

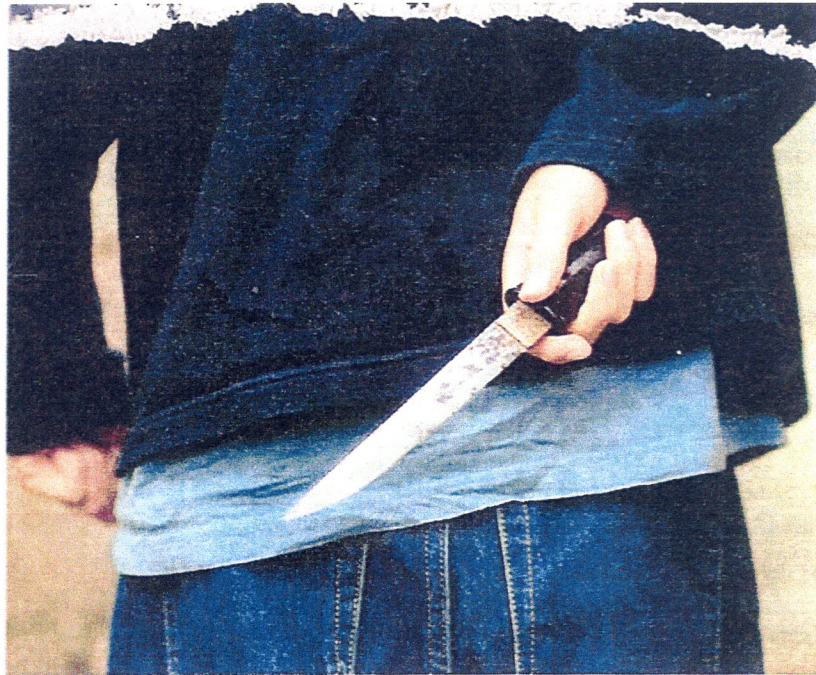
Epreuve orale

Examen de fin d'études secondaires 2012

Section: **BCEF**

Branche: **Anglais**

Nom et prénom du candidat



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II TEXTS

1. Gangs have become so prolific because they recruit from all age groups. There are tiers from the older ones, in their twenties, to the younger ones, 13 to 18, then there are tinies, some as young as eight. They're used for shottin' (drug-dealing) then they get promoted. If you have no idea where your life's going, it's tempting. The gangs have money, cars and girls.
2. Relations seem only to be worsening between disaffected young people and a police force under even greater pressure to reduce violent crime. "The youth have grown up with bitterness towards the police." "When you have not had any education and you grow up unable to express yourself, you get alienated.
3. A lot of these young people can't even leave their street. They have nothing to live for. They say to me, "I don't give a f*** about dying". And this is really dangerous. What many mediators or mentors are doing is, essentially, state-sponsored parenting. But in such a deprived setting, where so many families have broken down or are dysfunctional, the sorry truth is that there can never be enough "parents" to go round.

III DISCUSSION

1. Do you think that violent video games are partly responsible for the increase in knife and gun crime?
2. Why are so many boys ready to drop out of education for a life on the streets?
3. Are we too eager to find excuses for juvenile crime?



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PART II: Reading passages

1. Last week U.N. agencies monitoring a severe drought in Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti increased the volume on existing warnings over food shortages in the region, a consequence, they say, of an unprecedented dry spell, instability and higher global food prices. Reports suggest parts of Somalia may already be on the verge of famine, a repeat of the emergency situation that occurred when the central government collapsed there two decades ago. Officials in the field are reporting adults from Somalia turning up in camps in Ethiopia and Kenya showing signs of severe malnutrition, with some even dying shortly after they arrive.
2. In April officials estimated that up to 8 million people in east Africa will be in need of emergency food aid as a consequence of a drought. That number has now been increased to 10 or 11 million in urgent need. The U.N.'s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is calling it the worst drought the region has experienced since the early 1950s. And the problem is made much more difficult by the continuing anarchy and civil strife in most of Somalia, coupled with cross-border raids and violence between pastoral communities in the Ethiopian-Kenyan border. However, refugees are being pushed from Somalia for a simple lack of food, said OCHA spokeswoman Stephanie Bunker. She estimates about 5,000 people are entering Ethiopia from Somalia every week.
3. In June FAO officials declared that the persistently lower-than-average levels of precipitation in the eastern most part of the African continent had become "a chronic feature for the region." Kenyan government officials have blamed climate change for a recurrence of droughts that have led to blackouts in Nairobi and increased cross-border violence with neighbouring Ethiopia as pastoral communities continually shift their herds in search of water and forage. UNICEF estimates that about 25 percent of people in Kenya's far north are now suffering from acute malnutrition, including more than 37 percent of those living in the Lake Turkana area. Throughout the Horn of Africa the aid group warns that "millions of children and women are at risk from death and disease unless a rapid and speedy response is put into action."

