

Après-midi

15 MAI 2017



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**CONCOURS EXTERNE DES 23, 24 ET 25 JANVIER 2017
POUR L'EMPLOI D'INSPECTEUR DES DOUANES ET DROITS INDIRECTS**

ÉPREUVE ORALE D'ADMISSION N° 3 :

(Durée 15 minutes - Coefficient 3)

**INTERROGATION DE LANGUE ÉTRANGÈRE CONSISTANT DANS LA TRADUCTION
ORALE EN FRANÇAIS D'UN TEXTE ÉCRIT DANS LA LANGUE ÉTRANGÈRE CHOISIE
SUIVIE D'UNE CONVERSATION DANS LA MÊME LANGUE**

ANGLAIS

How will Brexit affect Northern Ireland?

Britain's exit from the European Union is expected to have far-reaching consequences for the United Kingdom. Here we look at Scotland and Northern Ireland and ask how likely it is that Brexit will lead to a breakup of the UK. Did Northern Ireland want Britain to leave the EU? Northern Ireland polled more europhilic than other other region in the UK before the election. Its Remain vote of 55.7 per cent was the third strongest in the country. Nationalists wanted the UK to remain in the EU, but unionists generally wanted to leave.

Remain campaigners warned that a Brexit would lead to the re-establishing of a harder border along the 310-mile frontier between Northern Ireland and the Republic in order to collect customs tariffs and stop EU nationals who would no longer enjoy the right to move freely to the UK from using the North as a backdoor immigration route. Leave campaigners contend that, in practice, given there has been a free travel areas between the UK and Ireland since 1923 and that the Republic of Ireland is a not a member of the Schengen free movement area, this will not now happen. Instead, a workable arrangement will be reached, although the precise arrangement would depend on what kind of deal the UK struck with the EU. If the UK moves outside the EU common trade area, it is possible customs spot-checks will be needed, as happens between Sweden and Norway.

Remain campaigners warned in the run up to the referendum that the introduction of a harder border would once again put North-South relations under strain, endangering both the Peace Process and the economic dividends of peace. They also warned that a Brexit vote is likely, sooner or later, to trigger another Scottish independence referendum which - if Scotland voted to leave the Union - would destabilise the UK constitutional settlement, with potential knock-on effects for Northern Ireland. On some models Brexit is expected to have a disproportionate impact on Northern Ireland's economy which is reliant on exports to the EU, including in the food and agriculture sectors which would be hit hardest if the UK ends up paying EU tariffs.

Some economists have also warned of a drop-off in foreign direct investment, off-setting the benefits of Northern Ireland's lower corporation tax rates. Ultimately, the actual impacts would depend on the kind of trading relationship that the UK negotiates with the EU post Brexit. Brexit will also end the EURO3.5bn in farm subsidies and structural grants received by Northern Ireland in the 2014-2020 period.

Although the UK is a net contributor to CAP and the EU, it is not clear in a post-Brexit environment what settlement Northern Ireland would receive from Westminster when it disbursed monies that it no longer contributed to the EU.

March 10th 2017, The Telegraph

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ANGLAIS

The Complex Cost of Brexit Gets Clearer

Almost nine months passed between that day in June when the British stunned the world by voting to quit the European Union and this Wednesday, when Prime Minister Theresa May delivered the letter formally starting the two-year disengagement -- more like disentanglement -- process.

Much has been said in these intervening months about the potential consequences of Brexit for Britain, Europe and the world, warning that the process will be hugely complex, impossible to complete in two years, painful for both sides, fraught with risk and riddled with a frightening array of unknowns.

The European Union is no simple economic union, from which an exit means changing some trading rules. Since the Treaty of Rome was signed 60 years ago establishing the European Economic Community -- the union marked the anniversary four days before Mrs. May dispatched her letter -- the "European project" has been an experiment in shared values, sovereignty, standards and laws among nations with differing histories, styles and languages.

While much attention has been focused on the potential damage to the British economy, especially if the talks collapse -- and most projections are bleak -- that is hardly the only consequence. The Scottish Parliament voted this week to have another go at breaking with Britain, and Britain's ties to Ireland are being re-examined. The fate of thousands of British citizens working in the union and of the bloc's citizens working in Britain is in question.

The negotiations might turn ugly over Britain's "exit bill," the many billions of euros that the European Union may demand in various dues and contributions. The French have demanded that terms of the exit be settled before any trade talks. On the legal front, Britain needs to revise more than 12,000 regulations and thousands of laws that either incorporate or are shaped by European legislation. On the international front, Brexit is music to the ears of President Vladimir Putin, in whose zero-sum worldview any weakening of Europe equals the strengthening of his Russia.

As for Europe, it's hard to underestimate the importance of the union in maintaining peace on the Continent, creating a functional single market, and serving as a potent counterweight to authoritarian countries.

Whatever disdain the British might feel for the European Union, its survival and strength should be as important to Britain as they are to the remaining members. And however strongly the union might want to make an example of Brexit that other members will not want to follow, there is no gain in making the rift with Britain worse than it is. There is no turning back from Brexit, and the challenge now for Britain and the European Union should be to do the least harm to each other and the world.

