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ÉPREUVE DE LANGUE VIVANTE

Durée de l'épreuve : 1 heure 30 minutes

L'emploi de tout document (dictionnaires, imprimés, ...) ou de tout appareil (traductrices, calculatrices électroniques, ...) est interdit dans cette épreuve.

Cette épreuve est commune aux candidats de toutes les filières.

*Cette épreuve est constituée d'un **thème** et d'un exercice **d'expression écrite** comportant deux questions.*

- La première question est notée sur 4.
- La deuxième question est notée sur 8.
- Le thème est noté sur 8.

La réponse à la première question devra comporter 80 mots plus ou moins 10%.

La réponse à la deuxième question devra comporter 180 mots plus ou moins 10%.

Le candidat indiquera le nombre de mots employés dans chaque réponse.

Les candidats sont priés de mentionner en tête de leur copie la langue dans laquelle ils ont composé, qui est obligatoirement celle qu'ils ont indiquée dans leur dossier d'inscription.

Les candidats trouveront l'épreuve d'allemand aux pages 1 et 2, l'épreuve d'anglais aux pages 3 et 4, l'épreuve d'arabe aux pages 5 et 6, l'épreuve d'espagnol aux pages 7 et 8, l'épreuve d'italien aux pages 9 et 10 et l'épreuve de russe aux pages 11 et 12.

Les références et les titres du thème, lorsqu'ils existent, ne sont pas à traduire.

Pour faciliter la correction de l'épreuve, les candidats écriront leur texte toutes les deux lignes.

ANGLAIS

Expression écrite

Britain should let university tuition fees rise

Domestic students have been paying less in real terms every year.

The Labour Party, which took power in July and has campaigned in the past to abolish tuition fees, will find it difficult to raise the cap [on tuition fees universities can charge] again. That is nonetheless what it should do.

The financial strains on British universities are becoming hard to ignore. In the academic year just gone 40% of British universities ran deficits. The effect of tighter immigration rules on numbers of foreign students, who pay higher fees than native ones, is one reason why the universities are under pressure. But the sinking value of tuition fees is another. Inflation has eaten away at its value: it is now worth less than £6,500 in 2012 money.

Some argue that charging for higher education is wrong, and England should go back to the old days of free tuition, courtesy of the taxpayer. In fact, England's student-finance regime offers a lot to like. Britons with degrees earn 35% more than their peers who stop studying after secondary school. Given these high private returns, it is fair that they should pay a big chunk of the cost of their education. Student-loan repayments do not end in bankruptcy: graduates in England start paying only when their annual income exceeds a threshold (currently £25,000 for this year's borrowers). The previous jump in tuition fees has not put off poorer students; and most graduates in a recent poll said their debts had not had a "negative impact" on their lives.

From learners to earners

Every way of funding degrees has its flaws. Countries that pour a lot of public money into higher education generally limit how many students can go to university (as did England, until 2015). It is hard to argue that higher-earning graduates are the worthiest recipients of any new government spending. And relying on ever more foreign students to subsidise domestic ones is also not a sustainable solution. If fees for home students remain stuck, higher-paying foreigners will eventually start displacing them. Flows of foreign cash are volatile, and benefit universities in famous cities such as London more than others. Also, voters like immigration even less than they like fees.

Universities say that if fees had tracked inflation, the cap would now be more than £12,000. A sudden increase on that scale would be unwise. But neither students nor the country are well served by allowing the real value of fees to fall for ever. Labour should let them rise.

Adapted from *The Economist*, September 18, 2024.

Questions

1. According to the text, what are the arguments for a rise in tuition fees in Britain? Answer the question in your own words (80 words, $\pm 10\%$)
2. In your opinion, who should finance higher education and why? (180 words, $\pm 10\%$)

ANGLAIS

Thème

Quand Saturnine arriva au lieu du rendez-vous, elle s'étonna qu'il y ait tant de monde. Certes, elle s'était doutée qu'elle ne serait pas l'unique candidate ; de là à être reçue dans une salle d'attente, où quinze personnes la précédaient, il y avait de la marge.

« C'était trop beau pour être vrai, pensa-t-elle. Je ne l'aurai jamais, cette colocation. » Comme elle avait pris sa matinée, elle résolut néanmoins de patienter. La magnifique pièce l'y invitait. C'était la première fois qu'elle entrait dans un hôtel de maître du VII^e arrondissement de Paris et elle n'en revenait pas du faste, de la hauteur sous plafond, de la tranquille splendeur de ce qui constituait à peine une antichambre.

L'annonce précisait : « Une chambre de 40m² avec salle de bains, accès libre à une grande cuisine équipée », pour un loyer de 500 €. Il devait y avoir une erreur.

Amélie Nothomb, *Barbe bleue*
Albin Michel, 2012

L'usage de tout système électronique ou informatique est interdit dans cette épreuve.

Rédiger en anglais et en 500 mots une synthèse des documents proposés, qui devra obligatoirement comporter un titre. Indiquer avec précision, à la fin du travail, le nombre de mots utilisés (titre inclus), un écart de 10% en plus ou en moins sera accepté.

Ce sujet comporte les 4 documents suivants :

- un extrait d'un essai de YUVAL NOAH HARARI publié en septembre 2016 sur le site *openthemagazine.com* ;
- un extrait d'un article de SAM SHEAD publié sur le site de la chaîne de télévision américaine *CNBC*, le 21 septembre 2021 ;
- un extrait d'un article d'ANDREA CHANG publié dans *Los Angeles Times*, le 22 février 2024 ;
- un dessin de BEN JENNINGS publié sur le site de *The Guardian*, le 12 septembre 2021.

L'ordre dans lequel se présentent les documents est arbitraire et ne revêt aucune signification particulière.



The Last Days of Death

By YUVAL NOAH HARARI, *openthemagazine.com*, 08 September 2016

IN THE TWENTY-FIRST century humans are likely to make a serious bid for immortality. Struggling against old age and death will merely carry on the time-honoured fight against famine and disease, and manifest the supreme value of contemporary culture: the worth of human life. We are constantly reminded that human life is the most sacred thing in the universe. Everybody says this: teachers in schools, politicians in parliaments, lawyers in courts and actors on theatre stages. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN after the Second World War—which is perhaps the closest thing we have to a global constitution—categorically states that ‘the right to life’ is humanity’s most fundamental value. Since death clearly violates this right, death is a crime against humanity, and we ought to wage total war against it.

Throughout history, religions and ideologies did not sanctify life itself. They always sanctified something above or beyond earthly existence and were consequently quite tolerant of death. Indeed, some of them have been downright fond of the Grim Reaper. [...]

Modern science and modern culture have an entirely different take on life and death. They don’t think of death as a metaphysical mystery, and they certainly don’t view death as the source of life’s meaning. Rather, for modern people death is a technical problem that we can and should solve.

How exactly do humans die? Medieval fairy tales depicted Death as a figure in a hooded black cloak, his hand gripping a large scythe. A man lives his life, worrying about this and that, running here and there, when sud-

denly the Grim Reaper appears before him, taps him on the shoulder with a bony finger and says, ‘Come!’ [...]

In reality, however, humans don’t die because a figure in a black cloak taps them on the shoulder, or because God decreed it, or because mortality is an essential part of some great cosmic plan. Humans always die due to some technical glitch. [...]

An increasing minority of scientists and thinkers consequently speak more openly these days, and state that the flagship enterprise of modern science is to defeat death and grant humans eternal youth. Notable examples are the gerontologist Aubrey de Grey and the polymath and inventor Ray Kurzweil (winner of the 1999 US National Medal of Technology and Innovation). In 2012 Kurzweil was appointed a director of engineering at Google, and a year later Google launched a sub-company called Calico whose stated mission is ‘to solve death’. [...]

Such dreams are shared by other Silicon Valley luminaries. PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel has recently confessed that he aims to live forever. ‘I think there are probably three main modes of approaching [death]: he explained. ‘You can accept it; you can deny it or you can fight it. I think our society is dominated by people who are into denial or acceptance, and I prefer to fight it.’ Many people are likely to dismiss such statements as teenage fantasies. Yet Thiel is somebody to be taken very seriously. He is one of the most successful and influential entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley with a private fortune estimated at \$2.2 billion. The writing is on the wall: equality is out—immortality is in. [...]

The breakneck development of fields such as genetic engineering, regenerative medicine and nanotechnology fosters ever more optimistic prophecies. Some experts believe that humans will overcome death by 2200, others say 2100. Kurzweil and de Grey are even more sanguine. They maintain that anyone possessing a healthy body and a healthy bank account in 2050 will have a serious shot at immortality by cheating death a decade at a time. [...]

In truth they will actually be a-mortal, rather than immortal. Unlike God, future superhumans could still die in some war or accident, and nothing could bring them back from the netherworld. However, unlike us mortals, their life would have no expiry date. [...]

Coming back to the realm of reality, it is far from certain whether Kurzweil's and de Grey's prophecies will come true by 2050 or 2100. My own view is that the hopes of eternal youth in the twenty-first century are premature, and whoever takes them too seriously is in for a bitter disappointment. [...]

Nevertheless, every failed attempt to overcome death will get us a step closer to the target, and that will in-

spire greater hopes and encourage people to make even greater efforts. Though Google's Calico probably won't solve death in time to make Google co-founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page immortal, it will most probably make significant discoveries about cell biology, genetic medicines and human health. [...]

Hence even if we don't achieve immortality in our lifetime, the war against death is still likely to be the flagship project of the coming century. When you take into account our belief in the sanctity of human life, add the dynamics of the scientific establishment, and top it all with the needs of the capitalist economy, a relentless war against death seems to be inevitable. [...]

The scientific establishment and the capitalist economy will be more than happy to underwrite this struggle. Most scientists and bankers don't care what they are working on, provided it gives them an opportunity to make new discoveries and greater profits. Can anyone imagine a more exciting scientific challenge than outsmarting death—or a more promising market than the market of eternal youth? [...]



Silicon Valley's quest to live forever could benefit humanity as a whole — here's why

By SAM SHEAD, *CNBC's* technology correspondent in London, September 21, 2021

All things must die, according to the poet Alfred Lord Tennyson, but that could be about to change.

A growing number of tech billionaires have decided they want to use their enormous wealth to try to help humans "cheat death."

Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Alphabet's Larry Page, Oracle's Larry Ellison and Palantir's Peter Thiel are just a few of the super-rich who have taken a keen interest in the fast-emerging field of longevity, according to interviews, books and media reports.

While breakthroughs are far from guaranteed, they hope that various medicines, therapies and other life science technologies will enable humans to live well beyond 100 years old and possibly to 200, 300, or even longer.

But are their efforts going to benefit humanity as a whole or just an elite few? It's a tricky question that divides opinion.

