

Part One: Reading and Interpreting.

Read the following text carefully, and then do the activities after.

Corruption occurs when organisations or individuals profit improperly through their position in an activity, and thereby cause damage or loss. Corruption can be found in all countries but is particularly widespread in states where the legal system, mass media and the public administration are weak and undeveloped. Three levels of corruption are usually referred to: petty corruption (bureaucratic corruption), grand corruption (political corruption) and state capture (corruption which affects the entire state apparatus).

Corruption is more or less widespread in all countries. These countries are often young states that are at a stage where important social functions are still undeveloped or weak. In recent years there has been an increase in corruption in many countries. However, it has also been given more attention and is being combated both internationally and nationally

There are several degrees of corruption. The lowest degree is called petty corruption. Petty corruption is when a public servant, for example a customs officer, doctor or policeman, extracts illegal fees from the general public. The second degree is characterised by the involvement of high politicians and senior civil servants who take advantage of their positions to enrich themselves in order to stay in power. At its highest level, this form of corruption, known as grand corruption, often involves large international bribes and secret bank accounts in foreign banks. The third level of corruption, state capture, arises when weak states allow businessmen and other powerful people in the country to exert an influence on legislation, regulations etc, with the effect that competition in the private sector is distorted. Corruption always means that money is paid upward. It is the poorest groups that are most severely affected by corruption. For example, it can be difficult enough for poor people to afford to go to a doctor when they have to. If the doctor must also be given a bribe to do his job, poor people might just not have enough money.

A/ Comprehension (07 points)

1 - The text is about:

a - the fight against corruption. b - the different types of corruption. c- bureaucratic corruption

2 - Say whether the following statements are true or false according to the text.

- a) - Corruption is an international phenomenon.
- b) - All the governments are combating corruption.
- c) - Corruption benefits the poor.

3 - In which paragraph is it mentioned that

- Many countries take serious measures to fight against corruption.

4 - What do the underlined words in the text refer to?

- a) - their (§1) =
- b) - themselves (§3) =
- c) - its (§3) =

5 - Answer the following questions according to the text.

- a) - What are the three kinds of corruption?
- b) - Where is corruption particularly widespread? Why?
- c) - Who are most influenced by corruption?

