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| الاسم: | مسابقة في مادة اللغة الانكليزية | |
| الرقم: | المدة: ثلاث ساعات | |

Part One: Reading Comprehension   (Score: 12/20)

In the following selection, the writer reports the consequences of a corrupted government of a country on the moral behavior of its citizens. Read it carefully, and then answer the questions that follow.

National Corruption Breeding Personal Dishonesty

1   One bad apple spoils the barrel, so the saying goes. Yet, what if the barrel itself is rotten? A number of studies, done in laboratory tests, have shown that seeing a peer behave unethically increases one's dishonesty. What is much harder to investigate is how this kind of influence operates at a societal level.

2   That is exactly what behavioral economists Simon Gächter of the University of Nottingham in England and Jonathan Schulz of Yale University set out to do in a study published on March 2016 in *Nature*. Their findings suggested that corruption not only harms a nation's prosperity but also distorts the moral behavior of its citizens. The results of the study showed that there are intentions to fight corruption.

3   The researchers developed a measure of corruption by combining three widely used systems that examine levels of political cheating, tax avoidance, and corruption in a given country. "We wanted to get a really broad set of indicators, including many different aspects of rule violations," Schulz says. They then conducted an experiment involving 2,568 participants from 23 nations. Participants were asked to roll a die twice and report the outcome of only the first roll. They received a sum of money proportional to the number reported but got nothing for rolling a six. Nobody else saw the die, so participants were free to lie about the outcome.

4   If **everyone** were completely honest about their die rolls, the average claim would be 2.5, whereas if everyone were maximally dishonest, all claims would be 5. The results of the experiment showed that the participants' answers were highly linked to the Prevalence of Rule Violations (PRV). Participants from some underdeveloped and developing nations, where high level of rule violation is widespread, tended to falsify the results more than those from some European developed countries, with low PRV.

5   In other words, the more corrupt the country is, the more its citizens inflated the number they reported. These values were calculated using data from 2003, and the experiments were conducted between 2011 and 2014, using participants whose average age was 21—too young to have personally influenced PRV ratings but old enough to have been influenced by social norms, implying that national corruption levels influenced participants' honesty, not vice versa.

6   "These researchers link a simple cheating test to real-world behaviors," says behavioral scientist Amos Schurr, who was not involved in the study. "**This** has never been done before," he adds.

7   Encouragingly, the researchers found that there was a limit to people's dishonesty, even if they came from profoundly corrupt countries. Claims clustered around the number expected mathematically. Instead of direct lying, people switched the facts to report the highest roll, not the first. "All around the world, people are quite honest," Schulz says. According to him, they tend to act according to "justifiable dishonesty", but the standard of what is justifiable seems to vary slightly according to the level of corruption in one's homeland.

8   Classic economic theory assumes that people act to maximize their gains, but the finding that they do not lie outright fits with theories suggesting individuals have a psychological incentive to view themselves as honest. "You have competing forces: financial incentives and psychological incentives to keep an honest self-view, which balance out. It's easier to keep a good self-image while being more corrupt if you see a lot of corruption around you," Schulz explains.

9 The findings imply that highly corrupt countries may be difficult to change because their citizens have been shaped by norms that permit dishonesty. However, there is also a positive practical implication. Rather than fighting corruption by targeting institutions, we might do better to aim at young people.

10 "Changing formal institutions will be hard, but institutions rely on people," Schulz says. "It will take a long time, but I think it's a worthwhile path," he adds.

Questions

A. Answer each of the following questions in 1- 4 complete sentences using your own words.
1. Based on Paragraph 2, what are the two main negative consequences of high-level corruption? **(0.5)**
2. Based on Paragraph 3, how did the nature of the experiment contribute to the results? **(0.75)**
3. In reference to Paragraphs 4 and 5, how do the results of PRV reflect the social norms of a country? **(01)**
4. Based on Paragraphs 7 and 8, why is dishonesty considered justifiable? Provide two reasons. **(01)**
5. Refer to Paragraphs 8 and 9, and deduce two measures that can reduce corruption in a country. **(01)**

B. Indicate whether each of the following statements is TRUE or FALSE, and then correct the false one(s). **(0.75)**
1. If the average claim of participants ranges between 2.5 and 5, they are considered extremely dishonest.
2. The national corruption levels of a country influence the citizens' honesty before the age of 21.
3. Social norms play a role in altering citizens' behavior.

C. 1. Identify and explain the figure of speech used in Paragraph 1. What is its function? **(01)**
2. What function does Paragraph 2 serve? Justify your answer. **(01)**
3. What cohesive device does the writer use to link Paragraphs 6 and 7? Explain. **(0.5)**
4. What two adjectives best describe Schulz's tone in Paragraph 10? Justify. **(01)**

D. The table below shows the level of corruption and that of transparency as indexed by Transparency International in 2015. Read it carefully, and then answer the question that follows. **(02)**

Level (in pts.)	An Underdeveloped Country	A Developing Country	A Developed Country
Level of Corruption	9	7	0.5
Level of transparency	1	3	9.5

In 3 to 5 sentences, show the relation between corruption and transparency, using evidence.

E. Refer to Paragraphs 5, 7 and 8 to find words that can best replace the underlined words or phrases in the sentences below. **(01)**
1. The merchant has underlined excessively raised the prices to increase his gains in an illegal way.
2. When the poor woman talked about cheating, the judge realized how underlined intensely it had affected her.
3. The opponents of the economic theory underlined gathered their opinions around the idea that people's dishonesty does not necessarily relate to their low standard of living.
4. Until the government sets strict rules against illegal selling of goods, the trader has no underlined motive to stop selling them.

