



ANGLAIS

From CFA to ECO: Towards a Confrontation between Anglophones and Francophones

The future of a common West African currency is, for the time being, a still-born project. The tension between the two West African monetary zones (WAEMU¹ and WAMZ²) is at its peak regarding the adoption of a common currency. The idea goes back to the years 2000. Thus, from 2000 to 2018, the project has been sleeping in the cupboards of the Heads of State. Social pressures coming from social movements here and there in different countries, namely in the Francophone countries using Franc CFA, have led to social turbulence all over Africa. **This currency** is considered by many African scholars as a symbol of the perpetuation of French neo-colonialism in Africa.

Civil society movements led by actors like Kemi Seba have also risen their voices against what they refer to as the neo-colonial exploitation of French-speaking West African countries by France, except Guinea which has its own currency. Their outcries were based on a number of reasons. The first reason is the presence of French representatives in the administration of BCEAO (West African Central Bank) and the second has to do with the fact that the WAEMU countries are obliged to keep 50% of their reserve in the French Central Bank. In exchange, France guarantees the convertibility of CFA to EURO (fixed parity).

It is significant to highlight that the bone of contention³ between **the two blocs** was born after the press conference held in Abidjan on December 21 during which the French and Ivorian presidents announced the transition from CFA to ECO. During their joint declaration, **the two leaders** promised some major changes with the coming of ECO. The first major advance was the suppression of the operational account while the second one was the removal of French representatives from the Board of Directors of the West African Central Bank where they have the right of veto. The third point, finally, is the continuation of fixed parity in terms of the CFA-EURO convertibility, which is still guaranteed by France.

This joint declaration has been perceived by the WAMZ countries as an act of betrayal. In addition, one of the conditions posed by these countries is the withdrawal of France from all the decision-making bodies working on the new currency. They want an African currency entirely controlled by an ECOWAS⁴-led Central Bank, if it is to happen. They also propose a flexible exchange rate for the new currency instead of the continuation of the fixed parity system between ECO and EURO. The WAMZ countries are skeptical about joining the WAEMU-ECO project under the present conditions, as defined at the Abidjan conference, hence the bone of contention. That's the reason why the Anglophone countries and Guinea, through a declaration, have disassociated themselves from the current ECO project.

Adapted from <https://www.blogger.com/profile/10962758347434763010>

NB: WAEMU = West African Economic and Monetary Unit
WAMZ = West African Monetary Zone
Bone of contention = point de désaccord
ECOWAS = Economic Community of West African States

I. READING COMPREHENSION: (10 marks)

A) Indicate WHAT or WHO the expressions listed below refer to in the text. (01.5 marks)

- 1. This currency (Lines 6-7) _____
- 2. the two blocs (Line 16) _____
- 3. the two leaders (Line 18) _____

B) Read the paragraphs indicated and find the words matching these definitions. (01 mark)

- 4. _____ = the money system (in the form of paper or coin) that is used in a particular country at a particular time. (Paragraph 1)
- 5. _____ = the quality that allows money or other financial instruments to be changed into other liquid stores of value. (Paragraph 2)

C) Read paragraphs 3 and 4 to find specific passages where the author mentions: (01.5 marks)

- 6. A serious disagreement between partnering institutions (Paragraph 3):

- 7. An important decision that is unfavorable to a group of administrators (Paragraph 3):

- 8. A reaction of frustration to an official announcement (Paragraph 4):

D) All 3 statements below are FALSE. Prove that they are false by quoting specific text passages. (03 marks)

- 9. The project for the creation of a common West African currency is recent. (Paragraph 1)

- 10. France does not play a major role in the management of the CFA Franc. (Paragraph 2)

- 11. The WAMZ countries have no objection to the fixed parity between ECO and EURO. (Parag.4)

E) Complete the table below with appropriate information from the text. (03 marks)

Name of the new currency	Changes that the arrival of ECO will cause	Guarantees demanded by the WAMZ countries
12.	13. _____ _____ 14. _____ _____ 15. _____ _____	16. The withdrawal of France from all the decision-making instances of the new currency 17. _____ _____ 18. _____ _____

