



SESSION 2017**CLASSES DE PREMIÈRE****ANGLAIS**

Last week, while touring Dakar, Senegal's capital, President Obama touted his vision to reduce hunger in Africa. He emphasized food security, saying that far too many people on the continent endure poverty and chronic hunger while speaking of a "moral imperative" to rectify **this**. He also announced that Senegal had become the tenth country to join the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. This "alliance", however, has been fraught with controversy since its launch last year.

The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition is a partnership between the G-8, African governments and private companies including Monsanto, Syngenta, Cargill and Yara, a Norwegian nitrogen fertilizer company. **The Alliance** was launched by president Obama in May 2012 at Camp David to "support agricultural development" and aimed at "lifting 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa out of poverty over the next ten years".

Officially, the idea is to eradicate hunger by "unleashing the power of the private sector". African countries willing to participate in the partnership would receive hundreds of millions of dollars in donor assistance as well as promises from private companies to invest a few millions more in the development and "modernization" of their agriculture.

The initial New Alliance launched in Camp David included Tanzania, Ghana and Ethiopia. It was expected to expand to any other African country willing to join. Soon thereafter, these first countries were followed by Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso. Early June, at the G-8 summit organized by the U.K. in Northern Ireland, Nigeria, Benin and Malawi also joined, along with Senegal, making ten the total number of African countries now part of the partnership.

Developed countries giving some cash to modernize African agriculture and lift people out of poverty seems all very well and good; one might wonder why anyone would criticize or contest it. Yet in recent weeks, an increasing number of individuals, associations and NGOs have been sounding alarm about the program.

In May, a letter of protest signed by a range of African organizations and entitled "Modernizing African agriculture: who benefits?" was widely circulated, and the subsequent outcry has become deafening.

African civil society and NGOs harbor grave concerns regarding the approach of the New Alliance. First, the cash comes with some strings attached: African countries are required to adopt legislation that will improve the business climate, favor investors and open up their markets. This could threaten the self-determination and sovereignty of African states by leaving them at the mercy of investor agreements.

Second, the New Alliance aims at increasing the adoption of "improved" seed varieties, fertilizers and other technologies. Currently, small-scale farmers in Africa use open pollinated varieties of seeds which allow them to save and select the best seeds that are more resilient and appropriate to local conditions; yet, they now may find themselves obliged to use hybrid or genetically modified seeds, owned by companies that sell them and — since these are largely sterile seeds — cannot be saved and re-used, obliging the farmers to buy them again every season.

Third, the New Alliance is designed to facilitate the conversion of millions of hectares of land used for subsistence agriculture to industrial or commercial agriculture. This is based on the assumption that industrial agriculture will increase productivity and that an increased productivity will help fight hunger. But hunger and food shortage most of the time are not due to low productivity: there is enough food in the world to feed everyone. More often, the problem is getting the food to where people need it. In Tanzania, for example, researchers have linked food shortages to poor market access and weak distribution networks.

Evidence also suggests that a focus on large-scale, industrialized models of production can have a harmful impact, including severe soil degradation, the pollution of water as a result of the excessive use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, the concentration of land in the hands of large holders and the marginalization of small holders. The New alliance hence poses a risk that powerful national and multinational investors may capture the market and leave the poorest with depleted soil and water resources.

Magda Fashi,
Mintpress News, July 1, 2013.

<http://www.mintpressnews.com/obamas-plan-to-end-hunger-in-africa-is-really-a-plan-to-industrialize-agriculture/164631/>

I. COMPREHENSION: (16 marks)

A. Read the text and circle the letter corresponding to the right answer. (01 mark)

1. A good title for this text could be:

- a) *Senegal Joins the Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition;*
- b) *Ending Hunger through Agricultural Development;*
- c) *The G-8 and NGOs Fight Hunger and Poverty in Africa.*

2. According to the text...

- a) *Obama offers assistance to member countries of the Alliance;*
- b) *The Alliance plans to reduce poverty in the next two decades;*
- c) *Foreign investors support agricultural development throughout Africa.*

