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CONCOURS D'ENTREE A L'INSTITUT DES RELATIONS INTERNATIONALES DU CAMEROUN AU CYCLE
DE FORMATION DES ATTACHES DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

Session du 22 mars 2011

COMPETITIVE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION INTO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE OF
CAMEROON: ATTACHES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TRAINING PROGRAM

March 22nd, 2011

PAPER I: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ALL ANSWERS SHOULD BE WRITTEN ON THE ANSWER SHEET

SECTION A (10 MARKS): READING COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage and answer the questions below it using your words as much as possible.

Politics and elections

There are two parties in America: the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. Most people who want to stand for president aim to be chosen as either Republican candidate or Democratic candidate. But it is also possible to stand as an independent candidate. There may be several people hoping to be chosen as a candidate for each party. But before anyone is chosen, each candidate must win as many supporters as possible in the various states. At different times, primary elections are held at state level or there are special meetings of local party officials. The purpose of these primaries and meetings is to choose representatives called delegates who will later vote for particular candidates. The objective is to win as many delegates as possible in the primary elections and at party meetings.

At about July or August of an election year, each party chooses its candidate at a convention that lasts for a week. After two conventions, there will be one republican candidate and one democratic candidate.

During the election campaign itself, the candidates try to persuade the American people to vote for them. Meanwhile, the public opinion polls play their part. Through them, each candidate learns if he is gaining or losing support from various groups of people. This information enables them to change their campaign strategies.

The election itself is organized on a state basis. The candidate, who wins most votes in the state, wins the support of people called electors in that state. The number of electors is in proportion to the size of the state's populations. The electors of all the states then vote in what is called Electoral College. Each elector has to vote for the candidate who won most votes in this state. The candidate for whom most electors vote become president.

Michael Montgomery et al "The main steps in a presidential election"

QUESTIONS

- 1) When a candidate campaigns before his party's convention, what is his specific aim apart from winning supporters? (2marks)
- 2) How can public opinion polls help a candidate? (1mark)
- 3) At what two kinds of events are delegates chosen? (2 marks)
- 4) How many presidential candidates does each party have:
 - a) Before its convention?
 - b) After its convention? (2marks)
- 5) Suppose a state has ten electors and suppose that candidate A wins six million votes and candidate B four million. How many electors will vote for candidate B in the Electoral College? (1 mark)
- 6) Does this election process seem fair to you? Give reasons for your answer (2marks)

SECTION B: TRANSLATION (05 marks)

Translate the last paragraph of the text into French.

SECTION C: VOCABULARY (5 marks)

I. What would you say in the following situations: (2.5 marks)

1. You are on a plane and you want to ease yourself.
2. Someone says 'thank you very much'. What do you say to him or her?
3. You are at a meeting and you don't agree with what someone has just said.
4. You come to class very late, what do you say to apologise to your teacher?
5. You are at a meeting and someone has just said something which you agree with.

II. Fill in the gaps with suitable words or phrases (2.5 marks)

- 1) Mr. Talla is married but flirts around with other girls. He is _____.
- 2) Paul gives freely to the needy. He is _____.
- 3) My younger brother can talk freely even to elderly people. He is very _____.
- 4) Students _____ their handwork in an open place for their parents to see.
- 5) Even a little child can defeat him in a fight. He is very _____.

SECTION D: GRAMMAR (10 marks)

I. Rewrite each of the following sentences according to the proposed beginning (5 marks)

1. Whenever my grandmother comes, she tells us interesting stories
No matter _____
2. Since she was absent, she didn't know what we decided
Having _____
3. The government is making efforts to stop armed robbery
Efforts are _____
4. They succeed because of their hard work
Their success _____
5. Everybody was surprised when he decided not to play any more
His _____

II. Circle the correct alternative in italics. (2.5 marks)

1. What I really *think about/like for/like about* my husband is his sense of humour.
2. Your friend can be a *bit off/a bit/bit* mean sometimes, especially when she's in a bad mood.
3. Suzy is *such a/so/very* talented girl that you have to admire her.
4. He comes *across/over/around* as very kind and gentle when you first meet him.
5. Once you *become to know/get to know/seem to know* her, you realise she's really funny.

III. Put the verbs in brackets in the simple past tense, past perfect or past perfect progressive. (2.5 marks)

- 1) We _____ (to feel) very cold because we _____ (to sit) outside for over three hours.
- 2) I stopped making noise in class when I _____ (to find) out that it wasn't profitable to me.
- 3) I came late to class and found that lecturer _____ (to teach) for long.
- 4) The youth _____ (to listen) to the speech made by the president of the Republic.

SECTION E: ESSAY (10 marks)

Choose one of the following topics and write an essay of 250 words.

- 1) School leavers in your area of the country are facing many employment problems and you wish the government could do something to remedy the situation. Write an essay about the situation.
- 2) How could the recruitment of 25, 000 youths into the public service be carried out efficiently?
- 3) The role of the international community in the political life of States. Discuss.