



**LANGUE VIVANTE I**

**Épreuve du 1<sup>er</sup> groupe**

**ANGLAIS**

Agriculture has the greatest potential to lift the African continent out of poverty and alleviate hunger, but the sector has struggled to perform in recent history, with reforms happening excruciatingly slowly. According to the World Bank, agriculture contributes 32% to Africa's GDP and provides employment to 65% of the labour force on the continent. In fact, in many countries in Africa, up to 85% of the workforce is employed in the agricultural sector. Furthermore, an estimated 38 % of Africa's working youth is presently employed in the agricultural sector. Despite **these numbers**, African soil remains greatly underutilised and the continent still imports a substantial deal of its food needs. According to Trade Map, African countries imported about US\$94 billion worth of agricultural products during 2013, compared to exports amounting to about US\$60 billion. In addition to the significant labour resources as yet untapped, Africa is home to millions of hectares of unexploited arable land. It is estimated that 60 % of the world's available and unexploited cropland is in sub-Saharan Africa. Furthermore, only between 5 % and 7% of the continent's cultivated land is irrigated, which leaves farmers exposed to the elements.

Given the nature of African agriculture, where a large proportion of farmers are smallholders or subsistence-based, it is essential to invest in and develop accessibility to quality inputs, markets for produce, good soils and soil management techniques, innovative finance tools and other resources needed for sustained agricultural production. Moreover, the lion's share of African farmers use non-modern techniques in their production process and this limits their productivity, while the lack of irrigation leaves them exceedingly vulnerable to weather shocks and often lacking adequate inputs, efficient markets and the necessary technology to ramp up production to levels beyond personal use.

The key drivers which could see the African agricultural sector shift to a higher growth trajectory are all rooted in government policy. With subsistence and small scale farming forming the bulk of agricultural activities on the continent, the provision of co-operative structures, financial backing, stable markets, improved infrastructure and knowledge sharing initiatives all stem from government and organisational structures on all levels. Unfortunately, there is not one blueprint that fits all the regions on the continent and some countries have fared better than others in this regard. Government and multilateral organisations need to focus on spreading skills and knowledge, increasing fertiliser use, increasing the availability of financing, implementing technologies to improve yields – including research into improved seed varieties – and improving infrastructure. If reforms are implemented efficiently, these focus areas will combine to lead to significant increases in yields in order for Africa to feed itself and ultimately lift a large proportion of the population out of extreme poverty.

Overall policy development and specifically implementation in the agricultural sector has been disappointing over recent years and in fact has shown some signs of going backward in respect of measurable outcomes. In fact, the UN estimates that sub-Saharan Africa has the highest prevalence of undernourishment in the world, with only modest progress in recent years. **The organisation** estimates that around one in four people in the region remains undernourished.

It seems clear that overall policy direction and specifically mechanisms for policy implementation regarding agriculture in Africa requires a major overhaul. The concepts at the top level are necessary and even visionary but they are simply too grand, too big, unmanageable and unfunded. At the other end the initiatives and interventions are too small and too limited. It seems most governments continue to ignore the potential of agriculture to alleviate poverty and improve overall quality of life.

*<http://www.kpmg.com/social media>*

**I. COMPREHENSION: 08 marks**

**A. Fill in the gaps in the passage below with adequate words taken from the indicated paragraphs (02 marks)**

The 2016 Summit on Food Production held in Dublin was a great opportunity for African decision-makers to meet world specialists of economics and discuss the best (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (parag.1) that could lead to improved food productivity and sustainable development in the continent. Considering the complexity of generalizing a fully mechanized agriculture in Africa, the meeting was partly convened to meet the needs of small-scale (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (parag.2) who ensure household subsistence. The measures proposed during the talks are expected not only to increase productivity on family exploitations, but also to boost economic (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (parag.3) in all participant countries. The final declaration of the summit assumes that at worst, in the short term, Africans can put an end to (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (parag.4) throughout the continent and thus save millions of lives, even if food self-sufficiency may take more time.

**B. Complete the chart below with information from the indicated paragraphs. (02 marks)**

| Main issue raised in the text | Two obstacles to productivity in Africa's agriculture (parag.1) | Two of the major areas which can advance Africa's agriculture. (parag.3) |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Agriculture in Africa         | 5. _____<br>6. _____  | 7. _____<br>8. _____   |

**C. Identify passages of the text that are opposed in meaning to the following. (01 mark)**

9. African farmers cannot generate prosperity on their own land.

☞ *Opposite passage:* \_\_\_\_\_

10. African rulers are highly conscious that agriculture can reduce poverty.

☞ *Opposite passage:* \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Based on paragraphs 3 and 4, complete these two statements (11. and 12.) with option a, b or c below. Then justify your choice with a relevant passage from those paragraphs. (02marks)**

11. The latest measures taken in the management of African agriculture have been \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. a failure                       b. a complete success                       c. moderately welcome

*Justification:* \_\_\_\_\_

12. The most significant party in determining the nature of agriculture in Africa is \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. governments                       b. organizations                       c. African farmers

*Justification:* \_\_\_\_\_

**E. What do the following phrases refer to? (01 mark)**

13. These numbers (Line 6): \_\_\_\_\_

14. The organisation (Line 35): \_\_\_\_\_

II. LINGUISTIC and COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE: 06 marks

F. The Parliament is auditioning the Minister in charge of agriculture. Complete meaningfully this transcript of his polemic exchange with an MP from an Opposition party. (02 marks)

MP: Thank you very much Mister Chairman, for giving me the floor... at last. I hope our dear minister will be willing to answer my questions today, without getting in a temper as he did last time. To begin with, my fellow militants and I have gathered verified information which suggests that foreign investors now hesitate to put their money in the Senegalese agricultural sector, correct?

