1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, development of science and technology is very fast. This phenomenon results in many competitions in our life, especially in education. To solve that problem, the people need human resource that has a good quality. One way of Indonesian government to get a good quality is by increasing the quality of education, like National Examination (UN). UN is the way of Indonesian government to know the students’ skill in mastering the lessons. Every year, national examination has a different standard to graduate the students. The government hopes that national examination can increase the quality of education in Indonesia.

UN becomes the problem for many people, especially students. The students feel that their scores only will be decided from 3 days when UN is carried out. The students feel afraid of UN but they know that UN is the way to make them study hard, for example many students follow try out and take a course. Course and try out are the ways to increase students’ motivation in learning activity.

Many explanations are used to describe motivation. According to Mc. Donald (1959), motivation is an energy change within the person characterized by affective arousal and anticipatory goal reactions. Motivation becomes impeller for someone to reach the purposes. It means that motivation is very important, motivation is the concept to explain someone to do something. A student who has big motivation will be better than
a student who doesn’t have motivation although they have the same condition and skill. Good or fail result in learning activity is decided partly by motivation.

In fact, every people have different motivation one from another. Any students study to get knowledge but any students study because they feel afraid of their the parents. It means that motivation is influenced by intrinsic and extrinsic factors. Intrinsic factors appear from self determinatison. Extrinsic factors appear because external influence like as teacher and parents.

Motivation is needed in education because it can increase the activity to study. One factor of passing national examination is how the students can motivate themselves. The students will study hard if they have a big motivation.

There have been some researches dealing with motivations. One was done by Lismarta (2009) who has researched the first year student’s motivation in learning English at SMK Negeri 3 Pamekasan. The result of the research showed that there were 29 students (48.3%) who got the scores of motivation 70-79 (high motivation), 14 students (23.3%) who got the scores 80-100 (very high motivation), 10 students (16.7%) who got the scores 60-69 (moderate motivation), 5 students (8.3 %) who got the scores 50-59 (low motivation), and 2 students (3.4%) who had 0-49 (very low motivation). The mean of her research was 75.01 it means that the students’ motivation is high. The students with intrinsic motivation are more ambitious because they wanted to achieve their goal.

Another research was done by Samudra (2009) who has researched students’ motivation in learning English at Mts Nurul Ulum Gadungan. The research results were 11 students got high motivation (29.72%). The students who got average motivations
were 24 students. And the last, 2 students got low motivation (5.48%). The mean score of the second year students at MTS Nurul Ulum Gadungan was 99.10. It means that their motivation in learning English was average. In Fithra’s research, the intrinsic motivation is more dominant than extrinsic motivation.

Based on the above explanation, motivation is the important factor in teaching learning process. Therefore, the researcher wants to investigate about students’ motivation to face national examination at SMA 2 Batu.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

Based on the background above, the writer formulates problem by the following questions:

1. How is the students’ motivation to prepare for national examination at SMA Negeri 2 Batu?

2. What do the students do to motivate themselves in preparing for national examination at SMA Negeri 2 Batu?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

The research will be done to achieve some purposes as follow:

1. To know the students’ motivation to prepare for national examination at SMA Negeri 2 Batu.

2. To know what the students do to motivate themselves in preparing for national examination at SMA Negeri 2 Batu.
1.4 Significance of the Study

The finding of this study is expected to give information about students’ motivation to prepare for UN. This contribution will be useful for school, especially in achieving the success to prepare for UN.

The result of this study is also expected to provide a feedback to the teacher, especially at SMA 2 Batu. The research will give the real description about students’ motivation. Therefore, the teacher will know about their students’ motivation. So, they can use the effective teaching strategies.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research focuses on the students’ motivation. This research is limited on the students at third grade of SMA 2 Batu.

1.6 Definition of key terms

1. Motivation is something that energizes, directs and sustains behavior; it gets students moving, points them in a particular direction, and keeps them going. We usually see it reflected in a certain amount of personal investment in particular activities (Maehr and Meyer, 1997).

2. National examination is the result evaluation of study by government to measure and to compare the students’ competency in national and to decide the graduation of students.