

**LANGUE VIVANTE I****Epreuve du 2^{eme} groupe****A N G L A I S****POLITICAL PARTY FINANCE IN AFRICA**

Corruption related to political party funding poses one of the greatest threats to democratic and economic development worldwide. Corrupt election finance practices compromise the greatest asset of democracy: the faith and support of ordinary citizens in the political system. Opaque finances and undemocratic decision-making discourage participation in political parties and encourage cynicism about the prospects for reform.

Over the past three decades, the issue of party finance and political corruption has gained increased international attention, and a variety of officials and activists around the world have begun to address **the problem** through public awareness campaigns, legislative initiatives, reporting requirements, and spending limits. While these solutions have addressed some of the problems, implementation often depends on a sophisticated and well-funded spectrum of laws, enforcement regimes and political will to change – a combination of factors not easily found in most countries. African political systems remain fragile. Political corruption further undermines these weak systems, erodes the confidence of citizens, and threatens political stability in many countries.

Developing solutions requires an understanding of how money corrupts politics, which differs from country to country. Party finance in Africa is impacted by a number of political and social factors, including the post-colonial political history of most African countries; the cultural practices of patronage and gift giving in many countries; political constituencies based on tribal, ethnic and regional interests, rather than on ideology; and weak political organizations. African political parties are weighted with historical, cultural, and economic handicaps. While multiparty democracy has fostered the development of civic and political rights, it has demonstrated only limited effectiveness in confronting the continent's economic and social problems.

Following the independence movement of the early 1960s, most countries in Africa evolved into one-party states that blurred the line between the nation and government. This led to a situation in impoverished countries wherein relatively wealthy ruling parties used state resources to buy political support. At the same time, a majority of African opposition parties or political movements representing alternative ideas were repressed, marginalized, or forced into exile, leaving them with few resources, no access to constituents, and weak organizational structures. As one-party states gave way to multi-party systems in the early 1990s, the disparity between ruling and opposition party resources was significant, and in most cases remains so to this day.

Recent appeals by civic activists and some political leaders for political party finance regulations and anti-corruption measures indicate a need to further balance the democratic playing field to ensure fair competition. Although there is a growing awareness about the problems of party financing in Africa, solutions have not fully emerged. **This** is due in part to the fact that little empirical data exists to help understand the complexities of party financing in developing democracies. Approaches to impose legal restrictions on spending, reporting requirements on fundraising and campaign spending, and public funding for parties have failed because most African parties have insufficient capacity to comply with such regulations. At the same time, government agencies lack the ability to enforce laws and regulations.

https://www.ndi.org/files/1848_polpart_moneyinpolitics_010105_full_text.pdf

Money in Politics, a study of Party Financing Practices in 22 countries

Edited By Shari Bryan & Denise Baer

LANGUE VIVANTE I

I. READING COMPREHENSION (08 marks)

A. Find in the indicated paragraphs words that are similar in meaning to the ones in brackets. (0.5 x 3 = 1.5 marks)

Nowadays, people tend to turn their backs on elections. The reason is the misconduct of political leaders (gradually damages) = 1) (parag. 2) citizens' faith in them. The massive corruption in which they are involved and the fact of not respecting their commitments have (contributed to) = 2) (parag. 3) lack of sense of civic responsibility. Some years ago, their attitude (made less distinct) = 3) (parag. 4) the interests of the party and the state. And today things have worsened.

B. Fill in the following tables with information from the text. (02 marks)

Table 1: List two (2) factors that influence political parties financing: (0.5 x 2 = 1 mark)

4)
5)

Table 2: List two (2) attitudes of governing parties towards opposition ones: (0.5 X 2 = 1 mark)

6)
7)

C. Are the following statements True or False? Justify by quoting relevant passages from the text. (1 x 2 = 02 marks)

- 8) Foreign countries totally ignore the problem of political parties finance in Africa T/F.....
.....
- 9) Multi-party systems have always existed in Africa. T/F.....
.....

D. Who or what do the words in bold refer to in the text? (0.5 x 2 = 1 mark)

- 10) **the problem** (parag. 3).....
- 11) **This** (parag. 5).....

E. Are the following statements facts or opinions? Tick out (V) the right column. (0.5 x 3 = 1.5 marks)

Statements	Facts	Opinions
12) Corruption related to political party funding poses one the greatest threats to democratic and economic development.		
13) Recent appeals indicate a need to further balance the democratic playing field to ensure fair competition.		
14) Government agencies lack the ability to enforce laws and regulations.		

II. LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE

(06 marks)

F. Complete the passage below by putting the verbs between brackets in the right tense or form. (0.5 x 3 = 1.5 marks)

In recent years, international donors 15) (to provide) support for political parties in developing countries as a means to promote democracy and good governance. This support 16) (really / to appreciate) by politicians who often face financial problems. In this perspective, international donors would rather these politicians 17) (to match) their words to their actions instead of making promises only.

G. Complete with the right preposition

(0.5 x 2 = 1 mark)

at / on / from / in / for

Most opposition parties in Africa lack a sound and robust fundraising strategy. Lack of financial contributions 18) political party membership is mostly a result of the debilitating poverty levels swirling within the majority of active political supporters. The over-reliance 19) money from the treasury has left many opposition parties weak.

H. A group of friends around the tea pot are having a discussion about political parties funding. Complete their dialogue meaningfully. (0.5 x 3 = 1.5 marks)

Badou : Hey guys, where do you think our political parties take their funds from ?

Nogaye : I think their members contribute yearly.

Badou : Really? I think 20) from international donors and it's a good thing.

Niowy : What? I don't 21) you, man. For me, it's dirty money coming from insane transactions.

Badou : Hmm, you're right! We should be careful about political leaders.

Nogaye : There are too many political parties. Funding them all will be very difficult.

Niowy : If I were the president, 22) I (not to allow) so many political parties.

I. React meaningfully to the following situations by using the words or phrases given. (1 x 2 = 2 marks)

Situation 1: It's a pity the attitude of some political leaders undermine Africa's development.

Reaction: 23) I wish

Situation 2: Some African heads of state usually change their constitutions to maintain themselves in power.

Reaction: 24) I do believe citizens shouldn't

III. WRITING: Choose ONE topic and write about 150-200 words.

(06 marks)

TOPIC 1: Today, there are many political parties in our country. Write an article in which you underline the main causes of this phenomenon, its drawbacks and try to suggest some solutions to limit political parties.

TOPIC 2: In Africa, once they are elected, many political leaders tend to forget their promises. Adiouma, a committed citizen, writes a letter to an influential politician to denounce this fact and insist on what is expected from political leaders.