"Technologies that initially are only affordable to the rich typically become more widely available with time," Stefan Schubert, a researcher at the London School of Economics and Political Science who specializes in 'effective altruism', told CNBC. Indeed, this is true of everything from air travel to smartphones and medicine.

Tech investor Jaan Tallinn, the co-founder of Skype, told CNBC that Silicon Valley's quest to live forever will eventually benefit humanity as a whole.

"I think involuntary death is clearly morally bad, which makes the quest for longevity a morally noble thing to engage in," Tallinn said. [...]

Tallinn added that he thinks it's "counterproductive" to require that a new service be available to everyone before anyone is allowed to use it, but he said he understands the instinct.

Sean Ó hÉigeartaigh, co-director of Cambridge University's Center for the Study of Existential Risk, told CNBC that many advances in longevity science could have broad benefits, adding that they could reduce the occurrence or severity of older age-related diseases including dementia and heart health.

[...]

Some are concerned that the Earth's finite resources could come under strain if people live longer, healthier lives.

However, by the time meaningful life extension advances are made, Ó hÉigeartaigh expects population numbers to be more stable in more parts of the world thanks to progress in women's empowerment and other factors.

"The challenges of our unsustainable resource footprints will need to be addressed long before science solves aging," Ó hÉigeartaigh added. "We have many more pressing things to worry about than the risks of life extension, such as climate change in the coming century."

While some believe that billionaires should be able to spend their money on what they see fit, not everyone thinks tech billionaires should be using their money to fund life extension research.

Jon Crowcroft, a computer science professor at Cambridge University, told CNBC they'd be better off pump-

ing more of their billions into climate change mitigation technologies instead of longevity research.

“It’s a bit pointless living forever on a dying planet,” said Crowcroft.

But Tallinn told CNBC he finds the tech billionaire’s efforts to support longevity research “commendable.”

“I think it’s generally unfair to pit good causes against each other in a world where most resources are wasted on morally unimportant or even reprehensible things,” Tallinn said.

Bezos, the second richest man in the world behind Elon Musk, has invested some of his \$199 billion into a new “rejuvenation” start-up called Altos Labs, according to a report from MIT Technology Review earlier this month.

[...]

Meanwhile, Google founders Sergey Brin and Larry Page helped launch Calico, a secretive venture that’s tracking mice from birth to death in the hope of finding markers for diseases like diabetes and Alzheimer’s, according to a report in *The New Yorker*. Calico is part of Alphabet, the holding company that also owns Google.

One of the biggest advocates for life extension among the tech billionaires is Thiel, who co-founded PayPal and Palantir. [...]

In 2006, he donated \$3.5 million to support anti-ageing research through the non-profit Methuselah Mouse Prize foundation. “Rapid advances in biological science foretell of a treasure trove of discoveries this century, including dramatically improved health and longevity for all,” he said at the time. Thiel had upped his investment in Methuselah Mouse Prize foundation to \$7 million by 2017, according to *Time*.

According to *The New Yorker*, Thiel and Bezos have both invested in San Francisco-based Unity Biotechnology, a company whose founder reportedly said he wants to “vaporize¹ a third of human diseases in the developed world.”

On the other side of the Atlantic, British billionaire Jim Mellon told CNBC last September that he was planning to take Juvenescence, his own life extension company, public in the next six to 12 months.

It’s yet to happen, but Juvenescence is continuing to invest in a wide range of anti-ageing therapies that it thinks have the potential to extend the human life.

[...]

Los Angeles Times

Can money conquer death? How wealthy people are trying to live forever

By ANDREA CHANG, *Los Angeles Times*, February 22, 2024

Peter Diamandis, a week away from turning 63, bounds out of a Starbucks on a recent morning with a cup of decaf [and] his daily medley of 70 supplement capsules in his pocket. [...]

The serial entrepreneur is in the standard uniform of serial entrepreneurs: jeans, sneakers, fitted black T-shirt, Apple Watch, Oura Ring and puffer vest, the back of which says, “Life is short . . . until you extend it.”

“I woke up at 6. I meditated for 15 minutes [...].” Diamandis says as he makes his way up Wilshire Boulevard. “Went through my dental protocol. Did push-ups and sit-ups and squats. And then came here.”

“Here” is a sixth-floor doctor’s office in Santa Monica, where the XPrize founder has been coming every few weeks to undergo therapeutic plasma exchange. The \$7,500 procedure involves removing blood, running it through a machine to separate out the plasma and replace it with albumin and saline, and then returning the replenished blood to the body.

“I’m basically giving myself an oil change,” Diamandis says once he’s hooked up, a large-gauge needle poking out of each arm, deep red blood flowing in both directions. He’ll be here for the next three hours.

Therapeutic plasma exchange is typically done to treat a number of diseases, but as far as Diamandis knows — and he has gone to great lengths to know — he is in excellent health. Instead, he’s using it prophylactically as part of the \$120,000 he spends every year to live as long as possible.

He is hardly alone in the pursuit. The eternal quest to delay or even conquer death has reached new levels of fascination in recent years, spurred by a growing number of researchers studying the aging process and major investments in the field from billionaires including Jeff Bezos, Larry Page, Sergey Brin, Peter Thiel and Sam Altman.

The anti-aging movement has also gotten a boost — and a fair share of ridicule — from extreme tales of rich immortality biohackers such as Los Angeles multimillionaire Bryan Johnson, who claims that death is no longer inevitable. The 46-year-old tech entrepreneur follows an audacious \$2-million-a-year “don’t die” plan [...] in an attempt to turn back his biological clock.

Longevity is the medical frontier and lifestyle fad of the moment, but it remains a hotly debated and controversial topic within the scientific community.

1. To vaporize : to eliminate, to disintegrate

Although human lifespan has more than doubled since the early 1900s — life expectancy at birth is now about 73 years globally — it is unclear whether any of the buzzy treatments widely marketed today will amount to a meaningful increase in quantity and quality of life down the line. Skeptics criticize much of the remedies being peddled as scientifically unproven and nothing more than hype and false hope.

There are also moral questions at play and a basic philosophical disagreement over whether aging should be considered a disease that can be reversed — and, if so, what that even means. Without aging being defined as an illness, longevity treatments face a murky regulatory path with the FDA.

“The promise and the potential are transformative, and I really do think we’re going to see a revolution in health because of longevity medicine,” said Mitchell Lee, a molecular geneticist and chief executive of Ora Biomedical, a biotech firm focused on developing therapies to help people live longer, healthier lives. “The cold water to splash on the face is we are not there yet. We don’t know of any single intervention that improves healthy lifespan”. [...]

Diamandis has become a prominent spokesman for the industry and an investor in it, directing a third of his \$600-

million venture fund, Santa Monica-based Bold Capital Partners, into longevity and other health-related startups.

[...]

And as a technologist who has started more than 25 companies, most of them in the space, health-tech and education industries, he sees humans making enormous leaps in the near future and doesn’t want to miss out. In particular, he believes we are getting close to “longevity escape velocity,” a theory embraced by immortalists that posits that, at some point, scientific breakthroughs will extend a person’s remaining life expectancy by more than a year for every year that they stay alive.

“Going to the moon, going to the asteroids, seeing humanity spread itself through the solar system — I want to witness and participate,” he says over the gentle whirring of the plasma exchange machine as a team of doctors and nurses monitor his vitals [...].

Diamandis is the first to acknowledge his live-long goal is not altogether altruistic. Longevity, he said over lunch at the Casa Del Mar hotel in Santa Monica in April (grilled fish, steamed veggies, shot of olive oil at the end), is “the biggest business opportunity on the planet.”

[...]



“Jeff Bezos’s Quest for Immortality”

By BEN JENNINGS, published in *The Guardian*, September 12, 2021

◇ Fin ◇

**ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE - ESPCI
ECOLE NORMALES SUPERIEURES**

CONCOURS D'ADMISSION 2025

**MERCREDI 16 AVRIL 2025
14h00 - 18h00
FILIERES MP-MPI-PC-PSI
Epreuve n° 6
ANGLAIS (XEULSR)**

Durée totale de l'épreuve écrite de langue vivante (A+B) : 4 heures

L'utilisation de dictionnaire et traductrice n'est pas autorisée pour cette épreuve.

**PREMIÈRE PARTIE (A)
SYNTHÈSE DE DOCUMENTS**

Contenu du dossier : trois articles et un document iconographique pour chaque langue. Les documents sont numérotés 1, 2, 3 et 4.

Sans paraphraser les documents proposés dans le dossier, le candidat réalisera une synthèse de celui-ci, en mettant clairement en valeur ses principaux enseignements et enjeux dans le contexte de l'aire géographique de la langue choisie, et en prenant soin de n'ajouter aucun commentaire personnel à sa composition.

La synthèse proposée devra comprendre entre 600 et 675 mots et sera rédigée intégralement dans la langue choisie. Elle sera en outre obligatoirement précédée d'un titre proposé par le candidat.

**SECONDE PARTIE (B)
TEXTE D'OPINION**

En réagissant aux arguments exprimés dans cet éditorial (document numéroté 5), le candidat rédigera lui-même dans la langue choisie un texte d'opinion d'une longueur de 500 à 600 mots.

A. Document 1

Money for nothing: is universal basic income about to transform society?

Donna Ferguson, *The Guardian*
14 July 2024

The concept of a guaranteed basic income might seem novel or neoteric, but it dates back to 1795, when the American founding father Thomas Paine suggested a “national fund” should pay every adult “rich or poor” a “ground rent” of £10 a year until the age of 50. Earth is “the common property of the human race”, he argued, so everyone has been collectively dispossessed by “the introduction of the system of landed property” and was entitled to compensation.

Today, as artificial intelligence (AI) learns from the collective intellectual and creative output of humans and uses this to dispossess workers of their livelihoods, the idea of universal basic income (UBI) as a possible solution is gaining traction. “We are seeing the most disruptive force in history,” Tesla founder and X (formerly Twitter) owner Elon Musk said last year, before speculating: “There will come a point where no job is needed – you can have a job if you want one for personal satisfaction – but AI will do everything.”

The counter argument is that although AI could replace a range of jobs, it will also create new roles (including oversight of AI decision making – known as “human in the loop”). Yet for many workers, the advance of AI continues to be alarming. In March, after analysing 22,000 tasks in the UK economy, covering every type of job, a model created by the Institute for Public Policy Research predicted that 59% of tasks currently done by humans – particularly women and young people – could be affected by AI in the next three to five years. In the worst-case scenario, this would trigger a “jobs apocalypse” where eight million people lose their jobs in the UK alone.

UBI would provide a vital safety net. “Under capitalism, you need money to survive. It’s that simple,” says Dr Neil Howard, an international development social protection researcher at the University of Bath. He and his team have helped to develop basic income pilots around the world and, like Thomas Paine, he believes that a redistribution of the privatised resources of all human beings is inherently just. [...]