PART III: Discussion

1. Do hotel resorts use up too much water?
2. What can private people do to save drinking water?
3. What influence does climate change have on drinking water?



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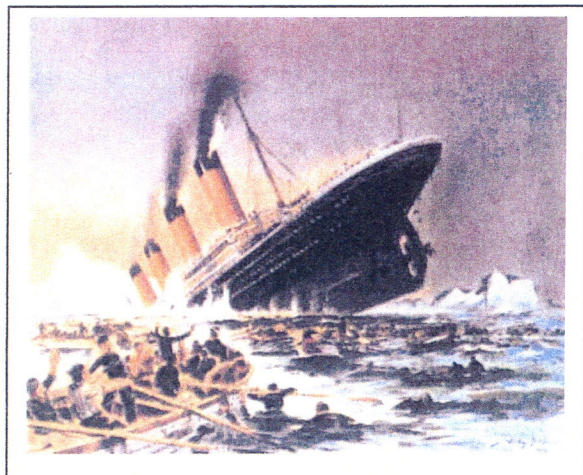
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Part I : Visual prompts



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Part II : Reading passages

Text 1

It has been discovered that humans either intensify the consequences of natural disasters or they intensify the disaster itself. We have altered our nature in so many ways according to the need of civilization that we forgot the long term impacts of these interferences with nature. It has become the tendency of human beings to ignore the impacts of their activities until it's too late. (65 words) (Keshav Saini / Natural Disasters)

Text 2

This was Captain E. J. Smith's retirement trip. All he had to do was get to New York in record time. Captain E. J. Smith said years before the Titanic's voyage, "I cannot imagine any condition which would cause a ship to founder. Modern shipbuilding has gone beyond that." Captain Smith ignored seven iceberg warnings from his crew and other ships. (61 words)

Text 3

It is one of the most known laws of sea that a captain is to go down with the ship. Since the captain of the Costa Concordia left his post before all were off the ship, he is being charged with a plethora of charges, such as manslaughter, negligence, abandoning ship and of sailing the boat too close to the coast. (61 words) (Los Angeles Times January 18th, 2012)

Part III : Discussion tasks

- 1) Natural disasters are often the result of man-made disasters.
- 2) Could the Titanic and the Concordia disasters have been avoided?