Minister: (15) Honorable MP, \_\_\_\_\_!  
That's untrue! There is much more investment in Senegal than in any other West African country.

MP: What evidence could you give us to reassure this assembly and the Senegalese people?

Minister: To restore the truth, foreign businesses have (16) \_\_\_\_\_ more than 10 billion in our agriculture over the past 5 years. I wonder where you got that information from but it's fake!

MP: Really! So, how come thousands of farmers are still complaining (17) \_\_\_\_\_ recurrent shortages of seeds and the absence of partners to fund the equipment they need so dearly?

Minister: Well, current statistics show that food production has considerably increased recently, which (18) \_\_\_\_\_ been impossible if investors had become doubtful of our economy.

MP: I'm not very satisfied with these answers but I wouldn't like to monopolize this session. Thanks.

Chairman: Thank you Honorable MP. Next speaker?

G. Two days after an interview with a government spokesperson, a journalist is reporting part of the interview. Complete his report with adequate prompts from the box below. (02 marks)

believe – wonder – suggest – wish

Spokesperson: "Agriculture in Africa is really flourishing now in many countries like mine. Let's shift food production in our land to a higher and sustainable growth trajectory."

Journalist: 19. The spokesperson \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

H. Fill in the blanks below with appropriate forms of the words in brackets. (02 marks)

What the African continent really needs is to call its farmers to adapt to the demands of a new world and era. It needs a modern, more competitive (20) \_\_\_\_\_ (*agriculture*) economy, one that is able to offer multiple-crop production options. Throughout the seasons of food growing, African farmers should engage in large-scale production of cereals and horticultural foodstuffs destined both for export and for (21) \_\_\_\_\_ (*consumer*) on the local markets. The continent's agronomists and researchers should set strategies to (22) \_\_\_\_\_ (*maximum*) the quality of the seeds African farmers use for a better competitiveness of their productions. This aspect has not been (23) \_\_\_\_\_ (*sufficiency*) covered either by governments or by donor countries.

III. WRITING: Choose ONE topic and write about 200 words on it. (06 marks)

**Topic 1:** You have just graduated from university but there are limited job opportunities in your homeland. One of your friends advises you in an email to go back to your village and work in the agricultural sector. Write back insisting on how you perceive the idea of becoming an ordinary cultivator after so many years of studies.

**Topic 2:** An engineer in Agriculture and a smallholding farmer are discussing the main problems encountered in traditional, old-fashioned food production techniques. Write down their conversation.

**ANSWER KEY****I. COMPREHENSION: 08 marks****A. Cloze Test (0.5 x 4 = 02 marks)**

1. reforms                      2.farmers                      3. growth                      4. undernourishment

**B. Chart Completion (0.5 x 4 = 02 marks)**

- 5.&6. Underutilization of African soil (L. 6-7); a large proportion of farmers ... subsistence-based (L. 14-15); African farmers use non-modern techniques (L.16) or any other correct answers  
7. financial backing              8. Stable markets/improved infrastructure/or any other correct answers.

**C. Finding Opposite Situations (0.5 x 2 = 01 mark)**

9. Agriculture has the greatest potential to lift the African continent out of poverty.  
10. Most governments continue to ignore the potential of agriculture to alleviate poverty.

**D. MCQ/Justifications (1 x 2 = 02 marks)**

11.  a. governments;      *Justification*: "The keys drivers which... all rooted in government policy."  
12.  a. a failure;      *Justification*: "Overall policy development and specifically...over recent years."

**E. Referencing (0.5 x 2 = 01 mark)**

13.              32 %; 65 %; 85 %; 38 %              14. the United Nations

**II. LINGUISTIC and COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE : 06 marks****F. Conversation Completion (0.5 x 4 = 02 marks)**

15. any coherent answer              16. invested (or an equivalent)              17. about  
18. would have

**G. Reported Speech (1 x 2 = 02 marks)**

19. The Official believed/believes that agriculture in Africa was really flourishing then/is really flourishing now in many countries like his.  
He suggested shifting food production in their land to a higher and sustainable growth trajectory.

**H. Word Derivation (0.5 x 4 = 02 marks)**

20. agricultural      21. consumption              22. maximize/maximise              23. sufficiently

**III. WRITING: 06 marks****N.B.: For the email and the conversation, consider the formats**

- Understanding                      **01 mark**
- Originality of ideas                      **01 mark**
- Accuracy                      **01 mark**
- Cohesion                      **01 mark**
- Relevance                      **01 mark**
- Consistency                      **01 mark**