



EPREUVE FACULTATIVE D'ANGLAIS

Is Protest the Answer?

On December 7, 2010, Mohamed Bouazizi reached his limit. He was a 26-year-old street vendor in Tunisia who was frustrated with being unable to find a better job. He was also aware of corrupt officials' demands for bribes. On that particular morning, inspectors confiscated Mohamed's supply of pears, bananas, and apples. When they took his scales, he resisted; and some of the witnesses say that a female police officer slapped him.

Humiliated and enraged, Mohamed went to the nearby government office to complain but *could not get a hearing*. In front of the building, he reportedly shouted, 'How do you expect me to make a living?' After dousing himself with a flammable liquid, he struck a match. He died of his burns less than three weeks later.

Mohamed Bouazizi's desperate act resonated with people in Tunisia and beyond. Many consider his actions the trigger for an uprising that *toppled the country's regime* and protests that soon spread to other Arab countries. The European parliament awarded Bouazizi and four others the 2011 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, and the Time of London named him its 2011 person of the year.

Many protests are ignited by dissatisfaction with social systems. When people believe that the local government and economy no longer serve their needs, when they feel that these systems are corrupt and unjust and rigged in favor of a selected few, conditions are ripe for social unrest. They can also be triggered by an event which moves people to action, to change from resignation to a belief that they must do something.

Proponents of social unrest often claim that protest is a good way to address injustices and provide relief for the poor. They say it has helped them stop construction projects in some countries. In Hong Kong for example, the construction of a coal-fired power plant was cancelled in December 2011 after tens of thousands of people demonstrated against it.

Of course protesters do not always get what they want. Some leaders may crack down rather than give in to demands. Recently, the President of a Middle Eastern country stated regarding the protest movement *there*: 'It must be hit with an iron fist,' and thousands have died in that uprising.

Even when protesters accomplish their aims, the aftermath invariably brings problems. A man who helped depose the ruler of an African country told Time magazine about the new regime: 'It was utopia that immediately descended into chaos.'

Adapted from **Awake!** , July 2013, pp 6-8.

I. **COMPREHENSION :** (8 marks)

A. Find in the indicated paragraphs words having similar meanings as the following words and definitions (02 marks)

- 1. a revolt(parag 3) :
- 2. money offered to obtain something illegal (parag 1) :
- 3. to take firm actions against (parag 6) :
- 4. a situation of total confusion (parag 7) :

B. Choose the best option (01 mark)

- 5. "could not get a hearing" (l. 7) means :
 - a. he found it hard to understand what was said.
 - b. nobody listened to him
 - c. he could not hear what was said
- 6. "toppled the country's regime" (l. 11) means :
 - a. Strengthened the country's regime
 - b. Weakened the country's regime
 - c. Overthrew the country's regime

C. Fill in the chart with information from the text (02 marks)

Institutions	Awards	Award winners
7.	Sakharov Prize	8.
Time of London	9.	10.

D. Say what the following terms refer to : (01 mark)

- 11. it (...against it) (l.23) :
- 12. there (...the protest movement there) (l.26) :

E. Say whether the sentences are true or False and justify by quoting the text (02 marks)

- 13. Bouazizi died three weeks after he burnt himself
.....
- 14. According to the text, people who protest always accomplish their aims.
.....

II. **COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE** (06 marks)

F. Complete this dialogue between Bouazizi and a police officer. In case there is a verb between bracket, give its correct form. (03 marks)

Police officer : Hey young man ! What 15.....here ?

Bouazizi : I am selling fruit, sir !

Police officer : Who has allowed you 16.....here ?

Bouazizi : Nobody, I just thought I wasn't disturbing anybody !

Police officer : Don't you know that it's 17.....to sell in this place ? How long have you been selling here ?

Bouazizi : 18.....last month. I really didn't know. If I had known that, I 19.....(not stay) here so long !

Police officer : This isn't a good excuse, give me your scales!

Bouazizi : I'm afraid I won't. I haven't committed 20..... crime, Sir!

G. Match part 1 with part 2 in order to have meaningful sentences then write your answers in the last column. (02 marks)

Part 1	Part 2	Answers
21 Bouazizi burnt himself because of	a. he refused to give a bribe.	21.....
22 The police officer slapped him because	b. there is more social justice.	22.....
23 Protests will develop unless	c. people protest a lot.	23.....
24 Life is too expensive; that's why	d. frustration and injustice.	24.....

H. Complete the following passage by giving the right form of the words between brackets (01 mark)

Protests are very common nowadays because people have become aware of their rights and duties. Protesters no longer want to live in countries where corruption and 25..... (bribe) prevail. Unfortunately many of them are often killed during 26..... (demonstrate).

III. **WRITING** (06 marks)

Choose **ONE** essay and write about 150 words.

Topic 1 : Is it a good thing to allow vendors to sell in the streets ? Why or why not ?

Topic 2 : Write a letter to a friend who lives abroad in which you tell him/her about a protest you witnessed or watched on TV during the last presidential campaign in Senegal.

Topic 3 : Do you think that protests can help improve people's living conditions ? Give your reasons.