

UNIVERSITE OUAGA I Pr Joseph KI-ZERBO

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EPREUVE ECRITE D'ANGLAIS

Cette épreuve comporte deux (2) pages

Emergence in West Africa

The West African region is an extension of the same fragmentations that characterize the African continent. It is made up of countries whose domestic markets are too small to achieve the economies of scale that could allow them to have a robust and equitable growth likely to create sustainable jobs. Under these conditions, regional economic integration, which promotes free movement of goods, services, persons and capital between national markets, is essential for growth and job creation. It can be multidimensional to policy coordination, the harmonization of infrastructure development, environmental management, and reform in other fields such as governance, peace defense and security.

In this regard, the 2020 vision of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) aims to "create a borderless, peaceful, prosperous and cohesive vision". The pillars of the regional strategic plan derived from this vision which includes deepening economic and monetary integration and strengthening mechanisms for integration into the global market. These objectives can be made possible in the sense that countries of that community share and embody any single vision of ECOWAS. Though a lot of actions have been carried out to fully implement this global vision which consists in respecting its constitution, each peace agreement during wars or conflicts and being ready to share the ideology of regional integration in the perspective of global development, some challenges still remain.

Despite the wide range of opportunities offered by ECOWAS' single market and the constitutional progress achieved in terms of regional integration, there are persistent fences that severely limit the benefits that countries could derive from regional integration to boost their competitiveness. The instability that has prevailed on several West African countries for many years and its socio-economic consequences (destruction of socio economic infrastructure, destruction of capacities, loss of professionals etc.) have negatively impacted regional integration within the West African region.

Adapted from Summary Report by African Development Bank, 2014

A. Guided Commentary

- 1) According to the text, what characterizes ECOWAS countries? (2 points)
- 2) Referring to the text, what promotes growth and job creation? (3 points)
- 3) From the text, state three (3) reasons that can constitute obstacles to regional integration. (3 points)
- 4) What does the free movement of goods and persons imply in the context of ECOWAS, according to the text? (3 points)
- 5) Using your own words, explain the following assertion from the text: "there are persistent fences that severely limit the benefits that countries could get from regional integration to boost their competitiveness". (3 points)

B. Essay: (6 points)

In your opinion, how can regional integration, in terms of free movement of persons and goods, help to promote the development of your country? Justify your answer in ten to fifteen lines maximum.