Contrary to expectations, he says, “It wouldn’t necessarily lead to people doing less work – it would enable them to do better work or to invest their time in more socially useful activities.”

This argument is backed up by a 2020 study conducted by researchers at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. It found that unemployed individuals who were previously in receipt of benefits increased their participation in the labour market after they were given a basic income for three years. Rather than opting for insecure work – taking any job they could get – to fulfil the conditions imposed upon them by the benefits system, they were more likely to find and accept a long-term, well-paid job. They also took on more work.

“Humans need to do work that feels valuable, psychologically,” says Cleo Goodman, a UBI expert at the thinktank Autonomy. For example, she believes that if UBI was available, people would do more creative and charitable work. “The kind of work that it’s now very difficult to make an income from is the kind of work that I think people would move to in droves. And I think that would be positive for society.” [...]

Darrell West, author of *The Future of Work: AI, Robots and Automation*, says that just as policy innovations were needed in Thomas Paine’s time to help people transition from an agrarian to an industrial economy, they are needed today, as we transition to an AI economy. “There’s a risk that AI is going to take a lot of jobs,” he says. “A basic income could help navigate that situation.”

Nell Watson, a futurist who focuses on AI ethics, has a more pessimistic view. She believes we are witnessing the dawn of an age of “AI companies”: corporate environments where very few – if any – humans are employed at all. Instead, at these companies, lots of different AI sub-personalities will work independently on different tasks, occasionally hiring humans for “bits and pieces of work”. [...]

Watson speculates that only jobs that require human interaction (like hospital chaplains and care workers) or involve complex physical tasks (like plasterers, plumbers and hairdressers) will need to be done by humans in the future. As a result, she thinks it could be AI companies, not governments, that end up paying people a basic income.

AI companies, meanwhile, will have no salaries to pay. “Because there are no human beings in the loop, the profits and dividends of this company could be given to the needy. This could be a way of generating support income in a way that doesn’t need the state welfare. It’s fully compatible with capitalism. It’s just that the AI is doing it.”

B. Document 2

Labour or leisure? Why a universal basic income might foster wellbeing but not productivity

Alexander Plum and Kabir Dasgupta, *The Conversation*
29 Aug 2024

The current cost-of-living crisis, high interest rates and the ensuing economic contraction have disproportionately hit low-income households. And for many low-income workers, the future remains uncertain.

On top of that, the rise of artificial intelligence may result in significant job redundancies and displacements. And recent employment data for New Zealand has been grim, with a rise in the number of unemployed.

The uncertain future of work in general has led many to propose some form of universal basic income (UBI) as a solution. The underlying idea is simple: everyone receives a basic income with no strings attached.

But would a UBI really work? And by how much could it change the lives of low-income households in particular? As it turns out, a new study from the United States, funded by OpenAI's founder Sam Altman, provides insights into what can potentially be expected if the UBI becomes a reality.

Altman sees universal cash payments as a possible solution to the large-scale job displacements expected with AI-driven automation. However, the study's results were not necessarily what supporters of the scheme were hoping for.

Thus, the UBI can be a costly programme for a government, depending on the amount paid. A 2019 study calculated that a UBI at the jobseeker support level of NZ\$215 per week would cost \$41.3 billion annually. However, the government can also generate savings by slashing bureaucracy and replacing the welfare system with the UBI.

A number of countries have been exploring what a UBI might mean for them. Finland ran a two-year UBI pilot in 2017 and 2018. This aimed to understand whether an unconditional cash transfer encouraged uptake of low-paid or temporary work among the unemployed.

Two thousand randomly selected unemployed people received €560 (NZ\$1,000) monthly. The study found positive wellbeing effects. The basic income recipients were found to be more satisfied with their lives and experienced less mental strain. The impact on employment was also positive but small.

Two thousand randomly selected unemployed people received €560 (NZ\$1,000) monthly. The study found positive wellbeing effects. The basic income recipients were found to be more satisfied with their lives and experienced less mental strain. The impact on employment was also positive but small.

Sam Altman's US-based study investigated how guaranteed minimum income affects low-income households' employment and earning prospects.

The study recruited participants from low-income households, aged between 21 and 40 as of 2019, in the states of Texas and Illinois.

The research group consisted of 1,000 randomly selected low-income adult individuals who unconditionally received US\$1,000 (NZ\$1,700) per month for three years.

To put this amount in perspective, the cash transfer equalled, on average, a 40% increase in household income. Compared with other such studies, both the amount and the duration are unprecedented.

Two thousand participants formed the control group, each receiving US\$50 (NZ\$85) monthly.

Interestingly, the analysis revealed a 2% drop in labour market participation by those receiving the cash transfer, and a reduction in the weekly number of hours worked by between 1.3 to 1.4 hours.

What were the participants doing with the extra time? In theory, the additional financial security for low-income households should enable individuals to spend more time productively.

However, the study found an increase in the time spent on leisure pursuits, but no significant improvements in the quality of employment and no significant effects on education or training.

The findings suggest the negative labour market implications of UBI may depend on the duration and the generosity of the programme.

Given the most recent changes to the jobseeker benefit rules in New Zealand, which include benefit sanctions, it is unlikely the current government will consider a programme like a UBI.

But AI is fundamentally changing the nature of work. There may come a time soon when such a cash transfer becomes necessary.

C. Document 3

Could a £2-a-day basic income be the key to protecting rainforests?

Graeme Green, *The Guardian*
22 Aug 2024

“At the beginning, there was a lot of fear and disbelief,” said Ketty Marcelo. “There was a perception from the communities that this was another scam, that it was only looking to steal information or our integrity.”

Indigenous communities in the Amazon have grown weary of people coming in from outside with plans that could mean them losing their land or way of life. When a team from Cool Earth, a climate action NGO, came to the Amazon communities of central Peru in October 2022, local people were hesitant. “These fears caused some families not to participate,” Marcelo said. “And we, as an organisation, were afraid this would be another project that would seek to impose activities without respecting the autonomy of the communities.”

But what developed instead was a collaboration between Cool Earth and two all-female Indigenous-led organisations – the National Organisation of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru (Onamiap), of which Marcelo is president, and the Organisation for Indigenous Women of the Central Selva of Peru (Omiasec).

Together, they created a groundbreaking basic income pilot project to give £2 a day – with no strings attached – to 188 people across three Asháninka and Yánesha communities in the Avireri-Vraem reserve.

“It’s the world’s first basic income pilot for Indigenous peoples who live in rainforests with a link to protect the forest and fight the climate crisis,” said Isabel Felandro, the global head of programmes for Cool Earth, who leads the organisation’s work in Peru. “There are other basic income initiatives around the world but most are focused on humanitarian or social issues. In the communities we work with, their activities are very linked to the protection of the forest.”

She continued: “Poverty is the biggest driver of deforestation in these areas. These communities in very remote areas not only face a lack of access to basic needs – healthcare, food, education – but on top of that they face the climate crisis. There are more fires in the forest and more droughts. There are also a lot of illegal economies going into these places: illegal logging, illegal mining and drug cartels. Growing drugs is one of the main drivers of deforestation in the areas of the Amazon where we work.

“When people are in urgent need and want to take their children for medical care or to school, sometimes these cycles of poverty lead them to take on roles in those illegal activities, or to sell their land or allow their trees to be cut down. Giving them financial support gives them a choice to have a more sustainable way of living.” [...]

Three communities were selected because they were known to have an interest in conservation and reforestation. But each individual who receives the money is free to spend it however they choose. Giving money direct to individuals is seen as faster

and more cost-effective than setting up long-term community projects, such as in agriculture.

Felandro said: “Cacao or coffee projects create a lot of work and bureaucracy for us. You can skip all [the complication of an agriculture project], give people the income and trust them to make choices to support themselves and their territories. We don’t want to create intermediaries or mass bureaucracy. We really give autonomy to people to spend the money how they want. There are no strings attached at all.” [...]

“We’re seeing very positive spending,” Felandro said. “It’s mostly to cover basic needs like food, healthcare or sending their kids to school. Some people are already buying seeds and investing in reforestation – they worry about droughts, so they’re reforesting around the spring to maintain their water supply – a communal activity. Fewer families are facing financial stress. With poverty, they had to prioritise other things. But now they can do more conservation activities and rainforest restoration.” [...]

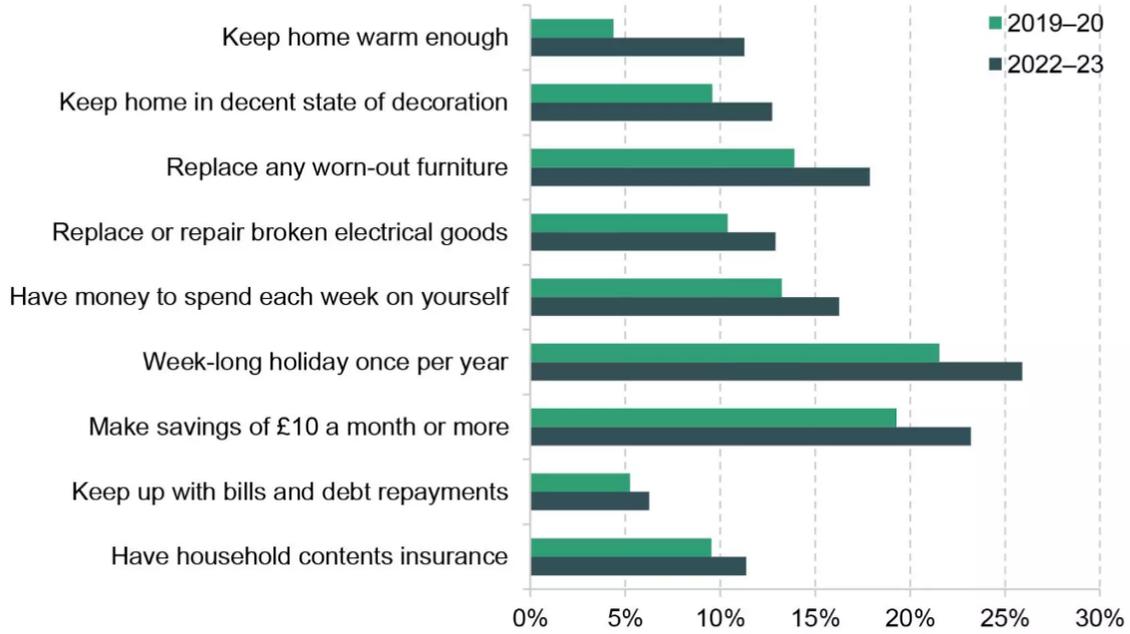
“We’re very confident direct cash projects are the way to go,” Felandro said. “This idea could apply to Indigenous communities in the whole Amazon and to rainforest communities in other regions of the world.”