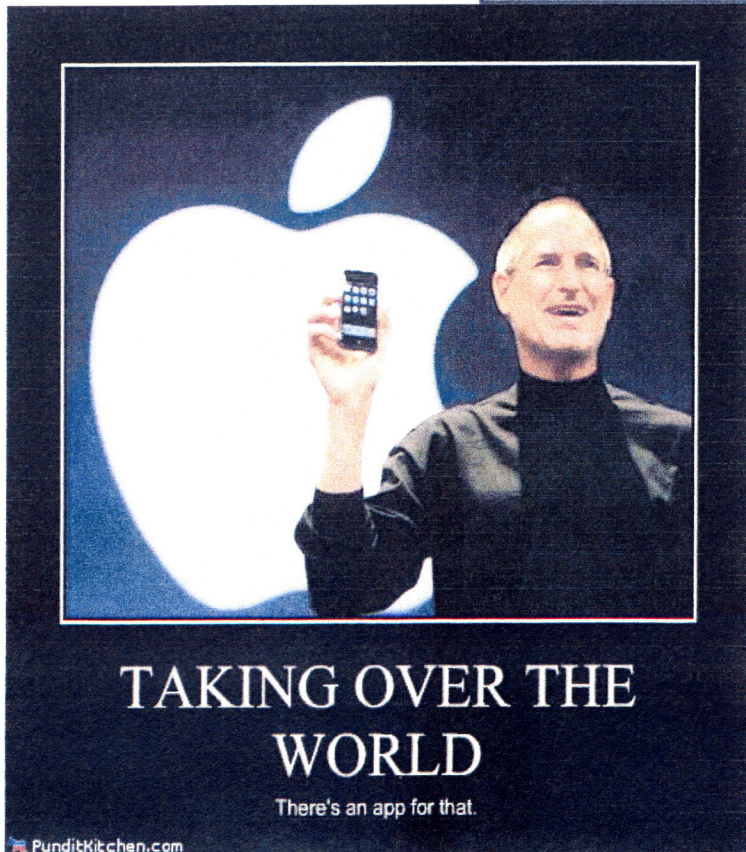
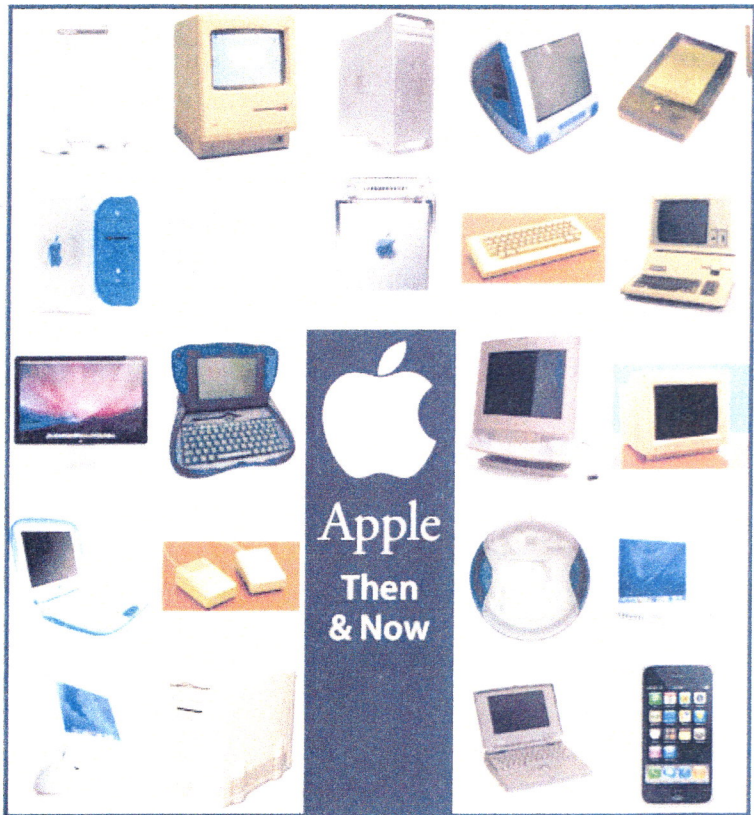
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I Reading Passages

a) Along with a relentless pursuit of beauty in Apple's designs and slick technology, Jobs had a steely backbone that saw him rely, resolutely, on his own gut instinct. The way he saw it, Apple's role was not to follow or second guess what people wanted from their gadgets. It was to lead them, and by doing so, to create the market.

So the world began to crave iPods, then iPhones and finally the iPad.

b) In recent months, the fond memorials for Steve Jobs and the company's record-breaking profits have been tarnished by some of the worst press in Apple's history, most of it related to its top Chinese supplier, Foxconn. Just after a horrific rash of worker suicides at the Foxconn factory complex outside of Hong Kong in 2010, a monologist named Mike Daisey launched a one-man show called "The Agony and The Ecstasy of Steve Jobs." He described travelling to the gates of Foxconn and meeting people coming off 13-15 hour shifts on the Apple lines.

II Discussion Tasks

1. Have we become too dependent on electronic gadgets such as mobiles, mp3-players etc. ?
2. What role have modern means of communication played in protest movements such as the Arab spring ?



