

Welcome aboard! This will be both a challenging and enriching year for all of us in ECO1.

In English, you are expected to work on the language (through written expression and translation) and on civilization through press articles and other media. Translations are from French into English and from English into French. Have a look at the type of exam you will have to cope with (see below for the example of the *sujet de concours blanc*). You can then gauge the difference there is between what you did at the lycée and the type of work expected from you in CPGE.

The basis of translations is usually a press article though you will also have a few excerpts from novels, as it is the case in some of the business schools. It shows you how essential the press is to us.

Therefore, you need to keep informed by watching documentaries but mostly reading the press – you need to start right now:

The Economist is a little difficult but you can find some interesting short articles in it as well as more in-depth ones.

The New York Times, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Guardian Weekly* and *Vocabulaire* are excellent reading material. You can find some online editions but I advise you to buy one once in a while to be able to keep the articles easily. You will find *The Economist* at the library as we get it every week.

ONLINE PRESS:

<http://www.iht.com>

<http://www.economist.com>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

<http://www.nytimes.com>

<http://www.abcnews.com>

<http://www.cnn.com>

<http://www.voa.com>

The above sites have articles but also podcasts you can (and should) listen to.

Practice your oral comprehension as it is more difficult to do in class.

- Download on your smartphone **Wordreference** (free application) as well as **Pronunciation Dictionary**
- On your laptop, add the following resources to your favorites:

American press:

- The New York Times → www.nytimes.com
- National Review → www.nationalreview.com

Radio stations:

- NPR (US) → www.npr.org
- BBC Radio 4 (GB) → www.bbc.co.uk/radio4

British press:

- The Guardian → www.theguardian.com
- The Telegraph → www.telegraph.co.uk

News channels:

- CNN (USA) → www.cnn.com
- BBC News (UK) → www.bbc.com/news
- SkyNews (UK) → <http://news.sky.com>
- CNN 10 → <http://edition.cnn.com/cnn10>

BBC News, CNN, The Guardian and SkyNews are free if you have television via box or satellite. SkyNews is available live for free 24/7 on Internet and on YouTube.

- **Dictionaries** available in the school library:

Bilingual :

Le Robert et Collins Senior

All English:

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Oxford University Press
The Advanced learner's English Dictionary, Collins Cobuild
The Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Cambridge University Press

Add the following **free dictionaries** to your favorites:

French↔English:

Wordreference → www.wordreference.com

Pronunciation dictionary:

Howjsay → <http://howjsay.com>

English-English dictionaries:

Merriam-Webster (US) → <https://www.merriam-webster.com>

Cambridge (GB) → <http://dictionary.cambridge.org>

French dictionary:

Larousse → www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/francais

For September you must ABSOLUTELY have bought two books:

1. *An Apple a Day*, Editions Ellipses, collection Optimum, by Jean Max Thomson
2. *Fiches de civilisation américaine et britannique*, Ellipses collection Optimum, by Fabien Fichaux

Homework:

As the title suggests, you need to work on *An Apple a Day* every week to revise vocabulary and learn some as well.

In the *Fiches de civilisation* you need to have read at least chapters 1-5 as well as chapters 42-45. But you can read more, obviously.

Try to work on the Concours blanc and see how much you can do.

It will show you why you also need to have good French grammar and spelling as in “version” you need to write in perfect French (**BLED**, **Bescherelle**, *La grammaire d'aujourd'hui* d'Arrivé et al., use every book you need but work on it).

In case you have the feeling that your level in English is not good enough, you could buy secondhand and use:

- *Maîtriser la grammaire anglaise*, Editions Hatier, by Michèle Malavieille and Wilfried Rotgé. It is well done and easy to use and has exercises.
- *L'anglais de A à Z*, by Michael Swan, éditions Hatier.
- *Grammaire pratique de l'anglais*, by S. Berland-Délépine, éditions Ophrys.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES to have for September

- 1/ You need a folder with transparent plastic sleeves
- 2/ At any rate, you are expected to have a small notepad, a convenient one, neither too big, nor with any alphabetical order, and it must be convenient and solid to write in it your vocabulary and specific expressions. It is essential. You will keep it for the years to come.
- 3/ You need a big copybook (“A4” type) so as to have everything you might otherwise lose.
- 4/ And you definitely need highlighters.
- 5/ Medium-sized cards are a good idea to revise as well –not mandatory to have them.

TRAINING :

CONCOURS BLANC ANGLAIS - ECO1 / 4h SUJET TYPE IENA (ESM)

LUNDI 31 MAI 2021

RAPPELS : AUCUN MATERIEL AUTORISE

Les candidats doivent composer sur deux copies séparées : une pour les questions –expression et l'autre pour les traductions.

Il est rappelé aux candidats qu'ils doivent laisser une large marge pour les questions-expression et qu'ils doivent noter en fin de question le nombre de mots. Ils seront pénalisés si ce n'est pas le cas.

Si vous dépassez le nombre de mots vous serez pénalisés, comme au concours.

Il est rappelé aux candidats qu'ils doivent sauter des lignes ET laisser une marge supplémentaire pour la correction des traductions. UNE seule traduction est possible, ne proposez jamais deux possibilités, la fausse sera prise en compte sinon. NE TRADUISEZ pas de parties non demandées, elles vous pénaliseraient et traduisez le titre puisque c'est demandé ici.

