

LANGUE VIVANTE IEpreuve du 1^{er} groupeANGLAISBUILDING CONFIDENCE

Big infrastructure projects are vital to Africa's long-term development. South Africa's newest port of Coega is a good example. In 2007, vessels will use this facility to ship manganese and other products from South Africa to China and the rest of the world. The authorities think the complex as a symbol of industrial Africa. "We need to develop infrastructures, we are not going to advance if we don't even have the roads to bring medicine to the rural areas," says a spokesman.

The call to construction is ringing out across Africa. Infrastructure is the new buzz word of leaders from South Africa's Thabo Mbeki to Senegal's Abdoulaye Wade. **It** is also a key topic in meetings where political and business leaders discuss how Africa's priority infrastructure projects can boost growth. Despite a commercial boom that pushed growth at 5 percent in Africa last year, the leaders want better infrastructures to win more business. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) an African initiative that aims to attract 64 billion dollars in investment by tackling bad governance, ending conflicts and making the continent more business-friendly, has put improved infrastructures near the top of **its** priority list. "There can be no meaningful development without trade", reads NEPAD's infrastructure action plan. "And there can be no trade without adequate and reliable infrastructures."

The need is as obvious as it is urgent. Africa's roads and railways lines, ports, and power grids are neither adequate nor reliable. Much of the continent's infrastructure is crumbling or non existent. The Democratic Republic of Congo is packed with timber or minerals, yet it has only a few thousands kilometers of paved roads. In other war-torn countries, public buildings have been destroyed by years of fighting. Corruption and mismanagement have left public structures in places inefficient.

The lack of infrastructures deters many companies from investing and drives up costs for **those** that do. To attract more investment, Africa has drawn up plans to spend billions over the next few decades. Some landlocked countries want to build new rail lines through neighboring states to improve their connections to the sea. The next decade may also see the completion of the Trans-Saharan Highway from Algeria to Nigeria. The West African Gas Pipeline will tap natural gas from the Nigerian oil fields. The most ambitious plan is for a massive dam on the Congo River that will produce enough electricity across the continent and export it to Asia and Europe.

Surprisingly the funds for new projects aren't lacking. Africa's richest countries are willing to build. Rich donor nations in the West help finance plans in poorer countries, as does the World Bank. Private infrastructure funds are also supplying capital. The problem is confidence. Financiers, private or public, need projects that they can rely on. Business leaders cite numerous hurdles to investment : corruption, political instability and governments' lack of capacity to run huge projects and **their** reluctance to hand over control of projects to the private sector.

Simon Robinson *Time*, June 2005.

LANGUE VIVANTE I

I. READING COMPREHENSION (8 marks)

A. What do the underlined words refer to ? (0.5 mark x 4 = 2)

- 1. it is also a key topic (paragraph 2) =
- 2. its priority list (paragraph 2) =
- 3. those that do (paragraph 4) =
- 4. their reluctance to hand over (paragraph 5) =

B. Write the number of the right paragraph in front of the following titles (0.5 marks x 5 = 2.5)

- 5. A concrete scheme for development :
- 6. In need of trust :
- 7. The need for infrastructures :
- 8. Some ambitious future projects :
- 9. A catastrophic state of affairs :

C. Circle True or False and quote a specific passage from the text to justify (0.5 mark x 3 = 1.5)

- 10. Building infrastructures is the only aim for NEPAD. T / F
.....
- 11. There cannot be economic growth with the existing infrastructures. T / F
.....
- 12. Money is not an obstacle to the development of infrastructures in Africa. T / F
.....

**D. Vocabulary in context :
Find in the text words similar in meaning to the ones below (0.5 mark x 2 = 1)**

- 13. dissuades = (paragraph 4) =
- 14. extract (paragraph 4) =

Find in the text words opposite to the ones below (0.5 mark x 2 = 1)

- 15. recession (paragraph 2) ≠
- 16. willingness (paragraph 5) ≠

II. LINGUISTIC COMPETENCE (6 marks)

E. Write the correct form of the words given to fill the blanks (0.25 marks x 4 = 1)

- 17. The African leaders aim to promote the.....of the continent's infrastructures. (improve)
- 18. The infrastructure question is the most.....item on this year's political agenda. (topic)
- 19. Many political leaders have now become.....because they often break their promises. (rely)
- 20. Very often, populations question the.....of their governments' policies. (adequate)

III COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE

F. React meaningfully and originally to the following situations, using the expressions below :

It is high time – Should have – If – Unless – Should. (0.5 mark x 4 = 2)

- 21. Situation : Poor public facilities
Reaction :

LANGUE VIVANTE I

Epreuve du 1^{er} groupe

22. Lack of adequate infrastructure

Reaction :
.....

23. Infrastructures have been ignored in the past

Reaction :
.....

24. The cost of infrastructures has increased considerably, compared to 20 years ago

Reaction :
.....

G. Complete this text with the appropriate tags or questions (0.5 mark x 4 = 2)

Journalist : It is just incredible ! Practically everything has been destroyed in here,
..... ?

25

Observer : Unfortunately yes !

Journalist : ?

26

Observer : They have been fighting since Colonel Costa came to power after a coup.

Journalist : But, ?

27

Observer : He claimed that his government was corrupt.

Journalist : And..... ?

28

Observer : No ! Nothing has improved. The situation has become worse instead.

Journalist : It's a pity. Everything is to be reconstructed. It will take years to get the country back on its feet !

H. Write the verbs below into the right forms and tenses (0.5 marks x 2 = 1)

29.The Democratic Republic of Congo will start exporting electricity as soon as the dam on the Congo (to complete)

30.Had they been given free rein, the business leaders.....a good deal of realizations. (to achieve)

IV. WRITING (6 marks)

Choose one topic and write 150 to 200 words on it

Topic 1 : "There can be no development without trade and no trade without adequate and reliable infrastructures". Comment on this assertion and give examples to illustrate your point.

Topic 2 : Write a letter to the Minister of Transportation, in which you complain of the bad conditions of the roads in your area, the negative consequences on economic activities, and make proposals for solutions.