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PART II: Reading passages

1. Generations of Britons have grown up pledging to "Remember remember the fifth of November: Gunpowder, treason and plot" – the figure of Guy Fawkes linked forever with fireworks, bonfires and childhood fun.
Now – more than four hundred years after the gruesome death of the man who plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament with barrels of gunpowder – members of the Occupy and Anonymous movements are hoping to provide their own reason to remember Guy Fawkes Night.
They will go on a march that will recreate one of the final scenes of "V for Vendetta", a film based on the comic books by Alan Moore about a mysterious masked revolutionary who brings down a totalitarian regime, succeeding where Fawkes failed by blowing up parliament.
2. The Guy Fawkes mask, worn by V, the protagonist of the film 'V for Vendetta' – with its diabolical grin, devilish black moustache and thin goatee on a porcelain white background – has become the talisman of a new generation of activists as an unprecedented wave of disgust and anger with establishment figures has swept the world.
While the mask has been spotted in Occupy protests from Oakland to Hong Kong, as people rally against what they perceive as growing corporate greed and rising social inequality, the mask was first embraced by international hacker ring Anonymous in 2008.
The group of hackers, notorious for their online attacks on high profile banks and government agencies, first wore the masks to conceal their identities in public protests against the Church of Scientology in 2008.
3. Wikileaks founder Julian Assange recently wore a Guy Fawkes mask to a rally at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, where Occupy protesters and members of Anonymous have been camping in tents since the demonstration began.
Malcolm, a 44-year-old Anonymous member and camper, says the mask has become "an international symbol for rebellion and anonymity."
"The point of wearing the mask is to be able to go to a protest without fear of retribution or aggression from the establishment," he said, his mask perched on the crown of his head.
"I have no problem with anyone having my identity, but I like the fact I can choose not to."

PART III: Discussion

1. Why is the Guy Fawkes mask a highly political symbol?
2. In what ways has the Anonymous mask lent an entirely new dimension to demonstrating?



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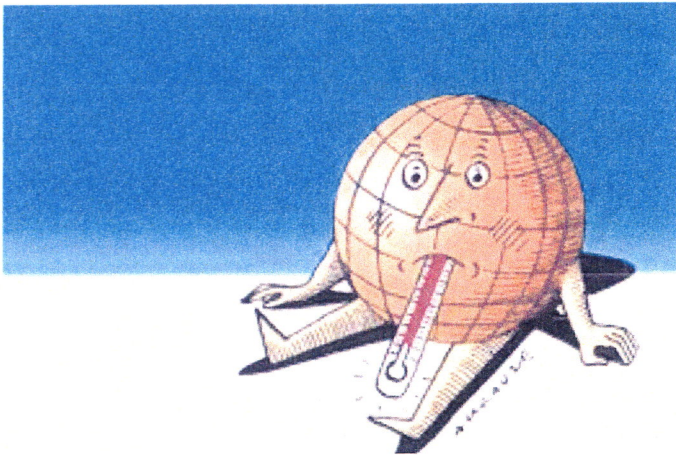
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Part II : Reading passages

- 1) We cannot just be sitting comfortably on our sofa watching television; we can do something to help. Although our actions may not change the world all at once, we can at least contribute something in order to alleviate the present condition of the earth. If initiatives from all of us were gathered, it would create a tremendously big change. Act now, before it's too late. (66 words)
- 2) Media coverage of climate change has markedly declined over the last two years. The global financial crisis and the growing realisation that unilateral climate policies are exerting a potentially devastating burden on European industries have led to a significant cooling of public and media interest. Global warming no longer supplies dramatic and new headlines. (54 words)
- 3) It's good that different opinions are offered in respect of global warming, but we shouldn't let our minds wander too far away from reality or logic. I suspect revealing the real reasons behind global warming will be an almost impossible task and this will require many more questions from the public. However, we could just wait a few more years and see for ourselves, some secrets can't be hidden forever! (70 words) (Ian Brockwell)

Part III : Discussion tasks

- 1) Is our planet experiencing a potentially catastrophic future, or is global warming a 'myth'?
- 2) If our governments had discovered that we would run a potential risk, would they tell the public?
- 3) What are the consequences of global warming for our planet?



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Part II: Reading passages

1.

After the Japanese faced swaying buildings, shattered windows and a rush of water that swept homes off their foundations, they learned of nuclear reactors flirting with meltdown. Despite the devastation, the mounting numbers of loved ones lost and hometowns wiped clean, experts say the Japanese people will recover. They will support each other and rebuild, helped by a collective history of community and a tradition of preparation and loss.

2.

