

TEST D'ORIENTATION EN LANGUES 2018

ANGLAIS

Le test comporte deux parties :

1. Compréhension écrite :

Lire le texte. Le texte est suivi de vingt questions à choix multiples. Choisissez la meilleure réponse à chaque question et reportez vos réponses sur la grille de correction. Il n'y a qu'une seule bonne réponse par question.

NB : Les questions sont groupées par coefficient et ne suivent pas forcément l'ordre du texte. A la fin de chaque énoncé qui se réfère à un passage précis, vous trouverez un ou des chiffres vous indiquant le(s) paragraphe(s) pertinent(s) du texte.

2. Grammaire :

Les réponses aux questions numérotées de 21 à 40 sont à reporter sur la même grille. Encore une fois, il n'y a qu'une seule bonne réponse par question.

Barème (qui s'applique aux deux parties) :

bonne réponse: 2 points

absence de réponse: 0 point

mauvaise réponse: -1 point

Britain is being stalked by a zombie elite – time to take them on

(¶1) This is the age of the zombie. The undead maraud around our popular culture. Stick on the telly, and they're attacking Jon Snow in *Game of Thrones*. At the cinema, reanimated carcasses lurch through everything from Resident Evil to World War Z. The headlines might burst with blundering boastful strongmen, but our nightmares are full of blank-eyed walking corpses.

(¶2) Unthinking, unquestioning, neither alive nor dead, the zombie is horrific. It is also us.

(¶3) Britain in 2018 is stalked by zombie ideas, zombie politicians, zombie institutions – stripped of credibility and authority, yet somehow still presiding over our lives. Nowhere is this more true than in the way we run our economy.

(¶4) This September marks the 10th anniversary of the death of Lehman Brothers. In autumn 2008, the banks broke, the governments stepped in – and the cast-iron premises that underpin our economic system were exposed as fiction for all to see on the Ten O'Clock News. Yet a decade later, those dead ideas still walk among us.

(¶5) They form what John Quiggin at the University of Queensland terms zombie economics – dogmas now cracked beyond repair, but which continue to shape British society.

(¶6) Austerity – the policy that more than any other will define this decade – was lifted by George Osborne straight out of Margaret Thatcher's handbag. He justified it with zombie rhetoric about how business was being "crowded out" by childcare centres and the rest of the public sector, and how 21st-century sovereign countries could be run just like household budgets. Tax cuts for "wealth creators" and privatisations of the few remaining national assets: all utter zombie-ism.

(¶7) And this was no one-party game. Labour frontbenchers from Andy Burnham to Chuka Umunna spent the first half of this decade pleading guilty to the trumped-up charge of creating a debt crisis. Labour councils are among those pursuing outrageous privatisations. And over the past four decades both sides have adopted as an article of faith the idea that politics is about What Works – and that What Works is a mix of Potemkin markets and crude managerialism. From Tony Blair to David Cameron and Nick Clegg, politics was no longer about left battling right – but technocrats and open-necked Oxford philosophy, politics and economics graduate special advisers who "got it" versus the dinosaurs and well-meaning naifs.

(¶8) In this way, a broken economy has been force-fed more of the same ideas that helped to break it. The outcome has been almost predictably dire.

(¶9) The weakest recovery in three centuries, according to former Bank of England rate-setter Danny Blanchflower. The severest squeeze on living standards since the Napoleonic wars, going by the Resolution Foundation's projections. And the deadline to clear the government overdraft – the ostensible alibi for this entire fiasco – has been pushed back and back, from 2015 to 2031.

(¶10) One lesson of the 1930s and the 1970s is that when capitalism fails this badly, it jeopardises the very functioning of democracy. So it is starting to prove today.

(¶11) Cameron and Osborne led the establishment in campaigning against Brexit, but it was their austerity that drove voters towards it. The areas hardest hit by the Tories' benefit cuts, according to economists Steve Fothergill and Christina Beatty at Sheffield Hallam University, were "older industrial areas, less prosperous seaside towns, some London boroughs". Which is to say, a good half of Brexitland.

(¶12) Similarly, the minority government that Theresa May tries to run has no chance of again becoming "strong and stable" while the average worker is earning less than they were a decade ago. No poll, no by-election in 2018 will determine the Tories' standing and political stability as starkly as this one economic fact: the link between growing GDP and rising weekly wages has been severed, for what the Institute for Public Policy Research calculates is the first time in recorded history.

(¶13) At the heart of modern capitalism is a promise: work hard and you will get on. Britain's political classes can no longer keep that promise, and the consequences of that take us into politically uncharted territory.

(¶14) The student radical, the frustrated lawyer: these are the eternal faces of political dissent. Social upheaval has always been initiated by the young and angry. But the nurse at the food bank, the council employee in a homeless shelter: these political actors are new and we don't know what script they will follow.

