

1. COMPREHENSION

Read *this* passage and answer *the* questions following .

Once, it would have been regarded as an ideal development project, a straightforward way of generating large amounts of money with which to reduce poverty. Today, it looks a lot more complicated. The proposal to build an oil pipeline between Chad and Cameroon promises to bring jobs, government revenues, private investment, economic growth and regional cooperation to a troubled, impoverished area of the world. The 1100 km pipeline would, of course, be costly to fund - an estimated \$350 million. But the returns could be extensive and though the price of the commodity - crude oil - may fluctuate, the product is the basis of modern industrial society and will be in demand for the foreseeable future. In addition, several of the world's biggest companies support the scheme. So does the World Bank.

So what is the problem? None, as far as the scheme's supporters are concerned. Let's get on with it, they say, and help end the poverty which plagues the countries at each end of the pipe. Delay, warned a group of businessmen in Douala recently, would have 'enormous and far-reaching' effects on the economy, particularly in the oil and hotel sectors. A few years ago, that would have been the end of the story. The project would have been launched with a confident fanfare. Nowadays, however, getting the go-ahead is beset by difficulties.

Environmentalists such as Jean Nke Ndi, leader of *Defense de l'environnement camerounais* (Defence of the Cameroon Environment) complain that construction of the pipeline will damage forests and farms. In addition, they argue, construction will produce social upheaval, leading inevitably to a variety of ills, including the spread of diseases. Lorry routes, they point out, are often almost identical with epidemiological maps tracking the spread of AIDS. The lives of vulnerable people, such as the Cameroonian pygmies, will be totally disrupted, they say, and many farmers will lose their land, almost certainly without receiving proper compensation. When the pipeline is complete, runs the argument, highly polluting leaks will occur - as was the case in the area inhabited by Nigeria's Ogoni people, which led to a popular backlash and severe repression, culminating in the execution of eight Ogoni leaders including the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa.

QUESTIONS

- a) Give two advantages expected from the project.
- b) Give two disadvantages that the project may cause.
- c) How many countries are affected by the project? Name them.
- d) Who is Supporting the project? Who is opposing it?
- e) Where else in Africa was such a project carried out? What happened, and with what results?
- f) Suggest a heading for this passage.

2. GRAMMAR

- a) What is the noun [on]ed from 'reduce'?
- b) Give the adjective formed from poverty.
- c) What is the singular of people? '
- d) Give the opposite of complicated;
- e) Which is the correct sentence?
 - i) The children's clothes are clean
 - ii) The children's' clothes are clean.
- f) Put this sentence in the plural
The boy has eaten his food.
- g) Which is the correct sentence?
 - i) John is the tallest of the three boys.
 - ii) John is the taller of the three boys.
- h) Which is the correct sentence?
 - i) Mary sleep soundly
 - ii) Mary sleeps soundly
 - iii) Mary sleeps sound.

3. SYNTAX

- a) Rewrite these sentences so that the participial phrase at the beginning will agree with the noun.
 - i.) Young and inexperienced, the task seemed easy to me.
 - ii) Being in a dilapidated condition, I was able to buy the house cheap.
- b) Put the following sentence in the passive voice:
Several of the world's biggest companies Support the scheme.
- c) Put this sentence in direct speech:
The man said that he was ill.
- d) Put the following sentence in the active voice:
The school was built by our parents.

4. ESSAY (6 marks)

Write an essay of about 250 words on one of the following topics:

- 1) Life is easier in the village than in town.
- 2) Education is the best investment.