

## LV1 – ANGLAIS

DURÉE : 4 HEURES.

*Les candidats ne sont pas autorisés à modifier le choix, effectué lors de l'inscription, de la première langue dans laquelle ils doivent composer.*

*Les candidats ne doivent faire usage d'aucun document, dictionnaire ou lexique ; l'utilisation de toute calculatrice ou de tout matériel électronique est interdite.*

*Si au cours de l'épreuve, un candidat repère ce qui lui semble être une erreur d'énoncé, il la signalera sur sa copie et poursuivra en expliquant les raisons des initiatives qu'il sera amené à prendre.*

## SUJET

## Britain ignores social mobility at its peril

- 1 In 1845, as the Industrial Revolution gathered pace, Benjamin Disraeli, a young politician on the make, published a novel, "Sybil", which lamented that Britain was dividing into "two nations between whom there is no inter-
- 5 course and no sympathy". Today, as the information revolution gathers pace, Britain suffers from the same problem. The country is more divided than it has been for decades, with the rich consolidating their power and people who are born in the wrong class or region seeing their chances of getting ahead declining. Theresa May rightly put dealing with this problem at the top of her agenda when she became prime minister. But on December 3rd
- 10 all four members of Britain's Social Mobility Commission resigned in protest at the lack of progress. [...] Social mobility is essential to the working of an advanced capitalist society. For one thing, citizens will accept the inequalities that capitalism generates only if they think they have a fair chance of getting ahead. The notion that the system is rigged can be just as destabilising as economic crises. **Secondly, advanced economies can grow only if they make a reasonable job of discovering the hidden Einsteins who might be able to produce the next great invention if they were given the chance.** Britain is failing badly on both fronts. Its decision to leave the European Union was above all a revolt of the left-behind. The Social Mobility
- 20 Commission discovered that 62 of the 65 parts of the country that it identified as "social-mobility cold spots"– that is, those with the worst education and employment prospects–voted to leave. [...]
- As social mobility has become more important it has become more difficult to promote. The reason for this is the paradox of meritocracy. In the first
- 25 half of the 20th century, when the old establishment ruled the country, opening up opportunities was relatively simple. You forced the establishment to abandon obvious prejudices, such as the fact that the best Oxbridge colleges were reserved for men.

- You also forced it to build a ladder of opportunity for the poor: the 1944 Education Act raised the school-leaving age to 15, then 16, and the expansion of universities in the 1960s democratised higher education. Today, opening up opportunities is much more difficult, precisely because the meritocratic revolution has been so successful. The meritocratic elite has proved remarkably good at hoarding opportunities. Successful people tend to marry each other. Couples devote themselves to giving their children the best education possible, starting in the nursery. Private schools have also proved to be more successful than state schools at adapting to the meritocratic spirit. [...] To make matters worse, the knowledge economy is a winner-takes-most economy. Superstar firms are pulling ahead of run-of-the-mill ones. Superstar cities are pulling ahead of second-tier ones. This problem is more pronounced in Britain than almost anywhere else because London is so dominant. The London effect is obviously good for London-based professionals who can provide their children with bed and board as they get their feet on the career ladder (often as unpaid interns). But it is also good for poorer people who are lucky enough to have subsidised accommodation within the sound of Bow Bells. London's state schools are better than the national average, jobs are plentiful and you can get almost anywhere, at a squeeze, by public transport. The result is a calcified society. Seventy-one percent of senior judges, 62% of senior officers in the armed forces and 55% of civil service department heads attended private schools, which educate only 7% of the population. [...] Only 6% of doctors, 12% of chief executives and 12% of journalists come from working-class backgrounds. Reversing this calcification will take a lot of innovative thinking.
- [...] But Britain's two main parties are failing to give this growing problem the energy it requires. The Conservatives are overwhelmed by Brexit. Labour is devoting its intellectual resources, in so far as it still has any, to the old problem of a closed establishment rather than the new problem of the marriage of meritocracy and plutocracy. Thanks to its commitment to intelligent reform, Disraeli's Britain became the most peaceful, as well as the most successful, country in Europe. **The political class may well be about to demonstrate that what intelligence and reform can do, stupidity and stasis can undo.**

*The Economist*, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 2017.

## I. VERSION

(sur 20 points)

Traduire à partir de «*Today, opening up...*» jusqu'à «*...unpaid interns*».  
(de la ligne 32 à la ligne 44)

## II. QUESTIONS

(sur 40 points)

### 1. Question de compréhension du texte

Explain what the following sentence means: '*Secondly, advanced economies can grow only if they make a reasonable job of discovering the hidden*

*Einsteins who might be able to produce the next great invention if they were given the chance.'*

(de la ligne 15 à la ligne 18)

(100 mots + ou -10% \*; sur 10 points)

## 2. Question de compréhension du texte

Explain what the following sentence means: *'The political class may well be about to demonstrate that what intelligence and reform can do, stupidity and stasis can undo.'*

(de la ligne 61 à la ligne 63)

(100 mots + ou -10% \*; sur 10 points)

## 3. Question d'expression personnelle

In your opinion, should governments get involved in promoting social mobility?

(300 mots + ou -10% \*; sur 20 points)

*\*Le non-respect de ces normes sera sanctionné.*

(Indiquer le nombre de mots utilisés.)

## III. THÈME

(sur 20 points)

L'asphyxie est aïrrivée par surprise. Dans la nuit du 6 au 7 novembre, alors que les températures chutaient à l'approche de l'hiver et que le vent s'est arrêté de souffler, des milliards de milliards de particules fines ont été prises au piège dans l'atmosphère de Delhi. [...] La pollution atmosphérique a entraîné 525 000 morts prématurées en Inde en 2015, soit le quart du total mondial, selon une étude publiée par la revue *The Lancet* en octobre. A New Delhi, les premiers à avoir vu ou senti la couche de pollution sont les sans-abri, endormis sur la banquette arrière de leur tricycle, ou les gardes de sécurité postés devant les résidences des quartiers aisés de la capitale. Les autres l'ont découverte le matin dans leur chambre, en se réveillant au milieu d'une fumée blanchâtre. Depuis ce jour, l'air de Delhi pique les yeux et irrite la gorge des habitants.

Julien Bouissou, *Le Monde*,  
10 novembre 2017.