II. LINGUISTIC and COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE: (06 marks)

F) Put the verbs in brackets in the appropriate TENSES and FORMS. (02 marks)

Africa has suffered a lot from exploitation by foreign powers. In the 19th and 20th centuries, for example, European colonizers (19) _____ (*impose*) white supremacy rules all over the continent, which resulted in the enslavement of millions of black people. Today, the consequences of this episode of black history are still visible on African economies. None of the former colonies has fully developed yet, despite (20) _____ (*gain*) political independence in the 1950s and 60s. For more than half-a-century now, most African countries have been chronically dependent on financial aid. True, there have been successful models of advancement in Morocco, Ghana, Kenya, Egypt, and South Africa. But almost everywhere else, economic policies have (21) _____ (*report*) as complete disasters. To boost growth and achieve fiscal stimuli, economic zones such as WAEMU and WAMZ (22) are now _____ (*hold*) negotiations to coin money for Sub-Saharan Africa. The new currency will be called ECO. Let's see how these efforts work out.

G) The passages below (a, b, c, d, and e) are from the same paragraph but they are not in the correct order. Write numbers (2, 3, 4, and 5) to indicate the correct order of the original paragraph. Passage d) is the beginning (Number 1). It has been done for you as an example. (02 marks)

(a): ...all of which, except Guinea Bissau, are former French colonies. (23) ☞ **Number** _____

(b): The agreement will affect WAEMU members (Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo),... (24) ☞ **Number** _____

(c): ...percent of its foreign reserves in the French Treasury. There will also no longer be a French representative on the West African central bank's board. (25) ☞ **Number** _____

(d): In late December 2019, WAEMU agreed with France to rename the CFA franc currency the ECO and to reduce the currency's ties to France. The ECO will... ☞ **Number 1**

(e): ...remain pegged to the EURO, but the Central Bank of West African States will no longer be required to keep 50... (26) ☞ **Number** _____

Source: www.brrookings.edu

H) Use the prompts given to write your reactions to the following situations. (02 marks)

27. Situation 1: The WAMZ countries are unhappy with the ECO project because they think that France has too much influence on Francophone countries.

☞ **Reaction:** *If Francophone countries liberated themselves from French domination, the WAMZ countries* _____

28. Situation 2: Before reading this text, I didn't know anything about the ECO project.

☞ **Reaction:** *This is the first time I* _____

29. Situation 3: Corruption is one of the main reasons why poverty is ravaging Africa.

☞ **Reaction:** *I wish* _____

H) Use the prompts given to write your reactions to the following situations. (Continued)

30. Situation 4: The French will lose part of their political and economic power of influence in Africa after they depart from BCEAO's Board of Directors.

☞ **Reaction:** *French domination of Francophone Africa will be affected by their _____ from BCEAO's Board of Directors.*

III. WRITING: Choose ONE topic and write about it (04 marks)

Topic 1: Do you agree or disagree with the idea that the adoption of 'ECO' as a common currency for all Sub-Saharan Africa will liberate the continent from political domination and economic exploitation by foreign powers? Use concrete arguments to support your opinion.

Topic 2: The conditions for France to guarantee the CFA Franc include the deposit of 50% of Francophone Africa's reserves in the French Central Bank, a fixed parity rate between the Euro and the CFA, and the presence of French representatives in the West African Central Bank, with a right of veto. What is your reaction to each of these three conditions?

Topic 3: On February 5th, 2022, President Macky Sall of Senegal was elected as the new Chairperson of the African Union. Write him a letter in which you recommend strategies that his organization can adopt to develop the continent.

NB: Use the following addresses in your letter:

S.E. M. Macky Sall
Président de la République du Sénégal
Avenue Léopold Senghor, 04026, Dakar

Sadio MENDY
Terminale G_{3B}, LETFPK
Quartier Hafia, Route de Dioulacolon, Kolda