Scaling up would require significantly more money. “We’d love to see a global fund for basic income,” Felandro said. “We call Indigenous communities the guardians of the rainforest. But they’re often not provided the agency to support the forest. This basic income pilot is about giving them that. The ideal goal is for governments to get involved. We have the Green Climate Fund, with governments and big companies putting money in, but only 0.01% of the money is really reaching Indigenous communities. With a basic income cash transfer, that money could go direct to communities.”

D. Document 4

Share of working-age adults unable to afford each item in the UK

Living standards, poverty and inequality in the UK: 2024 by *IFS*, 25 July 2024



E. Document 5

Universal Basic Income Is a Moral Hazard

Chris Talgo, *Newsweek.com*
29 Jan 2024

In recent years, several countries, and more than a few municipalities in the United States, have experimented with universal basic income (UBI) under the assumption that unconditionally sending people a government check every month will reduce poverty, decrease income inequality, increase happiness, and allow people to pursue their artistic and creative endeavors without having to worry about working for a living.

Some, mostly on the Left, believe that a UBI is unavoidable, and needs to be implemented sooner rather than later given that automation, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and other emerging technologies are revolutionizing the workplace and making many traditional jobs nearly obsolete.

Many on the Right think differently about a UBI, arguing that it is not a poverty cure-all, and that it would be too costly and introduce more perils than benefits.

Since the launch of the War on Poverty in 1964, the United States has spent an estimated \$22 trillion on anti-poverty programs. And what have Americans received in return? A cottage industry of welfare, bloated government bureaucracies, cronyism, corruption, and a large increase in those dependent on the dole. Incredibly, since 1965, the poverty rate has barely changed.

Evidence shows UBI programs similarly fail to achieve their primary stated goal of alleviating poverty.

Consider the example of Finland, which abandoned its UBI experiment after it failed to reduce unemployment and placed a big burden on Finnish taxpayers. In 2015, the Finnish government launched a UBI program that gave 2,000 unemployed Finnish families \$658 per month after the unemployment rate reached a 17-year high of 10 percent.

While the UBI was in effect, Finland's unemployment rate decreased less than 1 percentage point. To this day, it remains among the highest of all the Nordic countries. Additionally, only 35 percent of hard-working Finns supported the UBI when told they must pay more in taxes to keep the UBI program afloat, according to a study by Finland's Social Insurance Institution. [...]

Aside from the fact that UBI programs are expensive, ineffective, and breed government dependence, they also undermine people's dignity, adversely affect the economy, and remove the incentive to work.

By simply giving people money with no strings attached, UBI advocates eliminate their incentive to earn an income and their natural inclination to pursue a fulfilling career. [...]

As anyone who has been in the work force for many years knows, having a career brings satisfaction. Yes, work can be tedious. It can be draining. It can even be frustrating at times. But work is also inherent to the human condition. It is where we learn to set and achieve goals, overcome obstacles, cooperate with others, communicate effectively, among many more life lessons.

UBI is a dubious policy, not only because it has failed to produce the intended results in places where it has been tried, but also because it rewards idleness and begets dependence on government. [...]

ÉPREUVE MUTUALISÉE AVEC E3A-POLYTECH**ÉPREUVE COMMUNE - FILIÈRES MP - MPI - PC - PSI - TPC - TSI****LANGUE VIVANTE A****ANGLAIS****Durée : 3 heures**

N.B. : le candidat attachera la plus grande importance à la clarté, à la précision et à la concision de la rédaction. Si un candidat est amené à repérer ce qui peut lui sembler être une erreur d'énoncé, il le signalera sur sa copie et devra poursuivre sa composition en expliquant les raisons des initiatives qu'il a été amené à prendre.

RAPPEL DES CONSIGNES

- Utiliser uniquement un stylo noir ou bleu foncé non effaçable pour la rédaction de votre composition ; d'autres couleurs, excepté le vert, bleu clair ou turquoise, peuvent être utilisées pour la mise en évidence des résultats.
- Ne pas utiliser de correcteur.
- Écrire le mot FIN à la fin de votre composition.

L'usage de toute machine (calculatrice, traductrice, etc.) est strictement interdit.

Rédiger en anglais et en 400 mots une synthèse des documents proposés, qui devra obligatoirement comporter un titre.

Vous indiquerez impérativement le nombre total de mots utilisés (titre inclus) et vous aurez soin d'en faciliter la vérification en mettant un trait vertical tous les vingt mots.

Des points de pénalité seront soustraits en cas de non-respect du nombre total de mots utilisés avec une tolérance de $\pm 10\%$.

Concernant la présentation du corpus dans l'introduction, vous n'indiquerez **que la source et la date de chaque document**. Vous pourrez ensuite, dans le corps de la synthèse, faire référence à ces documents par « doc.1 », « doc. 2 », etc.

Ce sujet comporte les quatre documents suivants, qui sont d'égale importance.

- **Document 1** - Olympics and its Environmental Impacts, Claire Ehlert (extrait et adapté de *The Starfish*, Canadian environmental journal, June 14, 2022).
- **Document 2** - "Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together": Social Change and the Olympic Games, Emma Sherry & Kasey Symons (extrait et adapté de *Australian Institute of International Affairs*, Australian Think Tank, August 18, 2021).
- **Document 3** - Tokyo's Olympic legacy: Will hosting the Games have benefitted local communities? Mike Duignan & Judith Mair (extrait et adapté de *The Conversation*, September 7, 2021).
- **Document 4** - Economic benefits of hosting the Olympic Games: Job creation and business growth linked to hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games (*International Olympic Committee*, November 20, 2023).

Document 1 - Olympics and its Environmental Impacts

Modern day Olympics have been part of our culture for 126 years, so it's no wonder major cities around the world make bids to host the next events on world wide platforms. Hosting the Olympics has the potential to boost tourism, create better sporting facilities, improve transportation and infrastructure, create more jobs, and increase economic growth. Seems like a win-win situation, right? There are potential economic benefits, but what about the costs to the planet?

Prior to 1956 the Olympic host cities were chosen based on the capability of infrastructure that already existed in those locations to host the athletes and the games. This kept the costs of hosting relatively low since the necessary facilities already existed. The amount of work that now goes into preparing for the Olympic games is extortionate. From building transit infrastructure to bring athletes and tourists to the games, to building new stadiums and venues for the games to take place, host countries can spend between \$5 billion to \$50 billion on infrastructure upgrades. Some cities, such as Barcelona, go as far as to import 2 miles worth of sand from Egypt to completely rebuild their waterfront for visitors' enjoyment.

The infrastructure undertakings are not so kind to our planet, on top of the food, energy, and air travel that is inherently involved. One of the more recent Olympic environmental disasters occurred at the 2014 Sochi Winter Games. These games had intentions of being "sustainable" and yet they created illegal landfills for construction materials, destroyed habitats, forced animal migration, and contaminated water ways with waste spillage.

An environmental consequence that is often critiqued, is that many of the venues are left abandoned and unused after the Games have finished. For example, the venues that were constructed for the Athens 2004 Games have fallen into disrepair due to disuse. The 2022 Beijing Olympics were the first ever Olympics planned to run entirely on artificial snow.

However, the Tokyo 2020+1 Games were one of the most sustainable to date. These Games used sustainable materials throughout, from recycled cardboard for the beds the athletes slept on, to recycled plastic podiums, and metal from recycled phones and electronics to make the medals. They also used green energy and carbon credits in order to lower the carbon footprint of the Games. Tokyo not only set a precedent for the upcoming/current games in Beijing, Paris, LA, and Brisbane, but they also created a new avenue of competition in the Games – to be the best in sustainability. The competition is working, and organisers of the 2024 Paris Games plan to host "the most sustainable Games ever".

Claire Ehlert, *The Starfish*, Canadian environmental journal, June 14, 2022

Document 2 - "Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together": Social Change and the Olympic Games

The Olympic Games provide a platform to celebrate athletic achievement. They can also be a platform to showcase inclusion and create broader social impact.

Every two years, the global gaze turns towards the Olympic Games and its host nation. In spite of growing concerns about the sustainability of these mega-events, and potential for negative impacts on the host cities and their communities, we have seen shifts in the role that the Olympic Games can play to create and showcase positive social impact and provide a platform for social change. The Tokyo 2020 Games provided places and spaces to demonstrate inclusivity and redefine success on and off the field of play. As Australia prepares for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic Games, it is important to consider how these Games can be leveraged for social and community impact for the Australian community.

Tokyo 2020 was arguably the most visibly inclusive Games ever witnessed. Record numbers of women athletes participated in them across all events and disciplines. Tokyo 2020 was also the first Games to permit trans athletes to compete. We saw women returning to the highest level of

elite sport after having children, breaking the myth that motherhood equals the end of your athletic career, or that mothers are less worthy of support or sponsorship. We celebrated the vision of Tom Daley, an openly gay man, not only winning gold medals but also knitting in the stands while supporting his colleagues. Each of these moments in these Games provide a platform to show the world that there is more than one way to look, more than one way to be, and more than one way to succeed. While there is still more work to do for the Games to become more inclusive, these were exciting and positive steps forward.

Athletes across sports have increasingly been using their public profile and platforms to make political statements or protest for social change. After much debate, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) amended Rule 50, which prohibits any form of propaganda or political statements, to allow for silent protest pre-competition and on the podium. The IOC also changed the Olympic motto for 2021, adding the word “together.” The new Olympic motto now reads: “Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together.”

Success on the podium is still important, of course. Medals carry more than their weight in gold with funding, incentives, and targets to grow participation, but Tokyo may just inspire more approaches to how we define success in social impact and human spirit to continue to use sport for change.

In 11 years, Australia will once again host the Olympic Games. The platform and visibility of this mega-event provides an enormous opportunity for Australia to create an event that celebrates not only the highest level of athletic achievement, but also contributes to creating and showcasing the best version of Australia it can be. The challenge for Australia is to ensure that these Games are inclusive, sustainable, and leave a positive legacy for the host community and for the nation more broadly.

Emma Sherry & Kasey Symons, *Australian Institute of International Affairs*, Australian Think Tank, August 18, 2021

Document 3 - Tokyo’s Olympic legacy: Will hosting the Games have benefitted local communities?

Over the past 20 years, the notion of the legacy of the Olympic Games has become increasingly crucial to any campaign to host them. In 2006, the World Athletics president declared, “It is the local people who should stand to gain most from the Games.” The aim is to convince local populations that the Games will bring them net benefits, compared to investing this money into other sectors like health and education.

