployment was very high, but the economy gradually showed improvement. She brought more of her supporters into the cabinet, and increased her reputation by leading the country to war against Argentina in the Falkland Islands.

One great difficulty during her time in office was the issue of Europe. Her long-serving foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe resigned in November 1990 in protest at Thatcher's attitude to Europe. His resignation speech started events which led to Thatcher's downfall later that month.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position/responsibility</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Achievements/ and / or awards</i>
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....

**3- Read the texts again and answer the following questions.**

- a. Who is concerned with human rights?
- b. Who was interested in politics?
- c. Who excelled in sport and served as a government official?
- d. Which woman has attracted your attention most and why?
- e. Who has achieved the highest position?

**4- work with your partners and correct the following statements. When you finish, go back to the texts and check your corrections**

- a. Angela Merkel was the first woman who participated in the summit of the G8.
- b. Nawal EL Moutawakel was a coach before becoming an inspector at the ministry of education.
- c. Shirin Ebadi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advocating democracy in Iran.
- d. Thatcher's downfall was due to the war against Argentina.

**have your say**

**5-Look carefully at the graph and discuss the questions.**

- a. Who wins Oscars more? (Men or women, elder or younger?)
- b. Why do you think so?