



LANGUE VIVANTE I

Epreuve du 1^{er} groupe

ANGLAIS

Balancing Politeness and Honesty

Sometimes the reason for showing politeness to others is to avoid hurting them. Being impolite or rude could lead to conflict, awkwardness or shame – feelings that many people try to avoid when possible. Being polite, therefore, can mean being dishonest, fraudulent or even lying. You have almost certainly been guilty of this at some point in your life and the chances are that you will recognize this trait in yourself.

If you are always completely honest with people, telling them exactly what you think, you will probably be considered rude and be thought to have poor social skills. This could well mean that you have fewer friends and less opportunity to meet new people or gain new social experiences. On the other hand, if you try to avoid affecting people's feelings all the time, you will probably not be representing a true picture of yourself and therefore be deceitful. People may attempt to do this because of problems with self-esteem or confidence.

Some people find it difficult to say 'no' when they are asked to do something – anxious that they may somehow offend. This can be problematic if you take on too many tasks because you never say 'no' and you will possibly find yourself in a situation where you are not completing tasks to your satisfaction or to the satisfaction of others. Dissatisfaction with personal performance can be very stressful and negatively affect self-esteem, which in turn may make saying 'no' even more difficult and so the configuration is repeated.

All social situations are different and in each situation you need to use common sense and good judgement. Common sense and good judgement come with experience. Experience, in turn, comes from observing others and from making mistakes, learning what works and what doesn't, what is acceptable and what is not. Generally, dishonesty and insincerity can be easily recognized by others and can affect your relationships negatively. However, there are occasions when not being totally honest can aid social interactions.

As with many things in life, we need to find a balance between politeness and honesty. Such balance will be personal to us and dependent on many factors. In fact, it is important to remember that "you can please some of the people some of the time, all of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time - but you can never please all of the people all of the time."

Adapted from: <https://www.skillsyouneed.com/polite-vs-honest.html>

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I. READING COMPREHENSION : (8 marks)

A. Read paragraphs 1 and 2 and then complete the chart below. (0.5 X 4 = 2 marks)

Two consequences of being impolite	Two consequences of real honesty
1. _____	3. _____
2. _____	4. _____

B. Both statements are FALSE. Justify them with specific information from the text. (1 X 2 = 2 marks)

5. People find it difficult to distinguish individuals who are honest from those who are not.

Justification: _____

6. It is not advisable to find an equilibrium between courtesy and honesty.

Justification: _____

C. Complete this passage with adequate words from the indicated paragraphs of the text. (0.5 X 4 = 2 marks)

When we communicate using language, or interpret others' attempts at communication, we are faced with decisions related to honesty and (7) _____ (parag.1). Sometimes you may make positive comments on people's behaviour or physical appearance so as not to hurt their (8) _____ (parag.2). In fact, criticizing people's misconducts can have a (9) _____ (parag.3) impact on relationships with others. For this reason, some people can always (10) _____ (parag.5) a compromise between courtesy and honesty.

D. Read paragraphs 2 and 4 and then find the equivalent of this situation. (1 X 1 = 1 mark)

Situation	Equivalent in the text
Not telling the truth to people can sometimes consolidate social relationships.	11. _____ _____

E. What or who do the underlined words in the text refer to? (0.5 X 2 = 1 mark)

12. which (parag.3): _____

13. you (parag.5): _____

II. LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE: (6 marks)

F. Match the notions in the box with the statements in the chart. (0.5 X 4 = 2 marks)

Possibility – Obligation – Sequencing – Opposition – Advice

Statements	Notions
14. To strengthen social relationships, we need to find a balance between politeness and honesty.	_____
15. Some people think that real honesty means having poor social skills. On the other hand, if you try to avoid affecting people's feelings all the time, you will not be representing a true picture of yourself.	_____
16. It is important to remember that you can never please all of the people all of the time.	_____
17. Dissatisfaction with personal performance can be very stressful and negatively affect self-esteem.	_____

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G. Complete meaningfully this interview between a journalist and an activist who advocates the restoration of moral values in our society. (0.5 X 4 = 2 marks)

Journalist: To begin with, we are really delighted to receive a special guest that most Senegalese have often seen on TV over the past few years.

Activist: It is undoubtedly a great pleasure to be with you today.

Journalist: Thank you ever so much for (18) _____ (accept) this interview.

Activist: You are most welcome!

Journalist: You have been advocating the restoration of moral values in our society for years now.

Activist: Definitely! The reason is very simple: (19) _____

Journalist: What strategies do you (20) _____ to achieve your goals?

Activist: Well, a variety of actions, ranging from awareness campaigns, conferences to public debates.

Journalist: Have Senegalese citizens really adhered to your ideology?

Activist: Actually, some people still misunderstand our aim, but we strongly believe that it is high time they

(21) _____

H. Complete the passage below with adequate words derived from the ones in brackets. (0.5 X 4 = 2 marks)

Politeness can prevent us from affecting people's feelings and emotions in order to create (22) _____ (understand) between partners. Some people believe that doing this intentionally means being (23) _____ (honest) and deceitful to them. Others consider that showing politeness to people can sometimes mean trying not to hurt them. We (24) _____ (nature) try to avoid conflicts to strengthen social relationships. Moreover, impoliteness and lack of honesty often (25) _____ (production) various social problems.

III. **WRITING:** Choose one topic and write about 200 words on it. (6 marks)

TOPIC 1: Adama and Awa are twin sisters. The first is often disrespectful and impolite, compared to her sister. Write a conversation in which Awa is trying to convince her twin sister to change her attitude.

TOPIC 2: Maguette, a Senegalese student, is writing an email to her friend who lives abroad to tell

her about the importance of respecting moral values such as honesty and politeness. Write out the email.

ANSWER KEY

I. READING COMPREHENSION: (8 marks)

A. Chart completion: (0.5 X 4 = 2 marks)

1. Conflict
2. awkwardness/ shame
3. you will probably be considered rude
4. be thought to have poor social skills

B. FALSE statements: (1 X 2 = 2 marks)

5. "Generally, dishonesty and insincerity can be easily recognized by others and can affect your relationships negatively."
6. "... we all have to manage a balance between politeness and honesty."

C. Cloze passage: (0.5 X 4 = 2 marks)

7. politeness
8. feelings
9. stressful
10. find

D. Finding the equivalent of the situation: (1 X 1 = 1 mark)

11. "there are occasions when not being totally honest can aid social interactions."

E. Contextual references: (0.5 X 2 = 1 mark)

12. Dissatisfaction with personal performance can be very stressful and negatively affect self-esteem
13. the reader(s) / people

II. LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE: (6 marks)

F. Matching notions with statements: (0.5 X 4 = 2 marks)

14. Obligation
15. Opposition
16. Advice
17. Possibility

G. Interview completion: (0.5 X 4 = 2 marks)

18. accepting
19. Any coherent answer
20. propose / suggest / recommend...
21. Any coherent and meaningful answer

H. Word derivation: (0.5 X 4 = 2 marks)

22. understanding
23. dishonest
24. naturally
25. produce

III. WRITING: (6 marks)

- Topic understanding: (1 mark)
- Organisation: (1 mark)
- Coherence: (1 mark)
- Relevance: (1 mark)
- Accuracy: (1 mark)
- Originality: (1 mark)