(¶15) Of Philip II of Spain it was said: "No experience of the failure of his policy could shake his belief in its essential excellence." Not so Theresa May. Her team bears none of the blithely cynical cockiness of Cameron's mob. They merely serve voters the same old failed policies because they have run out of both ideas and parliamentary muscle.

(¶16) Now the prime minister rails against "burning injustices", while doing nothing meaningful about them. And to watch chancellor Philip Hammond or Bank of England governor Mark Carney as they defend their latest damp squib is to glimpse members of the elite who reek of exhaustion, having riffled through all the pages in their textbooks without getting a good answer. Record-low interest rates; £435bn pumped into financial markets through quantitative easing; tens of millions chucked at corporations, the rich and property developers: none of these policies have delivered what their authors promised.

(¶17) And so British politics has reached the deepest state of zombie-ism: a zombie minority government, implementing zombie economics, underpinned by zombie ideas.

(¶18) Meanwhile, the economy gets ever more broken. Britain has both the world's leading financial centre and proportionately lower corporate investment than any of our major competitors. London boasts more billionaires than any other city in the world, yet one in five of the country's workers earn less than a living wage. While Westminster politicians bang on about devolution, the regional wealth gap in the UK is bigger than in any other member of the EU. Milan and Naples; Frankfurt and Dresden; Bucharest and Transylvania: none of them are as far apart as stucco-fronted west London and the Welsh valleys.

(¶19) And if you want a tale of misplaced priorities, try this one: Amazon, Facebook, Apple, eBay and Starbucks put together pay less in tax to the British exchequer than the five biggest cooperatives – including such titans as Arla Foods. Yet it's the Silicon Valley giants who are feted by ministers and given public money. The taxpayer even paid for the roads laid to Amazon's Swansea warehouse.

(¶20) So at just the point when alternatives are in greatest demand, where is the left? Still on the subs' bench. Labour's former leader Ed Miliband was an astute critic of the rottenness of capitalism. Jeremy Corbyn is the first party chief to promise to end austerity and kick start a major public-works programme. But when asked what Labour would do to tackle Britain's fundamental problems, Corbyn and John McDonnell struggle.

(¶21) The same goes for academia, pressure groups and think tanks. With Britain already having suffered one lost decade, a murmuring catastrophism has set in among our intellectuals. Mainstream-left politics remains stuck between two clichés. Either: well, we used to do things differently (cue sepia-tinted nostalgia for the establishment of the NHS and huge public borrowing). Or: the Germans do it, and it's done them no harm (along with wistfulness for a proper industrial policy).

(¶22) This is totally understandable; but utterly ruinous. Forty years ago, Thatcher gravely intoned that There Is No Alternative – then set about bulldozing the institutions that might incubate anything of the sort. Her political children have carried on the job.

(¶23) Now the unions are withered; the universities are hamster wheels; the regional business elites have been bought out by the City spivs; the councils are dumbwaiters for Whitehall's cuts; the independent tenants' associations have gone the way of council-housing stock; the BBC is forever on the back foot; and local and regional newspapers are at death's door.

(¶24) But despair is a luxury good – and it's not one we can afford right now. If people on the left don't put forward serious, workable alternatives to the busted British model, the tousle-haired public schoolboys of the Brexit-braying hard right will fill the vacuum with their toxic delusions. Fewer workers' rights! More tax cuts! Make jingoism great again!

(¶25) In my reporting for this paper, one of the strongest themes is of communities, discarded by the market and disregarded by the state, trying to work out their own answers to the big questions. Questions such as: where will we live? How shall we heat our homes?

(¶26) In 21st-century Britain, where politicians and pundits prattle on about robots and artificial intelligence, it's the basics of economic life that are most political. Things such as housing, work, food supply. It's those subjects and that seam – outside the big, often-punitive state and the global, short-termist market – that we must mine first.

(¶27) And that's where this new series will focus. Every other Wednesday, I'll investigate real-world examples of people doing things differently. We'll meet councilors who are extending local government far beyond collecting the bins; housing activists turning themselves into property developers; and energy bosses who actually ask customers how their companies should be run. Much of the reporting will be from Britain, but we'll also look at other parts of Europe (including Germany) and further afield.

(¶28) Stack them all together and the grand lie of Thatcherism is exposed. There are alternatives. We can do things differently.

(¶29) None of the ideas in this series were dreamed up by some prodigy floating on a lotus leaf down from ivory towers. None are wrinkle-free. Their authors are real people, working within real constraints, who often struggle with a dysfunctional banking system or unhelpful national policies. As well as exploring the possibilities, we'll be honest about their limitations.