March 31st 2017, The New York Times

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ANGLAIS

Atmosphere found around Earth-sized planet GJ 1132b

Scientists say they have detected an atmosphere around an Earth-sized planet for the first time. They have studied a world known as GJ 1132b, which is 1.4-times the size of our planet and lies 39 light years away.

Their observations suggest that the "super-Earth" is cloaked in a thick layer of gases that are either water or methane or a mixture of both. The study is published in the *Astronomical Journal*.

Discovering an atmosphere, and characterising it, is an important step forward in the hunt for life beyond our Solar System. But it is highly unlikely that this world is habitable: it has a surface temperature of 370C.

Dr John Southworth, the lead researcher from Keele University, said: "To my knowledge the hottest temperature that life has been able to survive on Earth is 120C and that's far cooler than this planet."

Chemical signatures

The discovery of planet GJ 1132b was first announced in 2015. It lies in the Vela constellation in the southern hemisphere. One possibility is that it is a 'water world' with an atmosphere of hot steam.

While it is a similar size to Earth, the star it orbits is much smaller, cooler and dimmer than our Sun.

Using a telescope at the European Southern Observatory in Chile, the researchers were able to study the planet by watching how it blocked some of the light of its host star as it passed in front of it.

"It makes the star look a little bit fainter - and it's actually a very good way of finding transiting planets - it's how this one was found," said Dr Southworth.

But different molecules in a planet's atmosphere - if it has one - absorb light in different ways, allowing scientists to look for their chemical signatures when the world transits its star.

The observations of planet GJ 1132b suggest that it has a thick atmosphere containing either steam and/or methane. "One possibility is that it is a 'water world' with an atmosphere of hot steam," said Dr Southworth. [...]

"If the technology can detect an atmosphere today, then it bodes well for being able to detect and study the atmospheres of even more Earth-like planets in the not-too-distant future."

BBC News, 6 April 2017



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ANGLAIS

2017 might be even worse for business travellers than 2016

The year 2016 was not a great one for business travellers. Sadly, 2017 does not look like it is going to be any better. Indeed, things could get worse. First of all there are oil prices. For travellers, the low cost of fuel was a rare bright spot in 2016, Cheaper flights meant more chance to chip away at the corporate-travel budget. Now the oil price is creeping back up, which means purse-strings may be tightened. Indeed, some airlines are already looking to offset rising costs by charging for drinks on long haul flights: farewell, then, to one of the last remaining creature comforts for business travellers. Expect generous loyalty schemes to come under pressure too, as well as further experiments with "last class" fares that lack even the basic perks of economy.

As well as oil prices the world will have to contend with policies proposed by president-elect Donald Trump. If Mr Trump ploughs ahead with plans to ban immigration from parts of the world he deems dangerous, and also to crack down on illegal foreign workers, one side-effect could be longer queues at airports as travellers' documents are more closely scrutinised. If Mr Trump makes good on his promise to build a wall along the Mexican border, then southern checkpoints will be particularly clogged up. Leaving free-trade agreements such as NAFTA might mean further restrictions.

The effects of Brexit are as yet unclear. Those travelling between the rest of the EU and Britain will still enjoy free movement in 2017-any changes to that would only come about once Britain formally leaves the union. But who knows how political brinkmanship and bureaucratic red tape during the negotiations will affect travel at the margins.

What about China's slowdown? On one level tighter budgets and diminishing opportunity will simply mean fewer opportunities for travel into and out of the country. On another, fears over a capital flight have led to the imposition of controls over currency flows. On top of that there is the prospect of a diplomatic spat between the Middle Kingdom and President Trump-whether over Taiwan, alleged currency manipulation or trade tariffs. That would not bode well for the perhaps 5m people who will travel between the countries this year.

More chilling is the continued threat of terror. The past few years have seen attacks that specifically target the places frequented by business travellers, such as planes, airports, hotels and districts popular with expatriates. If terrorists have another successful year in 2017, business travel will have become a more dangerous endeavour. If they have an unsuccessful one, the price might well have proven to be tighter checks and more restrictive travel.

January 3rd 2017, The Economist

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ANGLAIS

Dairy-free diets warning over risk to bone health

Diets which cut out dairy food could be a "ticking time bomb" for young people's bone health, a charity is warning. A National Osteoporosis Society survey found a fifth of under-25s are cutting out or reducing dairy in their diet. It said it was concerned many young adults were putting their health at risk by following eating fads. Cutting out dairy can be healthy if enough calcium is consumed from other sources, such as nuts, seeds and fish. The charity surveyed 2,000 adults, including 239 under the age of 25 and 339 aged 25-35.

Why dairy-free?

Milk and dairy food, such as cheese and yoghurt, are important sources of calcium for strong bones. [...] Calcium in early life is crucial to avoid osteoporosis. The charity's survey suggests that many young people seek dietary advice from bloggers and vloggers on the internet. Although some of this advice can be good, the charity is concerned some people become too restrictive about what they eat.

