

FAR AHEAD T^{le} (UNIT7)

READING

UNIT 7: INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Session2: READING

Learning context:

During the English class the students of TleA2 of 'Lycée Moderne de Korhogo' are reading a text about bribery and corruption to prepare a presentation about some international issues.



1. Before you read

Look at the picture. What does it show? Read the quotations. What do they mean? Do you agree with them?

'The duty of youth is to challenge corruption.' Kurt Cobain To oppose corruption in government is the highest obligation of patriotism.' G.E. Griffin



1. While you read

Activity 1. Read the text. What social group is most affected by corruption?

Bribery and corruption

Paragraph 1 Corruption has existed throughout history and it affects all levels of society. Wherever an advantage is to be gained - from lowly paid police officers and local officials, to government ministers and political leaders - it is a very common practice. Corruption erodes the trust of people in the political system of their country, its institutions and its leadership. It affects all levels of society in a multitude of ways, undermining political and economic development, democracy, the environment, health, justice, to name just a few. In addition, contrary to popular belief, corruption is prevalent in rich countries as well as in developing countries.

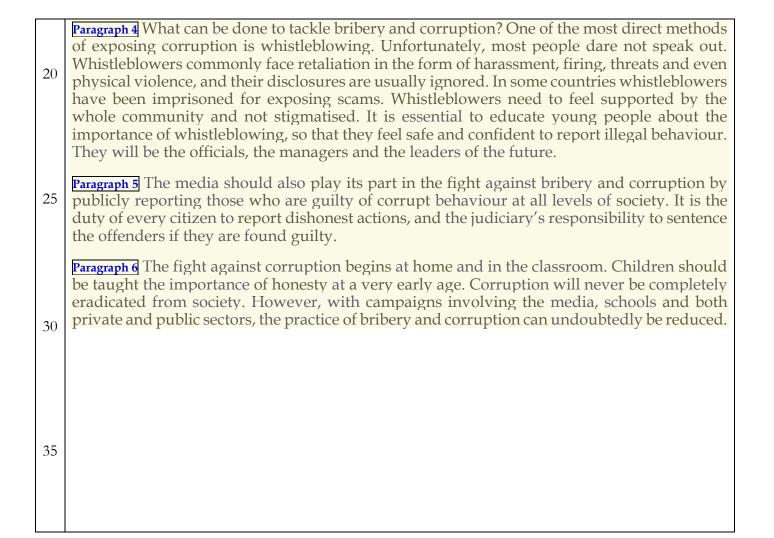
Paragraph 2 Corruption is both a major cause and a result of poverty around the world. No matter the country, corruption always affects the poorest citizens the hardest. Some politicians prefer to invest scarce public resources in projects that will line their pockets rather than benefit the whole community. They prioritise high-profile projects such as dams, power plants, pipelines and refineries over less spectacular but more urgent and useful infrastructure projects like schools, hospitals and roads.

Paragraph 3 It is common to hear that many developing countries remain poor because of corruption. Yet some rich countries are involved in corrupt practices, too. They often operate through intermediaries to avoid 'getting their hands dirty'. Their companies bribe rulers and officials of developing countries to obtain export contracts, particularly in the arms trade and public works. Until recently, this was accepted as normal business practice in order to be competitive.

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Activity 2. Find synonyms of these words in the text. The provided lines or paragraphs will help you.

- 1) weakening (L5)
- 2) limited; rare (L11)
- 3) stay (paragraph 3)
- 4) deal with (paragraph 4)
- 5) revenge; punishment (L23)
- 6) dismissing from a job (L24)
- 7) condemn (paragraph 5)
- 8) responsible for the crime (L32)

Activity 3. Read the text below, then decide whether the following statements are *true* or *false*. Write T for True and F for False, and quote the lines to explain your answers. Write your answers like in the example.

Example: 1-F (Lines 1 to 3)

- 1) Politicians are more likely to be corrupted than anyone else.
- 2) Corruption exists everywhere in the world.
- 3) Big infrastructure projects are more likely to attract corruption practices.
- 4) Bribery used to be considered normal business practice.
- 5) Whistleblowing is useless to fight corruption.
- 6) Most people are too scared to expose corruption practices.

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Activity 4. COMMUNICATION

You are asked to prepare a presentation for the next English Club meeting of your school. The issue you have to write about for your talk is 'Rampant corruption in your country and how this affects International Relationships'. Use the following to help you:

- Is your country highly corrupted or not?
- Which areas of economic life are touched by this corruption?
- What does the government do to reduce the level of corruption?
- How do International Institutions help to eradicate this evil?

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