

國立新豐高中 101 學年度英文科教師甄試試卷 (測驗題)

I. Blank-filling (20%)

When warnings sound that the end of the euro is nigh, all eyes turn to Angela Merkel, the German chancellor. Germany must “__1__ its part” in saving the currency, says Spain’s economy minister, Luis de Guindos. If there is rescuing to be done, Germany is the obvious rescuer. Yet rather than toss out the lifebelt, Mrs Merkel offers swimming lessons.

She would find this characterisation unfair. Time and again she has taken stands against bail-outs only to __2__. She balked at bailing out Greece and at a permanent rescue fund and she vetoed the use of bail-out money to buy government bonds in the secondary market. In each case she gave in (too late, say critics).

By July she will push through parliament the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), the permanent fund she once opposed, and Europe’s fiscal __3__. Germany’s capital contribution to the ESM will push its budget deficit from €26 billion (\$32 billion) to €35 billion. Germany’s potential __4__, if all the money is lent and everyone defaults, could be €80 billion. But her partners want more: Eurobonds backed by all countries, more time for weak economies to meet deficit-reduction targets, direct lending to Spanish banks and a “banking union”, with Europe-wide deposit insurance. Will Mrs Merkel __5__ on these, too? Do not count on it.

Despite her retreats, she sees herself as a defender of principle. Everything to which Germany has __6__ has been part of a bargain: peripheral countries get help, but only in exchange for reform. Aid from the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF), the ESM’s precursor, is conditional. Greek bail-outs came with crushing demands (which Greece may reject after its election on June 17th). The ideas __7__ by François Hollande, France’s new president, and Mario Monti, Italy’s prime minister, would break her principle, say the Germans. To introduce Eurobonds as a crisis-fighting measure would only encourage less creditworthy countries in their __8__ ways. Similarly for centralised deposit insurance, which would enlist German banks (and ultimately the state) as guarantors of other countries’ savings.

Such proposals “bear on the core issue: do debt and responsibility remain linked to each other?” asks Norbert Barthle, a member of the Bundestag from Mrs Merkel’s Christian Democratic Union. Any instrument that severs the link will __9__ the crisis. Besides, such measures are forbidden by Germany’s constitution. That is not to say they can never happen. But they are imaginable only if the EU becomes more of a __10__ state, with a common fiscal policy and a parliament that reflects Germany’s share of the population. Mrs Merkel wants “more Europe”. But that requires “treaty changes, and we are not there yet today”. (from www.economist.com)

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|------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| (A) yield | (B) perpetuate | (C) assume | (D) spendthrift | (E) liability | (F) urged |
| (G) relent | (H) federal | (I) assented | (J) compact | (K) peripheral | (L) austerity |

【參考答案】：

1.(C) 2.(G) 3.(J) 4.(E) 5.(A)
6.(I) 7.(F) 8.(D) 9.(B) 10.(H)