F. What does each pronoun, **bold-typed** in the selection above, refer to? **(0.5)**
   1**. everyone** (Paragraph 4)   2. **This** (Paragraph 6)

Part Two: Writing   (Choose ONE of the following prompts.)   **(Score: 08/20)**

Prompt A: *Empowering citizens to hold government accountable for corruption is an element of building honesty in a nation.* **Write a persuasive essay of 400-500 words convincing** how governments can only make progress to fight social, economic, and ethical problems (corruption, violence, etc.) through honest and responsible citizens.

Prompt B: *"Whether you are a civil servant, a member of the media, a business person, or an ordinary citizen, you can act for building a better future! Achieving this goal requires building future generations of citizens brought up to expect corruption-free countries."* **In an expository essay of 400-500 words, explain the statement above**, referring to the role played by the educational system in generating kids who refuse to allow unethical deeds into their lives and into their country's systems.

[Content and organization of ideas 3.5, language and style 3.5, tidiness and handwriting 01]

National Corruption Breeding Personal Dishonesty

Q	Answer Key	Score
I-A-1	First, high-level corruption deteriorates/damages the nation's prosperity. Second, it worsens the moral behavior of its citizens. **(0.25 for each)**	**0.5**
I-A-2	The purpose of the experiment was to assess people's level of corruption (the tendency to lie). To do so, the experiment gave the participants the chance to lie: allowing them to report on one number out of two, giving them money equivalent to the number reported and without observing them.	**0.75**
I-A-3	PRV tends to reflect the level of dishonesty of the participants. The results showed that the higher average of PRV was scored by participants coming from nations/countries with high level of dishonesty and low social norms. This was clearly evident when underdeveloped and developing countries scored very high PRV in contrast to developed countries that scored very low PRV.	**01**
I-A-4	First, people change facts rather than they directly lie, thinking that it is justifiable and not wrong. Second, when people are surrounded by a high level of corruption, they consider themselves honest and have "good self-image" in contrast to others. Third, people's desire to have money and remain honest at the same time makes them justify their dishonest deeds. **(two reasons are enough; 0.5 for each)**	**01**
I-A-5	According to Paragraph 8, the financial gains are behind people's tendency to lie and behave in a dishonest way, so the government should provide all citizens with financial and social security so that they become less influenced by any means of corruption. In addition, people are not only vulnerable to corruption but also justify it, so authorities should raise citizens' awareness about moral values and ethics. As for Paragraph 9, the writer hints at the importance of focusing on the young generation, so it is important to teach children about ethics and honesty to pave the way for a less corrupted society. **(two measures are enough; 0.5 for each)**	**01**
I-B-1	**(False)** If the average claim of participants <u>is 5</u>, they are considered extremely dishonest. Or: If the average claim of participants <u>is 2.5</u>, they are considered <u>honest.</u>	**0.25**
I-B-2	**(False)** The national corruption levels of a country influence the citizen's honesty <u>after/at</u> the age of 21.	**0.25**
I-B-3	**(True)** Social norms play a role in altering citizens' behavior.	**0.25**
I-C-1	The figure of speech is metaphor: "One bad apple spoils the barrel, so the saying goes." The writer compares unethical or dishonest people to spoiled or rotten apples. Its function is to show the effect of dishonest people on their surrounding and their peers; those who are dishonest corrupt their surrounding, exactly as spoiled apples in a barrel do. **(0.5 for the metaphor and its explanation: 0.25 for each; 0.5 for the function)**	**01**

I-C-2	Paragraph 2 provides background information about the study that the selection develops. The back ground information include: the names of the two researchers working on it and where they work, the date of the publication of the study, the magazine that published it, and the main findings. **(0.5 for the function and 0.5 for the justification)**	**01**
I-C-3	The cohesive device the writer uses is an indirect link, which is <u>the repetition of key words</u>. The writer linked both paragraphs with "researchers", for both paragraphs talk about the study of the researchers and its findings. **(0.25 for the link and 0.25 for the explanation)**	**0.5**
I-C-4	Schulz's tone is <u>persuading/urging/advising</u> and <u>positive/optimistic</u>. He is persuading/urging people to take an action and be responsible through reforming corrupted institutions. In addition, he is positive/hopeful when he considers the path of change "worthwhile". **(0.5 for each tone with its justification)**	**01**
I-D	The table represents the relation between the level of corruption and that of transparency among an underdeveloped country, a developing country, and a developed country. The numbers show that the most corrupt one is the underdeveloped country (9 pts.) where the level of transparency is extremely low (1 pt.). However, the developed country is the least corrupted one and its level of transparency tallies high (9.5 pts.). Thus, the more transparent the country is, the less corrupt it becomes. **(0.5 for the introductory sentence, 01 for the analysis of the numbers, and 0.5 for the result)**	**02**
I-E-1	inflated	**0.25**
I-E-2	profoundly	**0.25**
I-E-3	clustered	**0.25**
I-E-4	incentive	**0.25**
I-F-1	"**everyone**" refers to the participants	**0.25**
I-F-2	"**This**" refers to (the idea of) linking simple cheating tests to real-world behavior	**0.25**
II-A	Content and organization	**3.5**
II-B	Language and style	**3.5**
II-C	Tidiness and handwriting	**01**