A significant body of evidence has found that, in the run up to the Games, local communities in and around Olympic sites are directly affected. Construction of the new National Stadium in Shinjuku, ahead of Tokyo 2020, saw elderly tenants evicted and displaced, and homeless people driven out in alarming numbers.

With each new successful Olympic bid, this pattern of displacement, disruption and gentrification is consistently noted. In the five years prior to the Games, Barcelona saw an increase of 130% in property prices. Sydney, too, saw a rise in house prices of 11% more than the rest of Australia ahead of the 2000 Summer Olympics. Low-income residents can be replaced by upwardly mobile residents as fast as the new apartment blocks are erected to house them. Rising commercial rents, meanwhile, cause small, low-profit margin businesses to fail, with bijou stores and coffee shop chains replacing them.

These effects are felt long after the Games come to an end. Post-event gentrification has become so persistent that pundits refer to it as the “Olympic effect”. However, the reality for those facing eviction and forced out of local neighbourhoods is frequently bleak, which highlights an indifference towards protecting local business communities and diverse urban high streets. Research has found that these communities are often embroiled in a struggle to survive and

barely recognised as a key contributor to both local and national economies. Yet, this is far from the truth.

Cities are complex organisms. The way they evolve over time is a product of decades of social and economic policies. The Olympics, however, hasten gentrification that would otherwise have come to fruition more gradually.

Future Olympic host cities, including Paris (2024), Los Angeles (2028) and Brisbane (2032), must try to limit any negative local social impacts. The fallout of displacing local people and businesses may not be an immediate priority, politically or economically speaking. However, unique local culture produced by vibrant local communities is what keeps visitors coming in the long term.

Mike Duignan & Judith Mair, *The Conversation*, September 7, 2021

Document 4 - Economic benefits of hosting the Olympic Games: Job creation and business growth linked to hosting the Olympic and Paralympic games

JOB CREATION AND BUSINESS GROWTH LINKED TO HOSTING THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES



London 2012



JOBS

From 2010 to 2017, 110K jobs were created in the six boroughs surrounding Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in East London

Vancouver 2010



INCLUSION

Aboriginal-owned businesses were awarded 59M CAD in Olympic-related procurement contracts

Rio 2016



CONTRACTS

Some 2.2K micro and small businesses were awarded 390M BRL in contracts, creating 18K jobs

Beijing 2022



GROWTH

More than 346M people engaged in winter sport in China between 2015 and 2022. By 2025, the domestic ice and snow market is predicted to be worth 105BN USD

Paris 2024



OPPORTUNITIES

For the organisation of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, 181K jobs will be created, with measures to give equal opportunities to unemployed people and other disadvantaged groups

Milano Cortina 2026



NEW POSTS

In the Lombardy region, 22K full time equivalent posts are predicted to be created

Sources: London Legacy Development Corporation; Rio 2016; Centre de Droit et d'Economie du Sport (CDES); Vancouver 2010; National Bureau of Statistics, China; Bocconi University

Olympics.com

SUMMER GAMES

WINTER GAMES

International Olympic Committee, November 20, 2023

FIN

ÉPREUVE MUTUALISÉE AVEC E3A-POLYTECH

ÉPREUVE COMMUNE - FILIÈRES MP - MPI - PC - PSI - TPC - TSI

LANGUE VIVANTE B ANGLAIS - ESPAGNOL

L'épreuve de langue vivante B est obligatoire pour Lorraine INP - EEIGM (filières MP, PC et PSI)

Durée : 1 heure

RAPPEL DES CONSIGNES

- Utiliser uniquement un stylo ou un feutre noir
- N.B. : si un candidat croit repérer ce qui paraît être une erreur d'énoncé, il le signalera par écrit en expliquant au verso de la grille réponse les raisons des initiatives qu'il a été amené à prendre et poursuivra normalement son épreuve.

L'usage d'un dictionnaire et de machines (traductrice, calculatrice, etc.) est strictement interdit.

INFORMATIONS GÉNÉRALES

Définition et barème

QCM en trois parties avec quatre propositions de réponse par item.

- | | | |
|------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. | Compréhension : | 12 items (10 points sur 20) |
| II. | Lexique : | 12 items (5 points sur 20) |
| III. | Compétence grammaticale : | 15 items (5 points sur 20) |

Réponse juste : + 3

Pas de réponse : 0

Réponse fausse ou réponses multiples : - 1

Instructions

Lisez le texte et répondez ensuite aux questions.

Choisissez parmi les quatre propositions de réponse (A, B, C ou D) celle qui vous paraît la mieux adaptée. Il n'y a qu'une seule réponse possible pour chaque item.

Reportez votre choix sur la feuille de réponse.

Index " alphabétique "

Anglais : pages 2 à 5

Espagnol : pages 6 à 10

ANGLAIS

Why the Earth quakes – a closer look at what's going on under the ground

[...] On September 8, 2023, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco shook ancient villages apart, leaving thousands of people dead in the rubble. [...] Earthquakes are part of the normal behavior of the Earth. They occur with the movement of the tectonic plates that form the outer layer of the planet. You can think of the plates as a more or less rigid
5 outer shell that has to shift to allow the Earth to give off its internal heat.

These plates carry the continents and the oceans, and they are continuously in slow-motion crashes with one another. The cold and dense oceanic plates dive under continental plates and back into Earth's mantle in a process known as subduction. As an oceanic plate sinks, it drags
10 everything behind it and opens a rift somewhere else that is filled by rising hot material from the mantle that then cools. These rifts are long chains of underwater volcanoes, known as mid-ocean ridges.

Earthquakes accompany both subduction and rifting. In fact, that is how the plate boundaries were first discovered. In the 1950s, when a global seismic network was established to monitor nuclear tests, geophysicists noticed that most earthquakes occur along relatively narrow bands
15 that either fringe the edges of ocean basins, as in the Pacific, or cut right down the middle of basins, as in the Atlantic. They also noticed that earthquakes along subduction zones are shallow on the oceanic side but get deeper under the continent. If you plot the earthquakes in 3D, they define slablike features that trace the plates sinking into the mantle. [...]

Scientists explain earthquakes using what's known as the elastic rebound theory. Fast plates
20 move at up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) per year, driven mostly by the oceanic slabs sinking at subduction zones. Over time, they become stuck to each other by friction at the plate boundary. The attempted motion deforms the plate boundary zone elasticity, like a loaded spring. At some point, the accumulated elastic energy overcomes the friction and the plate jerks forward, causing an earthquake.

25 But the plate-diving forces do not stop, so the plate boundary starts to accumulate elastic energy again, which will cause another earthquake – perhaps soon or perhaps far in the future. In the oceans, plate boundaries are narrow and well defined because the underlying rocks are very stiff. But within the continents, plate boundaries are often broad zones of deformed mountainous terrain crisscrossed by many faults. Those faults may persist for eons, even if the plate
30 boundary becomes inactive. That is why sometimes earthquakes occur far from plate boundaries.

The cyclic behavior of faults allows seismologists to estimate earthquake risks statistically. Plate boundaries with fast motions, such as the ones along the Pacific rim, accumulate elastic energy rapidly and have the potential for frequent large-magnitude earthquakes. Slow-moving plate
35 boundary faults take longer to reach a critical state. Along some faults, hundreds or even thousands of years can pass between large earthquakes. This allows time for towns to grow and for people to lose ancestral memory of past earthquakes.

The earthquake in Morocco is an example. Morocco is located on the boundary between the African and the Eurasian plates, which are slowly crashing into each other. The huge belt of
40 mountains that extends from the Atlas of North Africa to the Pyrenees, Alps and most of the mountains across southern Europe and the Middle East is the product of this plate collision. Yet because these plate motions are slow near Morocco, large earthquakes are not so frequent.

An important fact about catastrophic earthquakes is that, in most cases, the earthquakes don't

- kill people – falling buildings do. Most Americans have heard of California’s San Andreas Fault and the seismic risk to San Francisco and Los Angeles. The last major earthquake along the San Andreas Fault hit at Loma Prieta, in the San Francisco Bay area, in 1989. Its magnitude, 6.9, was comparable to that of the earthquake in Morocco, yet 63 people died compared with thousands. That’s largely because building codes in these earthquake-prone U.S. cities are now designed to keep structures standing when the Earth shakes.
- 50 The exceptions are tsunamis, the huge waves generated when an earthquake shifts the seafloor, displacing the water above it. A tsunami that hit Japan in 2011 had horrific consequences, regardless of the quality of engineering in coastal towns. Unfortunately, earthquake scientists can’t predict exactly when an earthquake might occur; they can only estimate the hazard.

Adapted from *The Conversation*
13 September 2023

I. COMPRÉHENSION

Choisissez la réponse qui vous paraît la plus adéquate en fonction du sens du texte.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. From line 1 to line 5, it should be understood that earthquakes:</p> <p>(A) occur very often.
(B) are caused by the earth’s cooling.
(C) are followed by tsunamis.
(D) enable the earth to expel internal heat.</p> <p>2. From line 6 to line 11, it should be understood that the tectonic plates:</p> <p>(A) never collide with each other.
(B) slowly bump into each other.
(C) break up because of the weather.
(D) cover the oceans.</p> <p>3. From line 6 to line 11, it should be understood that subduction:</p> <p>(A) consists in cleaning the earth’s surface.
(B) is when a plate slides under another one.
(C) occurs when a volcano wakes up.
(D) means exposing the ground to a hot material.</p> <p>4. From line 12 to line 18, it should be understood that earthquakes occur:</p> <p>(A) rarely in the Pacific area.
(B) most often in the Atlantic zone.
(C) only in mountainous regions.
(D) very often next to or in the middle of oceans.</p> <p>5. From line 12 to line 18, it should be understood that earthquakes:</p> <p>(A) are stronger when it is windy.
(B) are never linked to the climate.
(C) are more profound under the continent.
(D) vary according to the time.</p> | <p>6. From line 19 to line 24, it should be understood that the elastic rebound theory:</p> <p>(A) studies the evolution of volcanoes
(B) assesses the length of the plates.
(C) is used to prevent earthquakes.
(D) explains how energy is released during an earthquake.</p> <p>7. From line 25 to line 31, it should be understood that the accumulation of elastic energy in the plate boundary:</p> <p>(A) instantaneously triggers an earthquake.
(B) may lead to an earthquake in the future.
(C) protects the earth’s crust.
(D) increases the sea level.</p> <p>8. From line 32 to line 37, it should be understood that fast-moving plate boundaries:</p> <p>(A) are likely to cause more frequent earthquakes.
(B) take longer to reach a critical state.
(C) are less risky than slow-moving ones.
(D) are not studied by seismologists.</p> <p>9. From line 38 to line 42, it should be understood that:</p> <p>(A) Earthquakes are frequent in Morocco.
(B) North Africa is more exposed to earthquakes than Europe.
(C) Tectonic plates do not move fast near Morocco.
(D) Mountains in the Atlas are low.</p> |
|--|---|

- 10.** From line 43 to line 49, it should be understood that earthquakes:
- (A) are deadlier than falling buildings.
 - (B) kill as many people as tsunamis do.
 - (C) are less dangerous than collapsing buildings.
 - (D) are very often harmless.
- 11.** From line 43 to line 49, it should be understood that:
- (A) Loma Prieta's earthquake was stronger than Morocco's.
 - (B) Morocco's earthquake reached a 6.9 magnitude.
 - (C) Thousands of people died in Loma Prieta.
 - (D) Morocco recorded more victims than Loma Prieta.