B. Find in the first 3 paragraphs 2 predicaments African countries are confronted with (01 mark)

- 3. _____
- 4. _____

C. List 3 advantages and 3 disadvantages of the New Alliance mentioned in the text. (03 marks)

Advantages

- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____

Disadvantages

- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____

D. Circle True or False and justify your choice by quoting a specific passage from the text. (03 marks)

11. The New Alliance is unanimously supported, NGOs excepted. **T/F**

12. Environmentalists fear that the New Alliance may have adverse effects on the environment. **T/F**

13. African small farmers become more vulnerable with the New Alliance. **T/F**

E. Complete meaningfully these statements. (03 marks)

14. Though the New Alliance may seem profitable to African countries _____

15. Food shortage is not mainly due to less productivity _____

16. The conditions imposed by donors to be accepted in the New Alliance are _____

F. Find in the text: (01 mark)

17. An equivalent of "endanger": _____

18. An antonym of "vulnerable": _____

G. What do the underlined words in bold refer to in the text? (01 mark)

19. this: _____

20. The Alliance: _____

H. Decide whether these statements are Opinions or Facts. Circle 'O' for Opinions or 'F' for Facts. (02 marks)

21. This "alliance", however, has been ... since its launch last year. (*parag.1*) **O/F**

22. Developed countries giving ... seems all very well and good. (*parag.5*) **O/F**

23. Industrial agriculture will ... an increased productivity. (*parag.9*) **O/F**

24. The New Alliance hence poses a risk. (*parag.10*) **O/F**

I. Find the paragraph that best illustrates each of these ideas. (01 mark)

25. New practices and inputs conflicting with a sustainable agriculture in Africa. ⇒ *Parag.* (___)

26. Growth of the partnership. ⇒ *Parag.* (___)

II. COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE: (12 marks)

J. Rewrite sentence (b) so as to have the same meaning as in sentence (a). Then complete sentence (c) meaningfully. (02 marks)

a₁. It is possible that the modernization of African agriculture reduce hunger and poverty.

b₁. Hunger and poverty _____ (27) African agriculture.

c₁. Therefore, _____ (28)

a₂. There is a poor market access in Tanzania, which is why people fall short of food.

b₂. The _____, the _____ (29) food shortage people suffer.

c₂. For this reason, the Tanzanian government had better _____

_____ (30)

K. Fill in the gaps with correct forms of the words in the box . (02 marks)

consideration - poor - guarantee - threaten - think

Modernizing African agriculture so as to lift people out of _____ (31) sounds well. It is even _____ (32) that one would criticize or contest such a partnership. Yet, a few weeks ago, a _____ (33) number of people, associations and NGOs expressed skepticism regarding the approach of the New Alliance. It is said that it could be a _____ (34) to the self-determination and sovereignty of African states.

L. Indicate which tone/intention (CONCILIATION, DETERMINATION, PREDICTION or REFUTATION) is expressed in each of these statements. (01.5 marks)

- 35. "We shall fight any attempt to modernize agriculture to our detriment." _____
- 36. "This is based on the assumption that industrial agriculture will increase productivity and that an increased productivity will help fight hunger. But hunger and food shortage most of the time are not due to low productivity." _____
- 37. "If larger holders accept to renegotiate the conditions of their access to our land, then we can reconsider our opposition to their presence in the country." _____

M. Each of the sentences below contains one (or more) mistake(s). Rewrite them correctly. (02 marks)

38. African countries are used to adopt legislation that favors investors.

39. African countries have answered to all the demands from developed countries.

40. How long African countries have been using GM seeds?

41. Had African farmers used to spread animal fertilizers on their farms?

N. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases. (01.5 marks)

Small farmers energetically object to the idea of adopting genetically modified seeds, _____ (42) is quite understandable. If these seeds were actually adopted, they say, small farmers _____ (43) be able to produce their own seeds. That's why they want decision-makers _____ (44) that farmers with limited means continue to exist as significant economic agents.

O. Complete meaningfully this dialog between a small farmer and an expert in GM seeds. (03 marks)

Farmer: Now I hear so much talk about genetically modified seeds; what are they really?

Expert: GM seeds are seeds that have been created by scientists based on genetics. The seeds are designed in such a way that they carry characteristics desired by scientists. These seeds can be highly productive, _____

_____ (45)

Farmer: Hold on! You said "created"? _____? (46)

God is the Creator of everything!

Expert: Yes. And I can understand your skepticism. God is the Creator of everything, but man _____ (47). God has endowed him with the faculty to influence nature and life and thus, create other things along those created by God. In their labs, scientists can modify the genetic characteristics of seeds and plants through manipulations.

Farmer: How is that possible?

Expert: It's just like the process used to give the improved sheep and cows we now have.

Farmer: Okay, I can see. But there's a problem with GM seeds. Many say they cause cancer.

