



ANGLAIS

No scramble for Africa's riches has reached further and faster than the explosion of mobile phones. Their impact on governments, business and civil society has been a powerful force for change in Africa.

Barely ten years ago, mobile phones changed hands not the continent for US\$1,000 each. The handsets were cumbersome, call charges astronomical, and the networks tiny- often reaching no further than the suburbs of capital cities.

. In the last days of the Zairean dictator Mobutu SeSe Seko, the number of clunky "Telecells" displayed on an official's coffee table was a sure measure of wealth and power: the ultimate rich man's toy.

Today, the largest and fastest growing segment of the mobile phone market is for pre-paid services. The typical mobile user is more likely to be a market trader, taxi driver or street hawker than a plutocrat. Far from being a prestige **trinket**, the tally of mobile connections has long since outnumbered the fixed lines installed over four decades by traditional state telephone companies.

This transformation owes much to the advent of GSM, the 'global standard for mobiles', a digital technology which supports pre-paid services. A choice of payment methods has brought the mobile within reach of people who survive outside the formal economy, often without bank accounts or credits records. Even sales of beer - a useful index of ordinary Africans' spending power- have fallen as the poor spend more of their disposable income on telephone calls.

Like earlier rushes for oil, gold and diamonds, the boom has made new fortunes for a handful of entrepreneurs. Unlike so much of Africa's old wealth, however, profits depend on delivering real benefits to the public. "If Africa is going to succeed as we're all hoping it will do this time", says Charles Wereko - Brobby, a Ghanaian politician, "a large part of that success is going to come from the liberating impact of telecommunications."

The key to success is scale. Big networks cost big money, which in turn compels companies to pursue every last customer, a powerful incentive to drive down call charges faster than their rivals. Where the first generations of analogue networks were funded with borrowed money, often at exorbitant rates of interest, today's networks are being built by multinationals with deep pockets.

BBC Focus on Africa Magazine
January to March 2004.
Vol 15 N° 1 Page 19

Note

1. Scramble : ascension difficile, lutte
2. Trinket : petit bijou

Epreuve du 1^{er} groupe

I / READING COMPREHENSION (08 points)

A. Which is the most suitable title for the text? (0.5 mark)

- a) Astronomical call charges
- b) Mobile phone connections in favor of the poor.
- c) Mobile revolution.
- d) Information Technology in Africa.

B. Say whether the following statements are true or false 03 marks =(0.5 x 6)

Justify your answer by quoting the text.

1. I Mobile phones have contributed to bring about changes in Africa.
2. About ten years ago, anybody could buy a cell phone.
3. In the last days of Mobutu’s life, owing a mobile phone was both a sign of wealth and power.
4. Ordinary Africans are now spending much more money on beer than on telephone calls.
5. The mobile phone market constitutes a lucrative business for very few entrepreneurs.
6. No matter how small the size of the network is it will succeed.

C. Find in the text words meaning the same as. 0.5 mark = (0.25 x 2)

- a) Very expensive
- b) Size

D Word formation: 3 marks = (0.5 x 6)

Complete the following chart.

Verb	Adjective	Noun
a).....	competition
b) Explode
c).....	Dead

E Fill in this chart by comparing the first generation of mobile phones to the latest. 01mark = (0.25 x 4)

Mobile phones ten years ago	Mobile phones today
1	Big networks
2. Mobile user : a plutocrat	Mobile user: a/..... b/
3. call charges :	Call charges : rather cheap

II LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE

(06 Marks)

1/ Ask questions corresponding to the underlined words

02 marks =(0.5 x 4)

- a) Kisanguani is about 2.000 kilometers from Kinshasa, and was isolated during the five year war.
- b) Sahra flew to the big city to buy a new handset.
- c) The play last two hours.
- d) Salif missed the bus because he overslept.

2/ Choose the best item (a, b, or c) to complete the following sentences

01 mark =(0.25 x 4)

- e) It was Sunday morning a. therefore most shops were closed.
b. since
c. though
- f). They will drive back home a. though their work is over.
b. while
c. When.
- g) This trader has been selling cell phones a. for he left school ten months ago.
b. since
c. till
- h) a. How long does it take you to fly from Dakar to Rome? About five hours?
b. How much
c. How often

3/ Rewrite the following sentences using the proposed prompts

03 marks =(01 x 3)

- a) “The first generation of mobile operators were really buccaneers”, said William Butcher.
 - William butcher said
- b) They are advertising a new generation of TV sets.
 A new generation of TV sets.....
- c) We ought to sponsor this institution.
 - This institution is worth.....
- d) They didn’t go to a restaurant, they ate a sandwich.
 - Instead of

III ESSAY

(06 Marks)

Choose one of following topics (150-200 words)

- 1. How far has the use of mobile phones changed people’s lives in Africa?
- 2. Write out a dialogue in which you try to convince a busy and wealthy friend of yours to buy a mobile phone.