

UNIVERSITE OUAGA I Pr Joseph KI-ZERBO
Office du Baccalauréat

Séries A4-A5
Langue Vivante 1

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Epreuve du 1^{er} tour
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EPREUVE ECRITE D'ANGLAIS
Langue Vivante 1

Cette épreuve comporte deux (2) pages

Africa and Corruption

To pay, or not to pay? Sooner or later almost every one doing business in Africa faces the question. For many, the first demand for a corrupt payment comes from an airport official seeking a "Christmas present" in the middle of June. In other cases the extortionist is a policeman offering a fine for an imaginary traffic offence. At the upper end of the financial scale, the demand may come from a minister seeking a million-dollar kickback. Can you afford to refuse?

Many old business partners in Africa argue that bribery is just part of doing business in the region. In some cases you can negotiate. Payments can be disguised by employing an agent or another intermediary. But, one way or another, you end up paying. Corruption is widely spread – they say – and will not change.

At first sight such cynicism may seem amply justified. Corruption – generally defined as the abuse of public position for private or sectional gain – flourishes most where politicians and officials exercise power without accountability. (...) The use of political patronage to benefit a small number of presidential followers is all too commonplace. The written law may prohibit bribery, but everyday procedures are often different, and businesses are caught in the middle.

Corruption is scarcely a purely African phenomenon and it is simplistic to say that it is just "part of culture". Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo points out that there are many differences between 'gifts' and 'bribe': "In the African context of appreciation and hospitality, a gift is a token: it is not demanded. The value is in the spirit of giving, not the material worth. The gift is made in the open, never in secret. Where a gift is excessive it becomes an embarrassment, and is returned."

At the popular level, the common reaction for corruption is often one of resignation – people have to get on with their lives. But, just as often, this is accompanied by a deep sense of anger directed at corrupt leaders and – by extension – the commercial interest that sustain them (...). Corruption may be built into political fabric of many African administrations, but pressure for reform is building up on several different fronts.

Long-term business success depends on sustainable relationships built on trust, not bribes. None of this is easy, but the ultimate question for business in Africa is not whether to pay. The real challenge is to find ways of becoming part of the solution to the corruption issue, not part of the problem.

Adapted from Business in Africa, by John Bray, June 1999.

Vocabulary

A kickback: A clandestine payment in return for a favour

I. Guided commentary (9 points)

- 1) Referring to the text, say what corruption is. (2 points)
- 2) Basing on the text, give at least three (3) examples of corruption (3 points)
- 3) Find at least three ways people react to corruption, according to the text. (4 points)

II. Short Essay (5 points)

For you, what can be the negative impacts of corruption on the development of a country? (About 100 words)

III. Translation (6 points)

Translate into French from "Long term business...." down to..." not part of the problem."
