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11 G 07 B R
Durée : 02 heures
Série : L1a – Coef. 2
Série : L1b – Coef. 3
Séries : L'1-L2 – Coef. 4

LANGUE VIVANTE I

Epreuve du 2ème groupe

ANGLAIS

Election Observation in West Africa: The ECOWAS Experience

Election observation is a key element of building a stable democracy. In states that are undergoing democratic transition, election observers can build citizens' confidence in the electoral process. While in states holding elections following a conflict, observers can help conflicting parties trust the election will be conducted fairly, even if they do not yet trust each other. Since democratization began in Africa in the 1970s, international actors have observed elections (and provided electoral assistance) throughout the continent. However, recently African players have started to become more involved in the observation of African elections. They began as early as 1980, with the independence elections in Zimbabwe, but their work did not gain momentum until 2002, with Zimbabwe's heavily observed presidential elections. Regional groups - like the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) - have moved election observation (and election assistance) to the core of their mandates in order to better enhance democracy, good governance and conflict prevention in their member states.

This movement is important because, in the future, international observers and donors will hand over responsibility for election observation to Africans, who will choose their own approach in light of their thorough understanding of the African context. However, before this time, they will have to overcome a number of challenges in order to bring their practice of election observation in line with international standards Some recent African observation missions have generated controversy over their effectiveness and credibility. For example, Western and African groups developed widely divergent assessments of Zimbabwe's 2002 elections.

More recently, ECOWAS' report following observation (by 150 observers) of Togo's 2005 presidential elections provoked international criticism for sanctioning a flawed election process. In fact, ECOWAS' experience with election observation illustrates the challenges African organizations must overcome in pursuit of free and fair elections. The main issues facing ECOWAS are gaps in their observation methodology, conflicts of interest, inexperience and the absence of coordination with other electoral players.

http://www.aceproject.org

A/READING COMPREHENSION (7 pts)

Vocabulary in context: find in the indicated paragraphs the equivalents of the following phrases: **(2 pts)**

1. To actively participate in (par. 1): .....
2. To become stronger and more effective (par. 1): .....
3. To cause dispute and disagreement (par. 2): .....
4. To express approval (par. 3): .....

Complete this table with words from the text: **(3 pts)**

Observation groups	Objectives
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.

Indicate True or false and justify your answers with a specific phrase from the text **(2 pts)**

11. African observers follow international norms:.....

Justification: .....

12. Presidential elections in Togo were free and fair according to Ecowas countries: .....

Justification: .....

B/ COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE (7 pts)

Problem solving

Identify in the text 4 "challenges" confronting elections in Africa: **(2 pts)**

13. Challenge 1:.....
14. Challenge 2: .....
15. Challenge 3:.....
16. Challenge 4: .....

Choose 2 "challenges" and suggest in your own words an original solution for each one : **(2 pts)**

Challenge ( ): .....

17. Solution: ..... **(1 p)**

.....

Challenge ( ): .....

18. Solution: ..... **(1 p)**

.....

Choose from the box the right words in the right forms and complete the dialog meaningfully in your own words: **(2 pts)**

democracy – controversy - free

A: Do you think that it is easy to hold free and fair elections in Africa?

19. B: I doubt it! Most of the results are so ..... !

A: What's the way out?

20. B: First of all, leaders should embrace ..... values.
21. Secondly, ...

.....

..../...3

Complete the following sentence meaningfully without copying the text: **(1 pt)**

22. If elections are neither free nor fair, ……

……..

C/WRITING (6 pts)

23. Choose one topic and write 150 to 200 words about it

Topic 1 (Essay): What is the importance of free and fair elections in Africa?

Topic 2 (Dialog): You believe that democracy can't work in Africa but your friend disagrees! Write your conversation