Political corruption

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In broad terms, political corruption is the misuse of public (governmental) power for illegitimate, usually secret, private advantage.

All forms of government are susceptible to political corruption. Forms of corruption vary, but the most common are patronage, bribery, extortion, influence peddling, fraud, embezzlement, and nepotism. While corruption often facilitates criminal enterprise such as drug trafficking, money laundering, and criminal prostitution, it is not restricted to these organized crime activities, and it does not always support or shield other crimes.

What constitutes corruption differs depending on the country or jurisdiction. Certain political funding practices that are legal in one place
may be illegal in another. In some countries, police and prosecutors have broad discretion over who to arrest and charge, and the line between discretion and corruption can be difficult to draw, as in racial profiling. In countries with strong interest group politics, practices that could easily constitute corruption elsewhere are sometimes sanctified as official group preferences.


QUESTION 46

According to the text, whenever public power is used for illegal purposes,

A) crime activities are restricted.

B) personal benefits are reached.

C) political corruption is banned.

D) public advantage is achieved.

QUESTION 47

A map was included in the text in order to show that corruption is a

A) long banned enterprise.

B) government top secret.

C) few nations’ problem.

D) worldwide phenomenon.
QUESTION 48

According to the text, the notion of corruption

A) changes from place to place.
B) constitutes legal activities.
C) reflects the official elections.
D) results in racial profiling.

QUESTION 49

“Racial profiling” (line 13) is mentioned in the text as a kind of practice

A) difficult to categorize.
B) impossible to fight.
C) resultant from arrest.
D) seen as corruption.

QUESTION 50

Both occurrences of the word “it” in lines 7 and 8 refer to

A) criminal enterprise.
B) organized crime.
C) political corruption.
D) racial illegitimacy.
SMALL BRIBES,
BIG CHALLENGE
Extent and nature of petty corruption in South Africa

Although grand corruption like that associated with the arms deal receives most media attention, petty corruption can be as damaging if left unchecked. According to the ISS 2003 National Victims of Crime survey, petty corruption was the second most prevalent crime in the country after housebreaking. Of most concern is that many citizens do not know how to report corruption, do not believe that doing so will change anything, and, despite good whistleblower provisions, are afraid of the consequences if they do report.

It should be noted from the outset that many incidents of corruption or attempted corruption were probably not reported to the survey. Some victims may be aware of their perceived ‘complicity’ as the bribe payer (albeit on demand, possibly accompanied with the threat of withholding a service) and would worry that by answering the questions they might implicate themselves. Others may not know that being asked for a bribe in return for a service constitutes a crime, and may instead see this as a ‘normal’ transaction fee required to ensure the delivery of services. Similarly, requests for ‘favours’ and ‘gifts’ may be overlooked as a form of corruption. These acts typically involve the purchase of a cold drink, alcohol or a meal in return for speeding up a service or the efficient delivery of a service. Some members of the public may regard this as an accepted form of gratitude.

The view that it would not change anything, and the lack of knowledge about where and how to report (which together represent two thirds of responses) could be addressed in the short term by a sustained awareness campaign by the public service. This should be geared towards informing citizens of why they need to counter corruption, thus popularising a whistleblowing culture, as well as ensuring that people know what channels to use to report (i.e. through national hotlines).
A dedicated public education campaign is needed to address the lack of awareness about what constitutes corruption and how to report it. Consensus among the elite will not be enough to stop corrupt practices. Ultimately broad public participation is required to promote a culture of whistleblowing in the public and private sectors, but also to ensure that corruption is prevented in future.

Hennie van Vuuren, Institute for Security Studies
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**QUESTION 51**

This text contains all the following topics, **EXCEPT**

A) corruption effects.
B) army transactions.
C) research findings.
D) small irregularities.

**QUESTION 52**

The people studied in the survey were

A) counsellors of justice.
B) officers in the police.
C) staff in security firms.
D) victims of illegal acts.
QUESTION 53

Whistleblower provisions could be interpreted as a means of

A) committing crimes.
B) providing whistles.
C) reporting corruption.
D) rewarding reports.

QUESTION 54

The text argues that the best way to fight petty corruption is to

A) conduct surveys.
B) give punishment.
C) interrupt services.
D) raise awareness.
QUESTION 55

The speaker in the cartoon is trying to

A) denounce his old enemies.

B) justify his corrupt actions.

C) promote his promising career.

D) ridicule his political opponents.

QUESTION 56

The speaker in the cartoon wants to say that it is all right to

A) favour his beloved ones.

B) get people to do his work.

C) show us how to be smart.

D) take friends out of business.
TEXT 4 – Questions 57 and 58


QUESTION 57

The cartoonist wants the reader to believe that Senator Krupt

A) has been paid by the press.
B) has done something wrong.
C) has gained people's trust.
D) has got a rather unfair trial.

QUESTION 58

The word they in this cartoon refers to the

A) lies.
B) means.
C) press.
D) senators.
TEXT 5 – Questions 59 and 60

“Wouldn’t you just hate not being able to afford to buy your way out of prison?”


QUESTION 59

We can say the speaker in the cartoon sounds

A) curious.
B) friendly.
C) proud.
D) sorry.

QUESTION 60

The cartoon shows that a person can go out of prison if he

A) calls for man’s justice.
B) has money for bribery.
C) makes good friends.
D) proves his innocence.