Expert: _____ (48).

_____ (49)

_____ (50)

Farmer: I think I understand better.

III. **WRITING:** It is obligatory to deal with two topics and write 150-200 words about each. (12 marks)

Topic 1: Many people think that the introduction, production and commercialization of GM seeds must be considered with precaution. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Justify your opinion with clear examples.

Topic 2: Write an essay in which you explain how we could enjoy the benefits of GM seeds and at the same time minimize their undesired consequences.

Topic 3: Today a great deal of the food consumed in Senegal comes from abroad. Do you think this situation is good or bad for the country? Why or why not? If you think it is not good, what do you suggest as a solution?

ANSWER KEY**I. COMPREHENSION (16 marks)****A. Read the text and circle the letter corresponding to the right answer. (01 mark)**

1. b) *Ending Hunger through Agricultural Development*
2. a) *Obama offers assistance to member countries of the Alliance*

B. Find in the first 3 paragraphs 2 predicaments African countries are confronted with (01 mark)

3. poverty
4. (chronic) hunger

C. List 3 advantages and 3 disadvantages of the New Alliance mentioned in the text. (03 marks)**Advantages**

5. Modernization of agriculture

6. Reduction of poverty

7. Financial support

Disadvantages

8. Use of GM seeds

9. Loss of sovereignty

10. Exposure of small farmers to risk

NB: Any other correct answer will be accepted.**D. True or False (03 marks)**

11. **False:** Yet in recent weeks ⇒ soil sounding alarm about the program. (parag.5)
12. **True:** The New alliance hence poses ⇒ soil and water resources. (parag.10)
13. **True:** the concentration of land ⇒ the marginalization of small holders. (parag.10)

E. Complete meaningfully these statements. (03 marks)

14. ...it is feared it will have serious consequences on sustainable development in Africa or any relevant answer.
15. ...but also to poor market access and weak distribution networks or any relevant answer.
16. ...in reality detrimental to African countries or any relevant answer.

F. Find in the text: (01 mark)

17. Equivalent of "endanger" = threaten (L. 26);
18. Antonym of "vulnerable" = resilient (L. 30)

G. What do the underlined words in bold refer to in the text? (01 mark)

19. **this:** (The fact far too many people on the continent endure) poverty and chronic hunger.
20. **The Alliance:** G-8, African governments, donor countries and private companies; The New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition

H. Decide whether these statements are Opinions (O) or Facts (F). (02 marks)

21. Fact;
22. Opinion;
23. Opinion;
24. Fact.

I. Find the paragraph that best illustrates each of these ideas. (01 mark)

25. Paragraph 8;
26. Paragraph 4

II. COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (12 marks)**J. Rewrite sentence (b) so as to have the same meaning as in sentence (a). Then complete sentence (c) meaningfully. (02 marks)**b₁. Hunger and poverty can/may be reduced through/by the modernization of (27) African agriculture.c₁. Therefore, (any relevant, meaningful and grammatically correct answer) (28)a₂. There is a poor market access in Tanzania, which is why people fall short of food.

b₂. The poorer the access to market/the market access, the more (29) food shortage people suffer.

c₂. For this reason, the Tanzanian government had better improve access to market (or any relevant, meaningful and grammatically correct answer) (30)

K. Fill in the gaps with correct forms of the words in the box (02 marks)

31. poverty; 32. unthinkable; 33. considerable; 34. threat

L. Indicate which tone/intention (CONCILIATION, DETERMINATION, PREDICTION or REFUTATION) is expressed in each of these statements (01.5 marks)

35. Determination; 36. Refutation; 37. Conciliation

M. Each of the sentences below contains a mistake. Rewrite them correctly. (02 marks)

38. are used to adopting

39. have answered ~~to~~ all the demands

40. How long have African countries been using GM seeds?

41. Did African farmers use to spread animal fertilizers on their farms? or Are/Were African farmers used to spreading animal fertilizers on their farms?

N. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words or phrases. (01.5 marks)

42. which; 43. wouldn't; 44. to make sure/to ensure/to look to it (and the like);

O. Complete meaningfully this dialog between a small farmer and an expert in GM seeds. (03 marks)

45.; 46.; 47; 48; 49; 50: Consider any relevant, meaningful and grammatically correct answer

III. WRITING : (12 marks)

The examiners will have to take into account the organization of paragraphs, relevance of ideas, fluency of the language and good use of the language.