Local and global issues

You are taking part in an English debate club discussion on corruption. You should give a 3 to 5-minute talk in which you present your opinion on the issue. After your talk you will answer three questions and justify your opinion. Study the material provided below (the content and arguments) in order to plan your talk. You have 5 minutes to prepare. You can make notes on the paper. You can start earlier if you wish.

In your talk you should:

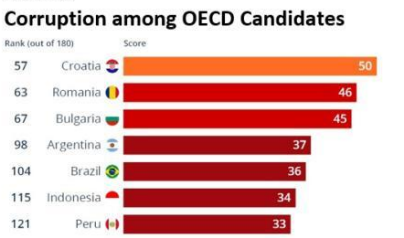
- **formulate the issue raised in the material,**
- **compare the information provided in the material,**
- **state your opinion on the issue,**
- **support your opinion with at least two arguments, including reasons and examples,**
- **come to a conclusion.**

Source 1:

Corruption does not happen by chance. It usually grows in environments where there is weak control, little accountability, and too much power in the hands of a few people. In some countries, powerful individuals may feel "above the law" because no one can punish them. Corruption is more common where freedom of the press is limited and citizens cannot criticize leaders. Poverty and inequality can make the problem worse, since people may pay bribes to get basic services. However, corruption is not only a problem in poor countries.

www.crisis.org.uk

Source 2:



Note: Levels of public sector corruption amongst 180 countries in 2023 (0 – highly corrupt; 100 – very clean)
Source: Transparency International

adapted from www.statcdn.com

1. Read an example speech by a Year 11 student. Complete the text with the missing words from the table. You do not need to change the forms. Also, pay attention to the tips and how the student follows them.

harms	*democracy*	*problem*	*affect*	*lose*	*informs*	*improve*
often	*difficult*	*lower*	*responsibility*	*accept*	*completely*	*than*

Formulate the issue raised in the material (explain the issue; you can outline the situation in the present day as well):

The issue raised in both materials is the unfair use of power for personal gain, which we call corruption. In today's world, this [1] _____ is visible in many forms. Politicians may take bribes to give contracts to certain companies, police officers may [2] _____ money to ignore crimes, or public servants may demand extra payments for basic services. This means ordinary people often have to pay more, wait longer, or simply lose access to things that should be free and fair.

Compare the information provided in the material (express the contrast between the two sources in your own words; you can do a deeper analysis by linking it with actual real-life examples as well; analyse the data from the graph):

Source one is a text and it highlights the main reasons why corruption appears. It [3] _____ that weak control, lack of accountability, and too much power in the hands of a few people allow corruption to grow. It also connects corruption with poverty, inequality, and the absence of press freedom, which makes it [4] _____ for citizens to criticize leaders.

However, source two is a bar chart, and it shows the corruption levels in different countries. Croatia, Romania, and Bulgaria are somewhere in the middle amongst 180 countries, with scores around 45–50, while countries like Brazil, Peru, and Indonesia are [5] _____, between 33 and 36. This suggests that the problem is more serious in certain regions. From my understanding, the chart shows that no country is [6] _____ free from corruption, but some governments manage it better than others. This also confirms what the text explained: corruption exists everywhere but in different degrees.

State your opinion on the issue and support it with at least two arguments, including reasons and examples (start with an argument, explain your viewpoint and give relatable examples; solutions may be provided, too):

In my opinion, corruption is one of the most dangerous types of global issues. It steals resources that could [7] _____ people's lives. For example, when money meant for hospitals ends up in private pockets, citizens suffer from poor healthcare. This can even cost lives.

Secondly, I think that corruption destroys [8] _____ and equality. If leaders make decisions based on bribes or personal benefit, then ordinary citizens lose their voice and opportunities. People stop believing in justice when they see that money matters more [9] _____ fairness. Also, corruption makes countries less competitive. Foreign investors are less likely to invest where bribery is common, which means fewer jobs and less growth.

My third argument is that corruption damages international reputation and cooperation. Countries with high levels of corruption [10] _____ struggle to build trust with foreign partners. Investors may avoid them, international organizations may limit their support, and tourism may even decline because visitors fear dishonesty or unfair treatment. For example, some developing countries [11] _____ billions in potential investments simply because companies prefer to work in safer, more transparent environments. This shows that corruption does not only [12] _____ local citizens but also isolates a country on the world stage.

Come to a conclusion (summarize your speech by paraphrasing your own words; your role or experience concerning the issue can be included as well as some future predictions or suggestions):

To conclude, corruption is not only an illegal act but also a daily reality that [13] _____ millions of people worldwide. It takes away money, destroys trust, and slows down growth. If governments, businesses, and ordinary people work together, corruption can be reduced step by step. Personally, I believe our generation has the [14] _____ to build a future where honesty is the norm and fairness is respected.

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