- 12.** From line 50 to line 54, it should be understood that:
- (A) Coastal cities are neglected in Japan.
 - (B) Japan's 2011 tsunami wasn't due to an earthquake.
 - (C) Japan could have easily foreseen the 2011 tsunami.
 - (D) Tsunamis are triggered by earthquakes.

II. LEXIQUE

Choisissez la réponse qui vous paraît la plus appropriée en fonction du contexte.

13. mantle (line 8) means:

- (A) depth
- (B) covering
- (C) core
- (D) atmosphere

14. drags (line 8) means:

- (A) destroys
- (B) lifts
- (C) draws
- (D) pushes

15. rift (line 9) means:

- (A) river
- (B) rock
- (C) wave
- (D) gap

16. ridges (line 11) means:

- (A) spirals
- (B) frontiers
- (C) rubbish
- (D) mountain chains

17. fringe (line 15) means:

- (A) border
- (B) stop
- (C) change
- (D) improve

18. shallow (line 17) means:

- (A) big
- (B) very deep
- (C) small
- (D) not deep

19. plot (line 17) means:

- (A) locate
- (B) see
- (C) map out
- (D) buy

20. slabs (line 20) means:

- (A) plates
- (B) waves
- (C) species
- (D) temperatures

21. stiff (line 28) means:

- (A) high
- (B) breakable
- (C) rigid
- (D) elastic

22. faults (line 29) means:

- (A) mistakes
- (B) hills
- (C) lines
- (D) fractures

23. rim (line 33) means:

- (A) ocean
- (B) zone
- (C) border
- (D) environment

24. shifts (line 50) means:

- (A) reaches
- (B) displaces
- (C) presses
- (D) shakes

III. COMPÉTENCE GRAMMATICALE

Choisissez la réponse adéquate.

- 25.** I think about it, I understand.
(A) More / less
(B) The more / less
(C) The more / the less
(D) More / the less
- 26.** Whether here or there, we don't mind.
(A) it be
(B) it has
(C) is it
(D) it would be
- 27.** about it before, they the disaster.
(A) Had they thought / could have avoided
(B) They had thought / could avoided
(C) Have they thought / could avoid
(D) They have thought / could avoided
- 28.** This hurricane is the deadliest
(A) I ever see.
(B) I have ever seen.
(C) I ever saw.
(D) I had seen ever.
- 29.** Earthquakes hard to foresee.
(A) are told to be
(B) say they are
(C) are said to be
(D) are said being
- 30.** Seismologists to solve the issue a long time.
(A) try / for
(B) are trying / for
(C) have tried / since
(D) have tried / for
- 31.** It is the second time an earthquake here.
(A) did occur
(B) occur
(C) occurred
(D) has occurred
- 32.** They won't cut off the project however
(A) costly it may be.
(B) costly may it be.
(C) it may be costly.
(D) it costly may be.
- 33.** You careful to avoid an accident.
(A) had better to be
(B) had to better be
(C) had better be
(D) had better being
- 34.** money is needed to repair the damage.
(A) Very little
(B) Very few
(C) A very little
(D) A very few
- 35.** Temperatures are getting
(A) the hotter and the hotter.
(B) the more and the more hot.
(C) more and more hot.
(D) hotter and hotter.
- 36.** the efforts made, there is still a lot to do.
(A) In spite of
(B) Despite of
(C) In spite
(D) In despite
- 37.** dollars have been invested in the project.
(A) Billion of
(B) Billions of
(C) Billions
(D) Billion
- 38.** They took action without the citizens.
(A) they consult
(B) they consulted
(C) consult
(D) consulting
- 39.** Before you, give me a call please.
(A) leave
(B) will leave
(C) left
(D) have left

FIN



Epreuve de Langue Vivante A

Durée 3 h

Si, au cours de l'épreuve, un candidat repère ce qui lui semble être une erreur d'énoncé, d'une part il le signale au chef de salle, d'autre part il le signale sur sa copie et poursuit sa composition en indiquant les raisons des initiatives qu'il est amené à prendre.

Pour cette épreuve, l'usage de tout appareil électronique et dictionnaire est interdit.

CONSIGNES :

- Composer lisiblement sur les copies avec un stylo à bille à encre foncée : bleue ou noire.
- L'usage de stylo à friction, stylo plume, stylo feutre, liquide de correction et dérouleur de ruban correcteur est strictement interdit. Les surveillants et surveillantes se réservent le droit de les confisquer.
- Remplir sur chaque copie en MAJUSCULES toutes vos informations d'identification : nom, prénom, numéro inscription, date de naissance, le libellé du concours, le libellé de l'épreuve et la session. Une feuille, dont l'entête n'a pas été intégralement renseigné, ne sera pas prise en compte.
- Il est interdit aux candidats de signer leur composition ou d'y mettre un signe quelconque pouvant indiquer sa provenance. La présence d'une information d'identification en dehors du cartouche donnera lieu à un point de pénalité et la page concernée pourra être soustraite de la correction.
- Les candidats qui ne composeraient pas dans la langue choisie au moment de leur inscription se verront attribuer la note zéro.

Les différents sujets sous forme d'un fascicule sont présentés de la manière suivante :

Pages 2 à 8	Allemand
Pages 9 à 14	Anglais
Pages 15 à 20	Arabe
Pages 21 à 26	Espagnol
Pages 27 à 32	Italien

ANGLAIS

En vous appuyant *uniquement* sur les documents du dossier thématique qui vous est proposé, vous rédigerez une synthèse répondant à la question suivante :

Sleeper trains across Europe and beyond: the future of traveling?

Votre synthèse comportera entre 450 et 500 mots et sera précédée d'un titre. Le nombre de mots rédigés (titre inclus) devra être indiqué à la fin de votre copie.

Liste des documents :

1. All Aboard The Sleeper Train - The Unexpected Renaissance Of Overnight Rail Travel In Europe, *Forbes*
2. 'We are full': the rebirth of Europe's sleeper trains, *The Financial Times*
3. Europe Is Undergoing a Sleeper Train Renaissance, *Condé Nast Traveler*
4. The carbon cost of transportation, visualcapitalist.com
5. Sleeper trains, railbook.com.au

Document 1

All Aboard The Sleeper Train - The Unexpected Renaissance Of Overnight Rail Travel In Europe

Davide Banis, *Forbes*, Nov 5, 2019

In his 2017 book *Night Trains*, British writer Andrew Martin nostalgically celebrates the bygone era of overnight rail travel. Attempting to recreate the journeys immortalized by novels like *Murder on the Orient Express*, Martin embarks on a series of nocturnal train adventures across Europe, just to realize that today's sleeping carriages are nothing but a pale shadow of the opulent "hotels on wheels" that whisked wealthy passengers from Paris to Istanbul in the first half of the 20th century. [...]

In comparison, today's night trains leaves Andrew Martin unimpressed. His couchette on an *Intercités de Nuit*, an overnight service run by France's national railway company, is "a pretty good simulacrum of a prison cell." Despite the spartan hospitality, night trains aren't particularly profitable either. "They do not make money," wrote Martin, "so their future looks uncertain in Western Europe."

In 2017, when Martin published his eulogy, overnight rail routes were being axed across Europe and sleeping carriages seemed ready to be parked at the transport museum, killed by budget airlines and high-speed trains. However, just a couple of years later, night trains may be about to undergo an unexpected renaissance.

So, are night trains the silver bullet for climate-conscious, efficient and even glamorous travel? No, or at least not yet. Hefty track access fees, infrastructure capacity constraints and high maintenance costs put the brakes on railway companies' investments in their overnight services.

And even when they do invest, things don't always turn out as hoped.

The case of the new Caledonian Sleeper is exemplary in this regard. Connecting London to Scotland, the Caledonian Sleeper is one of the two remaining overnight routes in the United Kingdom (the other, the Night Riviera, connects London to West Cornwall). The Scottish government and Serco, the company which operates the train on behalf of Transport Scotland, spent £150 million (\$193 million) to renovate the rolling stock and the overall experience.

Unfortunately, since their introduction in April 2019, the new fleet of trains has been plagued by a variety of glitches and faults, from severe delays to water problems. The Office of Rail and Road (ORR), the U.K.'s railways regulator, reported that, between April and June, the Caledonian Sleeper has attracted the highest complaint rate of any train operator in the country.¹

Part of the charm of *wagon-lits* is that moving them across countries amounts to an epic operation. It requires solid infrastructure, a faultless rolling stock, specialized personnel able to maintain hotel standards in difficult conditions and (often) international cooperation. [...]

The challenge now is to make this romantic and climate-friendly travel option more economically viable, both for operators and passengers. And to ensure it remains a reasonably pleasant experience.

It's an uphill struggle and there's a lot of work to do but this also means that for night trains the end of the line is still far, far away.

¹ In June 2023, Caledonian Sleeper services transferred into public control and ownership, and are now provided within the public sector.

Document 2

'We are full': the rebirth of Europe's sleeper trains

Philip Georgiadis, *The Financial Times*, March 10, 2023

Elmer van Buuren has spent 20 years waiting for night trains to come back into fashion. A former guard on the Dutch railway, van Buuren turned from enthusiast to entrepreneur and along with a business partner crowdfunded the launch of their own train company, European Sleeper.

"Until a couple of years ago, everyone thought sleeper trains were a thing of the past and something for hopeless romantics with their heads in the 19th century. That is just not the case," van Buuren said.

Europe's big rail operators have also launched new routes but the renaissance of the sleeper, long a byword for a lost age of travel, is being held back by a more modern problem: a shortage of suitable carriages.

Rail operators have complained of a rush for rolling stock as demand booms, with van Buuren saying it had been "extremely difficult" to find suitable carriages for the European Sleeper, which plans to launch this year a train linking Brussels, Amsterdam and Berlin on three nights a week. [...]

Many old carriages were sold off as night trains fell into decline decades ago because of competition from high-speed rail and airlines. The remaining carriages, some up to 60 years old, are increasingly unsuitable for modern travellers, who are less inclined to spend the night sharing a small compartment with strangers and expect modern facilities such as an *en-suite* toilet.