A recent Food Standards Agency survey found that nearly half of 16-24 year olds said they had an intolerance to cow's milk and dairy products, compared to just 8% of over-75s. Yet only 24% had actually had their condition diagnosed by a doctor.

What foods are rich in calcium?

Cheeses, yoghurt and milk are the main source of calcium in our diets. [...]

Consuming foods rich in calcium and vitamin D, such as dairy products, green leafy vegetables, salmon, sardines, broccoli and baked beans, is particularly important before the age of 25, the osteoporosis charity said. It is urging parents to talk to their children about their diet.

After the age of 50, half of all women and one in five men develop osteoporosis, a fragile bone condition that causes painful fractures of the hip, wrist and spine. Smoking, lack of exercise and fizzy drinks high in acid are all detrimental to healthy bones.

A spokeswoman from the British Nutrition Foundation said: "While it's not necessarily dangerous to cut out dairy from your diet it's important to ensure you get enough calcium from other sources.

"Dairy tends to make the biggest contribution to our calcium intakes and so this needs to be replaced by other sources such as bread, cereal, canned fish, nuts, seeds and leafy green vegetables as well as choosing dairy alternatives that are fortified with calcium."

<http://www.bbc.com>, 12 April 2017

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ANGLAIS

'Touchscreen-toddlers' sleep less, researchers say

Toddlers who spend time playing on smartphones and tablets seem to get slightly less sleep than those who do not, say researchers. The study in Scientific Reports suggests every hour spent using a touchscreen each day was linked to 15 minutes less sleep. However, those playing with touchscreens do develop their fine motor skills more quickly.

Experts said the study was "timely" but parents should not lose sleep over it. There has been an explosion in touchscreens in the home, but understanding their impact on early childhood development has been lacking.

The study by Birkbeck, University of London, questioned 715 parents of children under three years old. It asked how often their child played with a smartphone or tablet and about the child's sleep patterns. It showed that 75% of the toddlers used a touchscreen on a daily basis, with 51% of those between six and 11 months using one, and 92% of those between 25 and 36 months doing so as well. But children who did play with touchscreens slept less at night and more in the day. Overall they had around 15 minutes less sleep for every hour of touchscreen use.

Not before bedtime?

Dr Tim Smith, one of the researchers, told the BBC News website: "It isn't a massive amount when you're sleeping 10-12 hours a day in total, but every minute matters in young development because of the benefits of sleep." The study is not definitive, but Dr Smith says it "seems to indicate touchscreens have some association with possible sleep problems".

However, his research has also shown toddlers who actively use touchscreens (swiping rather than watching) accelerate their development of motor skills.

So should children be given touchscreens to play with? Dr Smith says: "It's very tricky right now, the science is very immature, we are really lagging behind the technology and it's too early to make clear proclamations." He says the best bet is to follow similar rules for the amount of time spent in front of the TV.

[...]

By James Gallagher Health and science reporter, BBC News website, 13 April 2017

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ANGLAIS

The Cost of Mr. Trump's Wall

President Trump on Wednesday unveiled the first proposals to make good on his promise to make America impenetrable to unauthorized immigrants and intolerable for those who are already here. As expected, he promised to begin building a wall along the Mexican border, an enterprise that is far from certain because Congress would have to approve billions of dollars in funding. He also outlined a series of ominous regulatory changes aimed at drastically expanding the detention of immigrants who enter without permission. He is also seeking to turn more local police and corrections officials into enforcers of immigration law, while threatening to withhold funding from jurisdictions that have sensibly refused to assume that role.

The steps outlined in two executive orders set the stage for incarcerating thousands of immigrants who do not represent a threat, for widespread civil rights violations and for racial profiling. At the Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday, Mr. Trump said that immigration laws "will be enforced and enforced strongly." Mr. Trump's anti-immigrant talk worked well on the campaign trail, as he convinced struggling Americans that foreigners were to blame for lost jobs and blighted communities. To carry out his promise of ramped-up immigration enforcement and border security, he will need to convince Congress and American taxpayers that spending billions to execute his plan is a worthy investment.

As is so often the case with Mr. Trump, the facts are not on his side. Illegal immigration to the United States has been on a downward trend in recent years, even as spending on border security has soared. Between 1983 and 2006, an average of 1.2 million people a year were apprehended trying to enter the country unlawfully. In 2016, just over 415,000 were caught trying to enter; most were Central Americans fleeing violence and poverty. Meanwhile, border security funding has increased from \$263 million in 1990 to \$3.8 billion in 2015. Mr. Trump would add significantly to that spending. He has insisted that Mexico will ultimately pay for the wall -- a vow that is either deceitful or delusional. Mr. Trump ordered federal agencies to tally the foreign aid Mexico receives from the United States, which seems like a threat to withhold future assistance for initiatives such as narcotics enforcement and judicial programs.

Even if Mr. Trump was to cut off aid to Mexico, the savings would be modest; it got roughly \$142 million in 2016, which doesn't begin to pay for a wall along the 1,989-mile border. Besides costing billions, the type of barrier Mr. Trump has proposed would cause severe environmental damage and lead to lawsuits over private land.

January 26th 2017, The new York Times