(¶30) But now is the time for experiments and arguments. To reacquaint our economy with the concept of democracy. To, finally, slay those zombies.

Aditya Chakraborty

The Guardian

January 17th, 2018

Compréhension écrite :

Questions 1 - 5: coefficient 1

1. The title of the article suggests that...
 - a. it is too late to do anything about the effects of outdated policies and ideas.
 - b. it is urgent to challenge the outdated policies and ideas that endanger Britain.
 - c. Britain's élite is challenging outdated policies and ideas.
 - d. Britain's élite is in danger from outdated policies and ideas.

2. The journalist has chosen the central metaphor of the article... (¶1, ¶ 2)
 - a. because zombies are ubiquitous in current popular culture.
 - b. because outdated social and economic policies have reduced Britain to a zombie-like state.
 - c. because the current economic and political context makes a zombie apocalypse likely.
 - d. Both a and b are correct.

3. The leaders and institutions that run Britain's economy... (¶3)
 - a. have taken on a more presidential approach in 2018.
 - b. remain in power in spite of their lack of plausible solutions to the country's problems.
 - c. should be given the benefit of the doubt.
 - d. have decided to try radical new policies in 2018.

4. The failure to implement innovative solutions to the financial crisis of 2008 has led to... (¶8, ¶9)
 - a. a stabilization of debt.
 - b. a slow but robust economic recovery.
 - c. the largest pressures on the quality of life in over 200 years.
 - d. government debt being cancelled.

5. The current crisis in capitalism... (¶10, ¶11)
 - a. is unlike those of the 1930s and the 1970s.
 - b. can be linked to the outcome of the Brexit referendum.
 - c. has been less severely felt in industrial areas.
 - d. was caused by austerity measures taken by David Cameron and George Osborne.

Questions 6 - 10: coefficient 2

6. The journalist traces the origin of zombie economics to... (¶4, ¶5)
 - a. the fact that the foundation of the British economy was unstable.
 - b. a fictional account of corruption in financial institutions in 2008.
 - c. TV journalists' reporting of corruption in financial institutions in 2008.
 - d. the government bailouts of financial institutions in 2008.

7. For the first time in history... (¶12)
- a growing economy has not translated into increasing wages for average workers.
 - the Tories are expected to win a majority of seats in a by-election.
 - the UK is being led by a minority government.
 - a sitting Prime Minister will have the option of cancelling by-elections.
8. It is difficult to predict how modern-day dissenters will act because they... (¶13, ¶14)
- are young and angry.
 - are mainly students and lawyers.
 - include groups who have had little reason to protest before now.
 - are disingenuously exploiting economic circumstances.
9. The journalist feels that... (¶19)
- British companies don't pay enough taxes.
 - taxpayers should contribute more to bailing out British corporations.
 - American corporations have been given unfair advantages, sometimes at British taxpayers' expense.
 - government ministers should support only British business initiatives.
10. The journalist feels that the key to solving Britain's economic problems lies in... (¶25 to ¶28)
- focusing on local, real-world solutions to basic issues like housing and employment.
 - unionizing employees in key economic sectors like mining.
 - discrediting corporate bigwigs.
 - exposing the lies of Thatcherism.

Questions 11-15: coefficient 3

11. George Osborne's austerity policy was... (¶16)
- largely inspired by Thatcherite economic policy.
 - partially justified by claims that the public sector drained resources from business.
 - based on the faulty assumption that a country's economy can be managed like a family budget.
 - All of the above are correct.
12. Members of the Labour Party... (¶17)
- were considered to have outdated and/or naïve ideas.
 - accepted, though wrongfully so, the responsibility for the so-called "debt crisis".
 - respected party lines in battles with technocrats.
 - tried to cooperate with Oxford-educated advisors.

13. Theresa May and those in charge of managing Britain's economy... (¶16)
- are fighting to attenuate social injustices.
 - have proposed new and innovative measures to help those in financial difficulty.
 - are working tirelessly to find creative solutions to Britain's economic woes.
 - have continued to resort to economic solutions geared to corporations and the rich.
14. Political and intellectual leaders on the Left... (¶20, ¶21)
- are, under Jeremy Corbyn's leadership, offering many viable alternatives to current policies.
 - have lost a decade due to nostalgia for post-War policies.
 - rely too much on copying solutions from countries like Germany.
 - struggle to offer new and original solutions to the UK's dire economic situation.
15. Policies initiated by Margaret Thatcher in the 70s and 80s... (¶22, ¶23)
- were adopted because there was no viable alternative.
 - focused on demolishing and then rebuilding public institutions.
 - irreparably damaged the institutions that might provide solutions to today's economic inequalities.
 - have caused local and regional newspapers to decline due to competition from the BBC.