Only an average of six new carriages per year were ordered between 2001 and 2017, meaning it would take 250 years to replace the continent's nearly 1,500 dedicated night train carriages with more suitable modern equipment, according to a 2021 European Commission report. But things have since picked up and some national rail companies have placed new orders. [...]

Jon Worth, a railway commentator and campaigner, believes there is a "large number of new routes" that could be launched to meet the "enormous unmet potential" across Europe. He said that only Europe's state railway companies had the financial muscle to order new trains, but they were focused on growing daytime and high-speed services, while smaller entrants did not have the money to make a large order." [...]

In Brussels, the commission is working to promote rail travel as part of a drive to cut the bloc's transport emissions and has estimated there are several untapped new routes that could provide effective competition with air travel. It has offered technical assistance to help several pilot projects with the logistics of gaining access to the maze of tracks across Europe, but has given no specific funding for new carriages.

Yet passenger demand is so strong that it has outstripped supply even on ÖBB²'s sprawling network, where there have been complaints from customers who assume the company's website is broken because every single train is sold out. "We get so many remarks that your system is down," an ÖBB spokesperson said. "We are full, we are full, we are full."

² ÖBB is the Austrian national railway company.

Document 3

Europe Is Undergoing a Sleeper Train Renaissance

J.R. Patterson, *Condé Nast Traveler*, December 11, 2021

Night trains like the Caledonian Sleeper—most featuring glamorous design and spacious cabins—were once everywhere in Europe. Among these overnight rail routes were the likes of the Blue Train through the south of France, the Elipsos from Paris to Madrid, and the Night Ferry from London to Paris. But with the advent of air travel and cheap flights, many iconic sleeper routes were discontinued; what few remained were indeed opulent, but out of reach for the average tourist (think the Belmond Venice Simplon Orient Express, which costs around \$4,000 per night).

Recently, however, a renewed interest in rail travel—particularly sleeper routes—seems to be taking root. The last couple years have seen a flurry of new projects that will restore sleeper train service in Europe and will likely usher in a new era of rail travel in the region.

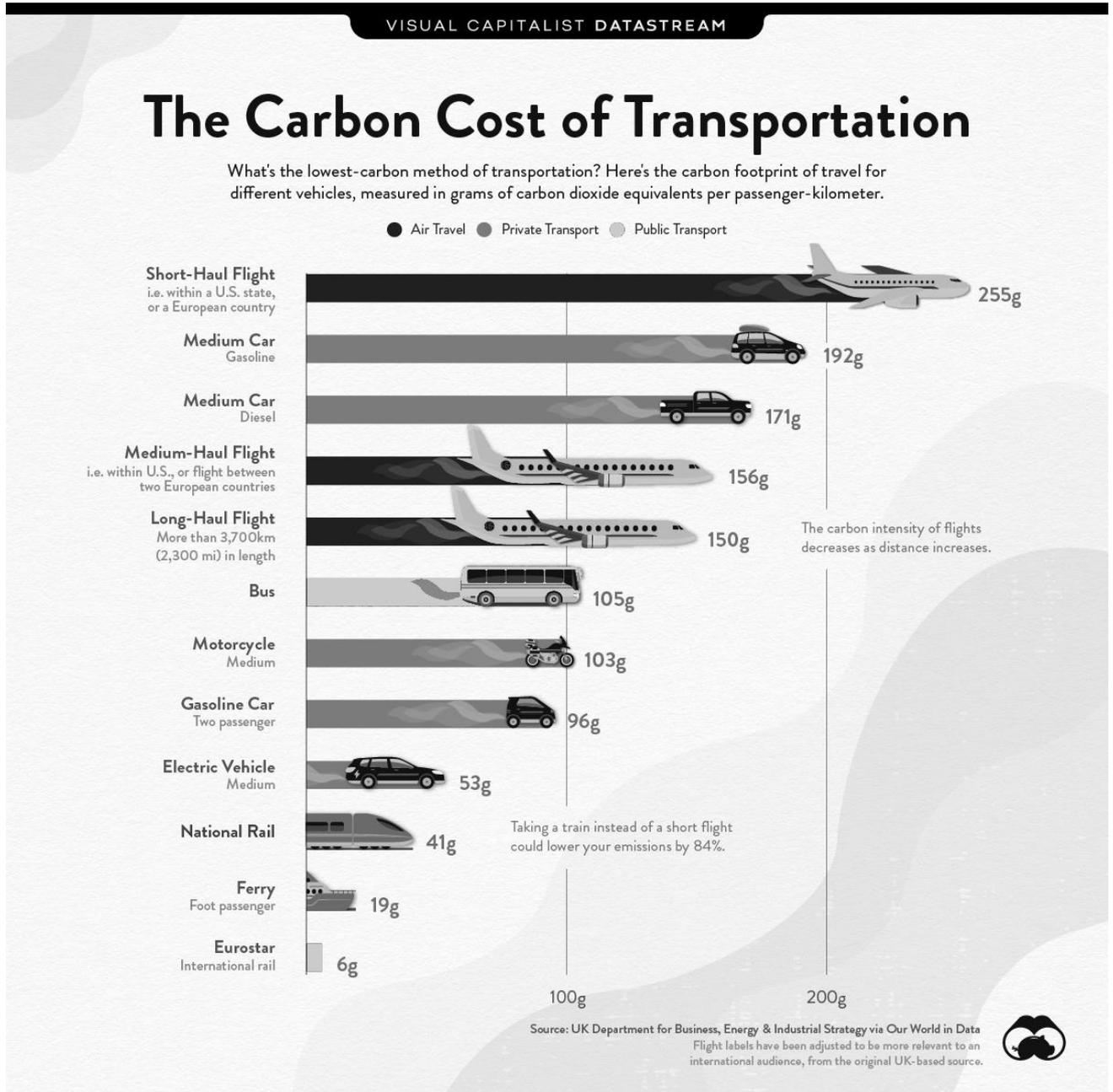
One newcomer, Paris-based Midnight Trains, plans to operate two newly built sleeper trains along its first route by the end of 2024. While the route isn't yet set, it's predicted to be between Paris and either Italy or Spain. Four more routes are planned to be unveiled before 2030. The company's goal is to make the comfort of the most lavish sleeper trains accessible to a wider sect of travelers, eliminating what they see as three major issues facing modern affordable train travel: compartment sharing with strangers, poor catering services, and few digital services to enhance the experience.

The company is still purchasing carriages, but promises that all its rooms will be private with en-suite bathrooms. The dining car will feature seasonal fare, handmade cocktails, and craft beers.

"Transportation is seen by travelers as a commodity, but with night trains the journey is as important as the destination," says Romain Payet, co-founder of Midnight Trains.

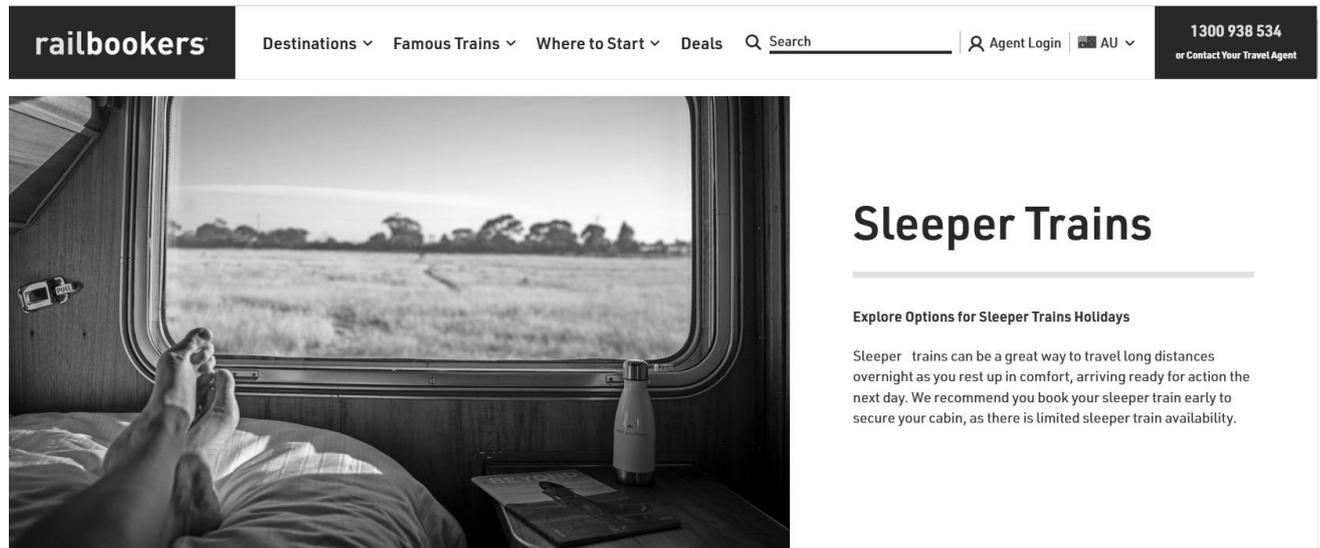
It's not just private companies betting big on the return of Europe's overnight trains, either—governments across the continent are also investing in the idea. The most notable initiative is a revival of the Trans-Europe Express, the first-class overnight service that connected 10 western European countries at its peak in the 1970s. Service on the original route was terminated in 1995. The new project, a joint effort between Germany, France, Spain, and Poland, is hoped to align international schedules so that high-speed and night trains can more easily travel across European borders and connect major cities including Paris, Warsaw, Munich, and Barcelona. A proposed opening date, as well as a conceptual look at the trains, has yet to be unveiled.

Additionally, a growing number of European countries, including Austria, France, and the Netherlands, are enacting bans on short-haul flights where a train journey can be made instead. Those bans have been an incentive for existing train companies to up their connectivity and add longer, overnight routes.



The Carbon Cost of Transportation, Visualcapitalist.com, February 15, 2022. Source: UK department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy via Our World in Data

Document 5



The screenshot shows the Railbookers website header with navigation links: Destinations, Famous Trains, Where to Start, Deals, and a search bar. The Railbookers logo is on the left, and contact information (1300 938 534) and a language selector (AU) are on the right. Below the header is a large image of a sleeper train cabin with a person's feet resting on a bed, looking out a window at a landscape. To the right of the image is the section header "Sleeper Trains" and a sub-section "Explore Options for Sleeper Trains Holidays". The text below the sub-section reads: "Sleeper trains can be a great way to travel long distances overnight as you rest up in comfort, arriving ready for action the next day. We recommend you book your sleeper train early to secure your cabin, as there is limited sleeper train availability."

A webpage on Railbookers.com.au, an Australian travel agency specialized in booking train holidays across the world. Accessed February 2024.