The crisis in Japan has bruised the country's reputation for excellence. Its hyper-efficient supply chains were shown to have major vulnerabilities. Its prestigious nuclear technology companies look feeble. Its renown for food safety has been undermined by fears of radiation contamination. At least one Western diplomat and economist believes that the stature of Japanese goods in the minds of consumers overseas may be severely damaged.

3.

The streets in Japan are clear of debris, reconstruction is under way and evacuees are moving out of shelters. But millions of people are having to readjust to abnormal levels of radiation. This is a shift in day-to-day life that changes the meaning of "ordinary". Low-level radiation is an invisible threat that breaks DNA strands with results that do not become apparent for years or decades. Though most people remain completely unaffected, others develop cancer. Not knowing who will be affected and when is deeply unsettling.

Part III: Discussion task

The worst disasters are man-made. Discuss.



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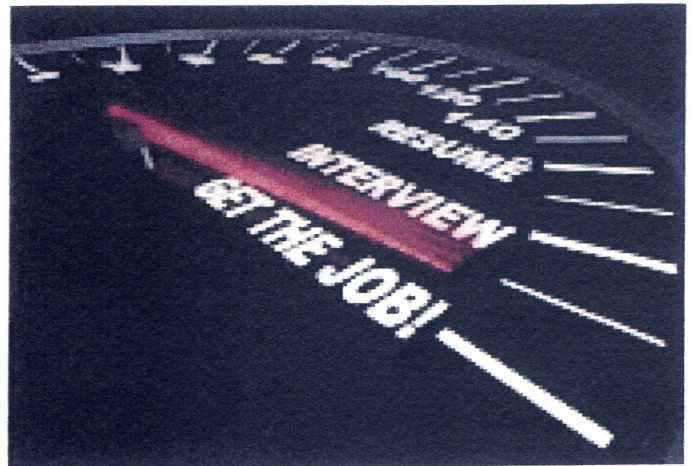
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1) VISUAL PROMPTS



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II) READING PASSAGES :

1) Youth unemployment rates are generally much higher than unemployment rates for all ages. High youth unemployment rates do reflect the difficulties faced by young people in finding jobs. However, this does not necessarily mean that the group of unemployed persons aged between 15 and 24 is large because many young people are studying full-time and are therefore neither working nor looking for a job.

(Eurostat information December 2011)

2) A report by the STATEC (the Luxembourg Office for Statistics and Economic Studies) from 12th August this year reveals that the unemployment rate for young people aged 15 to 29 is about 5 % in Luxembourg. This figure shows that young people are not more affected by unemployment than the rest of the working population in Luxembourg and that they are above all in a better position than all their European colleagues whose unemployment rate amounts to 17 %.

3) More than 1,000 young demonstrators packed Madrid's Puerta del Sol square to vent their anger over Spain's economic crisis and staggering unemployment rate.

"We are tired of the unemployment, the corruption of politicians. It is always the same thing. I have no job and I don't see how I can get one any time soon," Madrid resident Jordi Perez, 25, is quoted by the AFP as saying. "They have to know how we feel."

Spain's 21.3 percent unemployment rate is reportedly the highest in the EU -- a record 4.9 million are jobless, many of them young people.

III) DISCUSSION :

- 1) What does the future hold for you?
- 2) What kind of jobs would you be interested in?
- 3) Do you think that you might have problems finding a job? Why / why not?



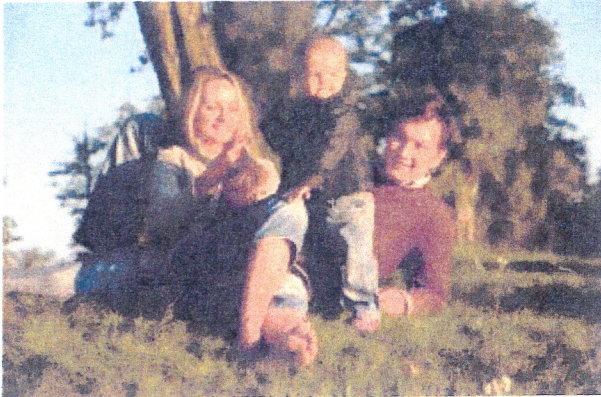
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Reading

1. As unpaid bills mounted, and the couple struggled to pay £625-a-month rent for a dilapidated house, they made a drastic decision: they believed they would be better off, and happier, trying to survive in a tent. When their tenancy agreement expired on 15 January, they pitched a tent they had bought for £370, borrowed from Lily's mother, on a farm in the west country. "The mud and rain may be depressing, but the cold is scary," admits Lily. "But we're glad we've done this, even though it is frightening sometimes thinking about our responsibility for Louise and how we must keep her warm."