Questions 16-20: coefficient 4

16. The journalist contrasts Philip II of Spain and Theresa May because unlike Philip, May... (¶15)
- is entirely confident that her policies will pay off in the long run.
 - cannot know whether her policies will be effective.
 - continues to have faith in tactics she knows have been proven ineffective.
 - insists on blaming her failures on her predecessor.
17. The UK is different from other European countries in that... (¶18)
- there is a greater divergence in wealth between the financial center and less developed and/or rural areas.
 - there are more billionaires in London than in all the other European capitals combined.
 - Britain's economy is worse off than that of countries like Italy and Germany.
 - Britain's economic problems could be solved by giving more power to the parliaments in Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast.

18. The journalist fears that... (¶124)
- Brexit is the only solution to zombie economics.
 - failing effective policy proposals from the Left, regressive ideas favored by Brexit supporters will gain ground.
 - proposals from the Left will gain less popular support than tax cuts and patriotic policies.
 - as the far right gains influence, a “hard Brexit” becomes more likely.
19. The journalist plans to examine... (¶129, ¶130)
- proposals created by ivory tower academics.
 - solutions that reintegrate democratic ideals into economic policies.
 - why the banking system has failed.
 - the limitations of solutions offered by the political and academic establishment.
20. Globally speaking, the journalist feels that...
- Theresa May has led the Tory Party to the brink of mass political suicide.
 - The Labour Party should have wage a more compelling “remain” campaign.
 - Both major parties have failed to offer the innovative solutions Britain desperately needs.
 - All of the above are correct.

Grammaire :

Questions 21 - 25: coefficient 1

21. The dean told Sheldon that he would _____ have to change the focus of his research _____ risk losing his funding.
- either...either
 - neither...neither
 - either...nor
 - either...or
22. Sheldon showed Amy the _____ storage locker where he keeps his old computers and games.
- little sad
 - sad little
 - little and sad
 - sad and little

23. Penny was lucky to get a job at the pharmaceutical company. They are hiring _____ reps these days.
- fewer and fewest
 - few and few
 - few and fewer
 - fewer and fewer
24. Penny knew that she _____ Amy that Bernadette was pregnant again.
- ought not have told
 - ought not had told
 - shouldn't have tell
 - shouldn't told
25. It's the first time Sheldon _____ by himself.
- drove
 - has driven
 - drives
 - had driven

Questions 26 - 30: coefficient 2

26. Penny said to Amy, "I'm sorry, but I _____ your size that I can lend you."
- don't have a sweater
 - don't have no sweater
 - don't have no sweaters
 - don't have the sweaters
27. Stuart knows that Amy and Sheldon are engaged, so someone _____ him.
- has to tell
 - must have told
 - had to have told
 - should have told
28. Sheldon reached a decision, _____ to give up his research on string theory.
- very difficult one
 - one very difficult one
 - the one very difficult
 - the very difficult one

29. _____ Rajesh Koothrappali works with high-powered telescopes.
- Astrophysicist,
 - An astrophysicist,
 - As astrophysicist,
 - Like astrophysicist,
30. Penny wants to know today when Amy, Bernadette and Raj _____ tomorrow for girls' night so that she can do her shopping in time.
- will be coming over
 - had better come over
 - come over
 - must be coming over

Questions 31-35: coefficient 3

31. Penny found a scarf that someone had left at the restaurant, but she didn't know _____ it was.
- whose
 - who's
 - whom
 - to whom
32. According to Beverly, _____ is not an achievement worth celebrating.
- was being born
 - be born
 - had been born
 - being born
33. Howard misses _____ he used to receive from his mother.
- good advice
 - the good advice
 - good advices
 - the good advices
34. Sheldon decided that cream of tomato was his _____ soup.
- second least favorite
 - second the least favorite
 - second less favorite
 - second the less favorite

35. Sheldon wondered if moving in with Amy would be _____ to his lifestyle.
- a. a too major change
 - b. too major a change
 - c. too major change
 - d. a change too major

Questions 36-40: coefficient 4

36. / 37. ___36___, Sheldon and Leonard ___37___ step-brothers now.

36. a. If Mary and Alfred would have gotten married
b. If Mary and Alfred had to have gotten married
c. Had Mary and Alfred gotten married
d. Were Mary and Alfred to have been getting married

37. a. would have been
b. were to be
c. would be
d. ought to have been

38. Sheldon demanded that Leonard _____ the thermostat down.
- a. turn
 - b. turns
 - c. turning
 - d. did turn

39. While his office on campus _____, Raj had to work at home.
- a. was repainting
 - b. has been being repainted
 - c. has been repainted
 - d. was being repainted

40. _____ thought that Stuart's shop looked a lot better when it was redecorated after the fire.
- a. Most of people
 - b. Most of the people
 - c. Most people
 - d. The most people