

**LANGUE VIVANTE I****Epreuve du 1<sup>er</sup> groupe****ANGLAIS****SENEGAL'S ELECTRICITY CRISIS: A SOCIAL BOMB**

1 Senegal's sweltering hot season has arrived along with daily power cuts described as a  
2 social time bomb, interrupting businesses and sending angry citizens into the streets in protest.  
3 "Sometimes the electricity is cut twice a day for several hours," said Mohamed Balde, a security  
4 guard in the foyer of an apartment building situated opposite one of the city's biggest hotels. "For  
5 the elevator to work and water to be pumped up to the higher floors I put 60,000 CFA (90 euros,  
6 110 US dollars) of diesel in the generator every four days," he said. But a generator is a luxury for  
7 many who, when the power goes, can do nothing but wait.

8 In his small workshop in the suburb of Niaye Thioker, tailor Mamadou Diallo's sewing  
9 machines have once again ground to a halt and his orders are falling behind. "There has been no  
10 electricity since noon," the 52-year-old says at around 5:00 pm. "It has been like that every day  
11 for a week." With average daily temperatures hovering around 30 degrees Celsius and high  
12 humidity, frustration boiled over at the weekend when an angry crowd took to the streets, burning  
13 tyres and barricading streets in clashes with police.

14 A West African human rights group, RADDHO, accused police of beating a young man to  
15 death during the protest. The interior ministry was drawn into a squabble over who killed the  
16 youth, issuing a statement which refused to lay blame on the authorities for his death. "At this  
17 time, no objective element enables us to lay responsibility for this death on anyone," it said.

18 A leader of the Sutelec electricity workers' union, Aliou Ba, said the clock was ticking on a  
19 "social time bomb." While state-controlled energy provider Senelec struggled to provide ample  
20 electricity for years, chief executive Seydina Kane said power cuts were mainly due to the poor  
21 quality of fuel imported to run power plants. However he also admitted "cash flow problems" in  
22 the company.

23 Ba told AFP: "The best way to defuse this social time bomb is to repair ailing energy  
24 facilities which have been damaged by the poor quality fuel. Senelec has heavily invested in  
25 diesel-run power plants which are too sensitive, and the purchase of fuel cost 75 percent of its  
26 annual turnover." As ageing power plants are unable to keep up with rising demand, a 125  
27 megawatt coal-fired plant is scheduled to be built and will only be ready by the end of 2012.

28 As protests reach a crescendo, lawmakers have asked the government to explain itself  
29 during a session of parliament which started Tuesday. "The national representation is simply  
30 playing its role in challenging the executive on matters that are dear to the Senegalese, including  
31 energy issues and recurring power outages," said Antoine Ngor Faye, spokesman for the national  
32 assembly where the ruling party holds a large majority.

33 Meanwhile Senegalese consumers are threatening to stop paying electricity bills, often  
34 exorbitant despite the unreliable power supply. In Thies, 70 kilometers (40 miles) from Dakar, a  
35 group of tailors has called on other artisans to stop paying their accounts at Senelec, which has  
36 earned the nickname "the company of darkness" over the past few years. An imam from the  
37 outskirts of Dakar, Youssoupha Sarr, who spearheaded a massive protest against rising  
38 electricity prices in 2008, warned against summoning government "for superficial discussions  
39 designed to placate the people." In late July, we will decide whether to call for people to stop  
40 paying their electricity bills," he said. On Wednesday, another march in Dakar is planned by a  
41 committee of intellectuals to protest against the power cuts.

By Laurence Boutreux (AFP) - July 20, 2010.

**LANGUE VIVANTE I**

**Epreuve du 1<sup>er</sup> groupe**

**I. COMPREHENSION**

(08 points)

**A- Match the situations described below with their equivalents in the text**

(02marks)

SITUATIONS	EQUIVALENTS IN THE TEXT
1. The service offered by the electricity company is poor and not satisfactory. (par 7)	a-
2. Electricity cuts and popular discontent have escalated into a tragic event. (Par. 3)	b-
3. Two factors are responsible for energy production problems. (Par.4)	c-
4. The rehabilitation of power plants can solve this critical situation. (Par.5)	d-

**B- What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text?**

(02 marks)

5- It said (Par. 3) =.....

6- its (Par. 5) = .....

7- The national representation (Par. 6) =.....

8- we (Par. 7) =.....

**C- Find in the text two examples illustrating people's anger about the situation.**

(01 mark)

9- .....

10-.....

**D- Circle True or False after these statements and justify your choice with a specific passage from the text.**

(03 marks)

11- Most people resort to generators when the power is cut.

T/F.....

12- The power cuts are frequent that's why electricity bills are less expensive.

T/F.....

13- According to Seydina Kane, power cuts are caused by a shortage of fuel.

T/F.....

**II- COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (06 MARKS)**

**E- Complete this dialogue meaningfully (03 marks)**

Aliou and Malick are friends. Aliou lives in Senegal, but Malick has been living in the USA for many years. They are talking on the phone about the electricity crisis which affects the Senegalese people. Fill in their conversation meaningfully:

**Malick:** Hi Aliou! How is the situation back in Senegal?

**Aliou:** Terrible! In fact, the country is going through the most severe electricity crisis in its history. Yesterday many people were (14)..... in a riot and a young man was killed. (0,5 p)

**Malick:** Good Lord! Who killed the young man?

**Aliou:** We don't know.

**Malick :** (15).....? (1pt)

**Aliou:** It depends! Sometimes power is cut twice a day.

**Malick:** 16.....? (1 pt)

**Aliou:** Generally for several hours.

**Malick:** What a pity! (17) I ..... it'll soon be over! (0,5 pt)

**Aliou:** So do we!

**Malick:** Ok ! Bye for now! I'll call you again soon!

**F- Combine the following clauses using the right link words to make meaningful sentences (02 marks)**

18. They won't pay electricity bills...	...that is why	... power supply is not regular
19. The power cuts haven't stopped...	...unless...	tailors cannot finish their job on time.
20. There are many electricity cuts;...	... even though....	...the government reduces prices.
21. Electricity bills are still high....	...in spite of....	...the demonstrations in the streets.

18-.....

19-.....

20-.....

21-.....

**G- Referring to the context, complete the following statement meaningfully without copying the text (01 pt)**

22- Had more money been invested in energy production, today.....

**III- WRITING: (06 MARKS)**

**Choose one topic and write about 150-200 words**

- 1) What solutions do you suggest to put an end to Senegal's electricity crisis?
- 2) Write a letter of protest to the Chief Executive of Senelec to complain about the recurrence of power cuts and their consequences!