2. A family of 4 decided to see if they could survive for a year without shopping at supermarkets. They grew their own vegetables in their back yard and bartered the extra food for essentials. Living in a smallish city, they were able to rent an acre of land to plant crops as well as keep animals. They plan to invest in a small herd of Aberdeen Angus soon. They do a lot of swapping, for example eggs for homemade jams. The family says that they have no intention of returning to the supermarket. As well as enjoying the ethical and tasty benefits, they are saving £110 a week.

3. "We need to have a national discussion on marriage and family. There are two things in this country that will assure you of never being poor — graduating from high school and getting married. So marriage is important for our economic security. It isn't an alternative lifestyle. The bottom line is: Marriage works.
Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum

Task:

What do you think will be the typical family of the future?

Or

What is a perfect family or alternative lifestyle for you?



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Part I: Visual prompts



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Part II: Reading passages

1.

Rioters identified a range of political grievances, but at the heart of their complaints was a pervasive sense of injustice in England. For some this was economic: the lack of money, jobs or opportunity. For others it was more broadly social: how they felt they were treated compared with others. Many mentioned the increase in student tuition fees and the scrapping of the education maintenance allowance.

2.

After four days of looting and rioting across the UK, people are looking for answers. The violence that started in London, spread rapidly across most of the country. Its speed and range is attributed to the rioters' use of social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Blackberry Messenger. Information and disinformation alike travel fast in social networks. As people try to make sense in the aftermath, an emerging theme is the culpability of social media.

3.

Roger Graef, a criminologist, criticised the UK Prime Minister's harsh punishments for rioters, arguing that: "There is a form of justice which many of them take seriously – and are far more frightened of than courts, community service or even prison: restorative justice, in which offenders are confronted by their victim, or victims of similar crimes, and learn of the impact of their actions."

Part III: Discussion tasks

1.

"Riots are the voices of the unheard." (Martin Luther King) Discuss.

2.

"Today, our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change." (Martin Luther King) Discuss.



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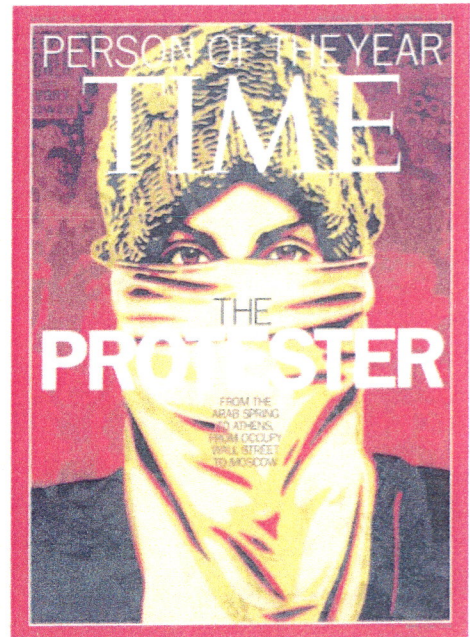
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Task one: Describe and comment



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Task two: Texts

a) Hind Ahmas faces two years in prison and a fine of £27,000 after refusing to accept the legitimacy of a court which ordered her to spend 15 days working for free and learning about French values. She was summoned to appear in court today but the 32-year-old was barred from her own trial because she would not take off the garb in the court building.

b) The Home Office said yesterday: "It is not for government to say what people can and cannot wear. Such a proscriptive approach would be out of keeping with our nation's longstanding record of tolerance. Accordingly we do not support a ban on wearing the burka."
Baroness Warsi, the first woman Muslim Cabinet minister, has also defended the right of women to choose to wear a face veil.

Task three: Discussion

a) Is the burka just a piece of clothing like all the others?

b) Is it OK not to obey a law that you think is unjust?