Rappelons aussi que la propreté des copies est prise en compte dans la note globale, comme au concours.

Losing seam

THE ECONOMIST - DEC.3rd 2020

As the federal government harrumphs, Australia moves away from coal

Both its states and its export markets have pledged drastic cuts in carbon emissions

If a coal-free future awaits the town of Muswellbrook, in New South Wales, there is little sign of it. It is surrounded by vast canyons of grey and brown rock—open-cast coal mines. Nearby, two huge power plants burn their output for electricity. More is piled onto sooty trains which rumble constantly through the town, conveying its riches east, to the port of Newcastle, from which the coal is shipped across Asia.

According to Muswellbrook's mayor, Martin Rush, the surrounding region is the source of more than a tenth of the world's internationally traded thermal coal (the sort burnt in power plants, as opposed to coking coal, which is used to make steel). Fully one third of locals rely on the stuff for well-paid work. The problem is that, in the next five years, three of the area's mines will close. So will one of the ancient power stations, as utilities replace coal with cheaper, cleaner energy. Mr Rush reckons that it will take "between 20 and 30 years" for the local industry to die out altogether. Some miners hope for longer. Either way, says Mike Kelly of the local chamber of commerce, no one denies that the long-term trend is down.

The same realisation is dawning across Australia. Its three biggest export markets for fossil fuels—China, Japan and South Korea—have all recently pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by the middle of the century or just after. Another buyer of Australian coal, the Philippines, has banned new coal-fired power plants.

The federal government, a right-wing coalition, appears in denial about this changing outlook. Scott Morrison, the prime minister, insists he is "not concerned about our future exports". When Anz, a bank, said in October that it would stop funding new coal mines, coal-loving mps griped that it was "virtue- signalling" and called for a boycott. (Australia's three other big banks had already pledged to steer clear of coal.) A government minister told pension funds, which are also selling sooty investments, that their goal should be to maximise returns and "not to change the earth's temperature".

The politicians' misgivings are understandable. Coal is Australia's second-biggest export, bringing in almost A\$70bn (\$49bn) in 2019. It also provides two-thirds of its electricity. The industry's hold over politics is such that three of Mr Morrison's four most recent predecessors lost power after trying to curb the country's emissions of greenhouse gases.

Yet even right-wingers in the federal parliament harp on less than they used to about the need to open new mines or subsidise coal-fired power stations, notes Greg Bourne of the Climate Council, a green pressure group. And while they may have prevented the federal government from taking steps to curb the use of coal, they cannot prevent Australia's states and territories from trying to. In fact, every one of them has set a target of reducing net emissions to zero by 2050, although Mr Morrison refuses to do so. The tiny Australian Capital Territory, host to Mr Morrison's government in Canberra, already generates all its power from clean sources. In October South Australia became, for an hour, the world's first big jurisdiction to run only on solar power.

But it is a state run by the same coalition as the federal government, New South Wales, that has the most ambitious plan to decarbonise, notes Simon Holmes à Court of Melbourne University. It has pledged to

underwrite 12 gigawatts of clean-energy projects and a further two gigawatts of energy storage to back them up over the next ten years. That would be enough to power several smaller states on its own.

The state's energy minister, Matt Kean, won support from the coal lobby in the coalition by promising A\$32bn of investment in regions that will need it as mining declines. When the legislation passed the state parliament in late November, only One Nation, a populist party, opposed it. Mr Kean takes this as a sign that "we have wrested back control" from "the coal barons that have decided energy policy in this country for generations".

Miners, though, argue that these grand green plans will inevitably lead to higher power prices and thus crimp economic growth. Ditch coal, and all Australians "will have to downgrade their lifestyle", says Gus Mather, who makes equipment for the mines. Muswellbrook is planning multiple clean-energy schemes, from pumped-hydro to biofuels. But Mr Rush, the mayor, worries that no coal town has ever managed to stop digging the stuff up and remain prosperous. ■

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I. VERSION (20)

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II. QUESTIONS - EXPRESSION /40

Q1: What is the Economist's view of the Australian policy on coal?

200 words +/- 10%

Q2: In your opinion, can governments ensure the transition to economies free from fossil fuels? You should refer to concrete examples to make your point.

300 words +/- 10%

III. THEME: traduire la partie en gras (titre inclus) /(20)

FERMETURE DE LA DERNIERE MINE DE CHARBON BRITANNIQUE

La fermeture de la dernière mine de charbon en activité du pays, à Kellingley, dans le Yorkshire, vendredi est le chant du cygne pour les gueules noires britanniques. Le secrétaire local du syndicat national Union of Miners raconte avoir ressenti cette fin programmée « comme un prisonnier dans le couloir de la mort ». C'est la fin d'une époque, celle d'un métier souvent transmis de génération en génération, celle de la révolution industrielle et de la puissance de l'Empire britannique, celle aussi d'un combat social historique entre la profession et la dame de fer. A son apogée dans les années 1920, le secteur faisait travailler 1.2 million de personnes au sein de plus d'un millier de mines réparties au nord de l'Angleterre, au pays de Galles et en Ecosse.

Now, enjoy your summer, READ as much as you can, and come refreshed a CPGE year is exacting. Be ready to learn a lot, and to work hard.

See you in September,

L. STEWART