The caption reads, "Explore Options for Sleeper Trains Vacations – Sleeper trains can be great ways to travel long distances overnight as you rest up in comfort, arriving ready for action the next day. We recommend you book your sleeper train early to secure your cabin, as there is limited sleeper train availability".

LANGUE VIVANTE OBLIGATOIRE : ANGLAIS

Durée : 2 heures

L'usage d'abaques, de tables, de calculatrice et de tout instrument électronique susceptible de permettre au candidat d'accéder à des données et de les traiter par les moyens autres que ceux fournis dans le sujet est interdit.

Chaque candidat est responsable de la vérification de son sujet d'épreuve : pagination et impression de chaque page. Ce contrôle doit être fait en début d'épreuve. En cas de doute, le candidat doit alerter au plus tôt le surveillant qui vérifiera et, éventuellement, remplacera le sujet.

Ce sujet comporte 3 pages numérotées de 1 à 3.

Si, au cours de l'épreuve, un candidat repère ce qui lui semble être une erreur d'énoncé, il le signale sur sa copie et poursuit sa composition en expliquant les raisons des initiatives qu'il a été amené à prendre.

L'épreuve comprend deux parties :

I – Compréhension de l'écrit : 10 points sur 20

Répondre en anglais à une question portant sur deux textes : l'un en anglais, l'autre en français.

II – Expression écrite : 10 points sur 20

Répondre en anglais à l'une des deux questions, au choix.

Pour chacune des parties, indiquer avec précision à la fin de la réponse le nombre de mots qu'elle comporte. Des points de pénalité seront soustraits en cas de non-respect de ces consignes.

I – Compréhension de l'écrit

Lire attentivement les textes ci-dessous et répondre en anglais à la question suivante, en 220 mots ± 10 %. Le nombre total de mots utilisés devra être clairement indiqué à la fin de votre réponse :

To what extent do the two texts differ in their account of the resistance to Labour's proposed inheritance tax changes for farmers?

Answer the question in your own words.

Royaume-Uni : des agriculteurs à Londres se mobilisent contre un projet de taxe sur la succession

Des milliers d'agriculteurs britanniques se sont rassemblés mardi dans le centre de Londres pour protester contre une taxe controversée sur la succession de certaines fermes annoncée par le gouvernement travailliste. Bravant la pluie et même quelques flocons de neige, les manifestants, pour certains arrivés en tracteurs, se sont réunis devant Downing Street pour exprimer leur colère contre ce projet du gouvernement, qu'ils accusent de « trahison ».

Avec l'annonce de cette taxe, celui-ci « a détruit le contrat » qui l'unissait aux paysans depuis la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale, a affirmé le président du National Farmers Union (NFU), principal syndicat britannique, Tom Bradshaw, interrogé sur la chaîne *Sky News*. [...]

Outre cette manifestation, un mouvement de « *lobbying massif* » des députés est aussi prévu, selon la NFU, qui représente plus de 45.000 membres en Angleterre et au Pays de Galles. Jusqu'à présent, les exploitations agricoles britanniques pouvaient bénéficier d'une exonération des droits de succession sur leurs biens et propriétés, une mesure censée faciliter la reprise des fermes.

Le gouvernement travailliste a toutefois annoncé le 30 octobre, lors de la présentation de son premier projet de budget, que cette exonération ne s'appliquerait plus aux exploitations dont la valeur dépasse un million de livres (1,20 million d'euros) à partir d'avril 2026. Ces exploitations seront désormais soumises à un taux d'imposition de 20 %, soit la moitié du taux habituel des droits de succession.

Le premier ministre Keir Starmer a assuré lundi qu'il comprenait les « *inquiétudes* » des agriculteurs, mais a réaffirmé que « *la grande majorité des exploitations agricoles* » ne seraient pas affectées. [...]

Le milliardaire Elon Musk, propriétaire de X, s'est lui aussi mêlé de l'affaire, estimant que « *la Grande-Bretagne est en train de devenir complètement stalinienne* », en allusion à la collectivisation forcée des exploitations agricoles par Joseph Staline en Union soviétique dans les années 1930. Il commentait une tribune publiée dans le *Guardian* selon laquelle cette taxe pourrait conduire de gros propriétaires à vendre une partie de leurs terres, permettant ainsi à de jeunes agriculteurs d'en acquérir.

Le Figaro, 19 novembre 2024

Look at the farmers' protest, and then ask yourself: how will we ever make tax fairer amid such grumbling?

That was a state-of-the-nation image, those thousands of farmers in Whitehall protesting about inheritance tax (IHT). Their little inheritors on toy tractors could hardly have offered a better portrait of a Britain where even modest reforms of wildly irrational tax reliefs are near-impossible. [...]

This is a symbol of the great malaise those same contrary voters feel about the profound unfairness in this most unequal of countries. Few think it's OK for the top 1% to own almost a quarter of all wealth, or the top 0.1% to take about 60 times more income than their population share, while we are living through the greatest decline in living standards since records began. [...]

Paul Johnson, sage of the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), was explosive when we talked about the farmers' protest: "Extraordinary! The amount of coverage for these extremely wealthy people is amazing!" Privileged inheritance status for farmers and businesses was on the very long list of nonsensical tax reliefs advocated for abolition by just about every tax or economic thinktank for years. Even after Rachel Reeves's reform, farmers would pay half the standard rate, and with a higher cap before IHT kicks in. "Farmers' land is worth so much because rich people buy it to escape IHT. It's very hard to find a good reason to give them so much more than everyone else. No food? Someone will farm that land. Very few farmers will be affected," Johnson fumes. The rich, he says, can always command the airwaves. He observed the farmers' protest with a poverty expert who asked sadly why the one-third of children in the UK living below the poverty line couldn't stage such a protest. But tractors make for good pictures.

The exemptions for farmers are emblematic of tax reliefs that create a secret welfare state for the wealthy: pension tax relief at 40% for higher earners, but only 20% for the ordinary savers is just one entry in the yellowing archives of tax excrescences. [...]

But making rational changes to the tax system is near-impossible when any losers make such unreasonable protests, while any winners quietly pocket a gain without acknowledging it. However, economists and thinktankers aren't the ones who have to sell these reforms: this is where politics shows itself as an art all of its own. How do you weave the way between urgent need, stubborn resistance of the rich and the unspeakable power of a largely hostile media, amid a sea of ignorance where most voters understand very little about their payslips or tax coding, nor of whether they themselves are relatively well- or badly off on a national scale?

The budget deserves praise as "the first in nearly 15 years to mark a decisive shift from the planned cuts set out by the last government, with better-funded public services and greater public investment", as the Resolution Foundation says. It begins to gnaw away at some unjustified tax reliefs, such as subsidies for private schools, to pay for state school teachers, when there has been "a massive widening in the private/state differential in education funding", according to the IFS. For all the furore in the Tory press, that proposal was highly popular with voters. So was raising capital gains tax. But politically, there hasn't been one simple story to tell about the purpose of this budget and the character of this government, a jigsaw of small parts not yet revealing the full picture. [...]

Budget grudges will calm down, but every day brings a reminder of how dire was Labour's inheritance, how hard it is to repair desperate public services, and how small but powerful lobbies resist blindingly obvious reforms. [...]

Polly Toynbee

The Guardian, Sun 8 Oct 2023

II – Expression écrite

Répondre en anglais, en 220 mots \pm 10 % à l'une des questions suivantes, au choix. Le numéro du sujet choisi devra être clairement indiqué. Le nombre total de mots utilisés devra être clairement indiqué à la fin de la réponse.

1. *Are protests an efficient way to change things in a democracy? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples.*
2. *Ronald Reagan (40th president of the United States, 1981-1989) said: "There are no great limits to growth because there are no limits of human intelligence, imagination, and wonder." Do you agree? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples.*

FIN DU SUJET

ÉCOLES NORMALES SUPÉRIEURES
ÉCOLE NATIONALE DES PONTS ET CHAUSSÉES
ÉCOLE DES MINES DE PARIS
ÉCOLES CENTRALE

CONCOURS D'ADMISSION SESSION 2025

FILIÈRE BCPST

COMPOSITION DE LANGUE VIVANTE ÉTRANGÈRE

Épreuve commune aux ENS de Lyon, Paris, Paris-Saclay, à l'ENPC, aux Écoles centrale et aux Mines Paris

Durée : 2 heures

L'utilisation des calculatrices n'est pas autorisée pour cette épreuve.

L'usage de dictionnaire est interdit.

Parmi les sujets proposés, le candidat doit traiter celui correspondant à la langue vivante étrangère qu'il a choisie lors de son inscription.

Toute copie rédigée dans une langue qui ne correspondrait pas au choix apparaissant dans le dossier d'inscription définitif du candidat sera considérée comme nulle.

Sujets proposés :

- Allemand
- Anglais
- Espagnol

Tournez la page S.V.P.

ANGLAIS

I. VERSION (12 points, titre à traduire également)

The Public Distrusts Scientists' Morals, Not Their Science

Our overlapping Trump and COVID eras have seen a fairly sharp downturn in public trust in scientists. Around one in 10 Americans report less support for science now than they did before COVID.

That was a November survey finding by the Pew Research Center. (...) In response, the president of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences said that the survey “gives us an opportunity to reexamine what we need to do to restore trust in science.”

But the diagnoses of the cause of a lack of trust by scientific leaders responding to the survey are variations on the same old ones, which is that the public does not understand science. That is a comfortable diagnosis for scientists, and therefore is unlikely to help with trust. The scientific community needs instead to consider that a lack of trust does not stem from the public's view of scientists as fact-finders, but rather from the public not trusting scientists' moral values. (...)

But why would the public think scientists do not share their moral values? The idea that scientists are morally deficient goes back centuries, and is reinforced to this day by fictional accounts of scientists where the “mad scientist” remains a trope. (...)

So I think scientists took the wrong lesson from COVID. A decline in trust was not primarily a result of the public misunderstanding science, but because scientists became associated with a set of politicized moral choices about prioritizing public health over commerce, education and individual freedom. Perhaps the association with these choices was inevitable or necessary, but we should not think that a loss of trust was generated by the public not understanding how vaccines work. (...)

I understand why the scientific community is reluctant to talk about its moral values. Part of the norms of science is to be “value-free,” and part of what creates legitimate results is to examine the data dispassionately. Scientists generally have no training in academic debates about morals, values and ethics. But pretending that scientists are just about the facts—and above any moral questions—is not working.

Adapted from *Scientific American*, December 18th, 2024

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/the-public-distrusts-scientists-morals-not-their-science/>

II. QUESTIONS (8 points, minimum de 100 mots par question)

1. According to the author what factors explain for the public's increased distrust in scientists?
2. Do you believe that science can and should be “value-free” and “above any moral questions”?

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