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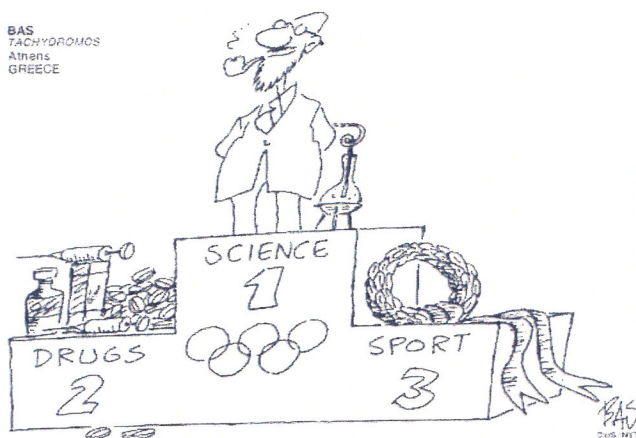
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PART I : VISUAL PROMPTS

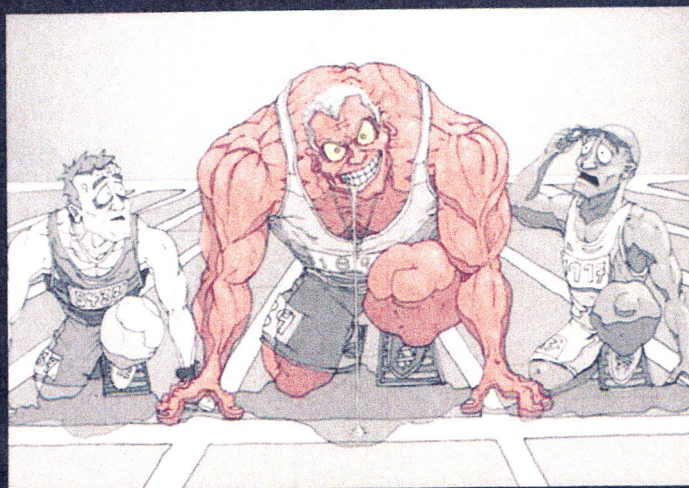


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Suspicious of doping persist.



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PART II : READING PASSAGES

1.

Cyclist Andy Schleck said he is not happy he has been declared the winner of the 2010 Tour de France in the wake of Alberto Contador's two-year suspension for doping, this morning declaring he has always believed his Spanish rival was innocent of the charges against him. Schleck, riding for the Radioshack Nissan trek team, declared it a "sad day for cycling" as he reacted with surprise to the decision of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in suspending Contador for two years.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/sport/more-sports/tour-de-france-winner-andy-schleck-refuses-to-celebrate-after-alberto-contador-stripped-of-2010-title/story-e6frey6i-1226264334255>

2.

The use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport is commonly referred to by the term "doping", particularly by those organizations that regulate competitions. The use of performance enhancing drugs is mostly done to improve athletic performance. The use of drugs to enhance performance is considered unethical by most international sports organizations and especially the International Olympic Committee, although ethicists have argued that it is little different from the use of new materials in the construction of suits and sporting equipment, which similarly aid performance and can give competitors an unfair advantage over others.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Use_of_performance-enhancing_drugs_in_sport

3.

The East Germans became a sporting powerhouse in the 1970s and '80s, rivalling the much larger United States and Soviet Union. Thousands of East German athletes were given performance-enhancing steroids in an effort to prove East German superiority over the West. Many athletes thought they were simply taking vitamins. The special pills worked. But with the medals and titles came the negative health side effects, such as liver cancer, organ damage, psychological defects, hormonal changes and infertility.

<http://www.cbc.ca/sports/indepth/drugs/stories/top10.html#1>

PART III : DISCUSSION

1. "If we want fairness in sports, we have to legalize doping". Discuss.
2. "We are all guilty. Not only the athletes are to blame for the doping scandals". Discuss.
3. "Billions of dollars are spent for huge sports arenas while playgrounds in working-class districts are disappearing". Discuss.



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A)



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B) TEXTS

1. In the current eurozone debt crisis there is something more at stake than money : that is the European dream. Our common architecture of institutions, procedures and relationships has succeeded in giving Europeans what the founding fathers expected : not only peace, instead of bloody wars, but also greater prosperity for our citizens through the common market. Decade after decade these have been the reasons for the strengthening image of Europe.
2. Are we still convinced that, in the 21st century, staying together, working together and, therefore, finding common solutions to the issues before us will lead each and all of us to more prosperity ? This has been the glue that has kept us together for more than fifty years and has convinced each of our national communities to accept constraints for the sake of the expected benefits. Either we still share that belief or no technicality will save the euro and, eventually, our common construction.

C) DISCUSSION

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a common currency in Europe ?
2. Do you share the 'European dream' ?
3. What obstacles and attractions are there to the construction of a 'United States of Europe' ?



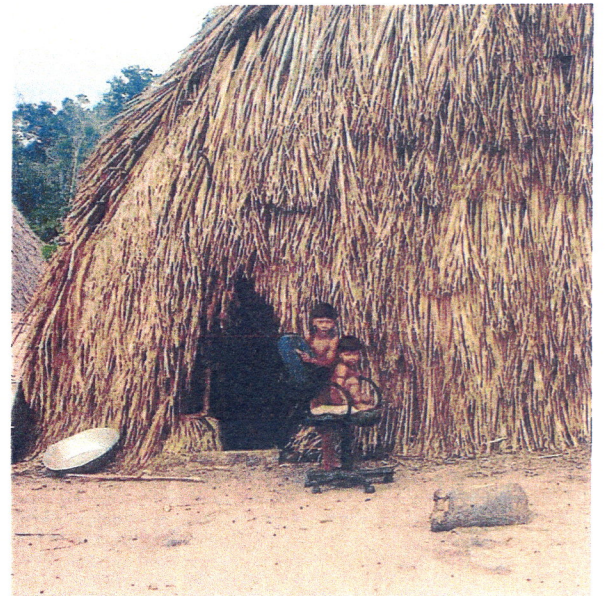
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II TEXTS

1. By 1969 there were estimated to be fewer than 100,000 Indians left from a population believed to have been between 4 million and 6 million at the start of the century. A leading Brazilian anthropologist predicted there might be none left by 1980. Happily, his fears were wrong and, far from being wiped out, the Indian population has been growing. Today there are an estimated 460,000 Indians from between 225 and 227 tribes, of which about 26 have never been contacted.
2. Soya exports have also boomed with the development of a new strain suitable for cultivating in the Amazon region. Soya farmers generally take over already-cleared land, but Philip Fearnside of the Amazon Research Institute points out this drives the small slash-and-burn farmers deeper into the forest, pushing back the frontier. "Soya-bean farming provides a key economic and political impetus for new highways and infrastructure projects," he says.
3. The Enawene Nawe tribe are right on the front line of this war against deforestation. Not only are the lands under threat from the cattle ranchers and soy barons, but to help provide power to the soya plantations the state government has begun building a series of hydro-electric dams on the Juruena river. The Indians fear these will pollute their water and kill the fish on which they depend.

III DISCUSSION

1. The native Americans should not expect to hold on to their ancient ways of life.
2. Are people becoming disinterested because they are bombarded with too many warnings about the environment?
3. What steps do you take to save the planet?



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1. Comment on these pictures



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Task 2

Text One

Anyone who says he has no idea what these folks are protesting is not being truthful. Whether we agree with them or not, we all know what they are upset about, and we all know that there are investment bankers working on Wall Street getting richer while things for most of the rest of us are getting tougher. What upsets banking's defenders and politicians alike is the refusal of this movement to state its terms or set its goals in the traditional language of campaigns.

Text Two

The members of Occupy Wall Street may be as paradoxical, and inconsistent as any one of us. But that is precisely why their new approach to protest is more applicable and sustainable than what passes for politics today. They are suggesting that the fiscal operating system on which we are attempting to run our economy is no longer appropriate to the task. They mean to show that there is an inappropriate and correctable disconnect between the abundance America produces and the scarcity its markets manufacture.

Text Three

Occupy Wall Street is meant more as a way of life that spreads through contagion, creates as many questions as it answers, aims to force a reconsideration of the way the nation does business and offers hope to those of us who previously felt alone in our belief that the current economic system is broken. There are things big corporations may not do so well, like mortgages. Might we be able to use corporations for what works, and get them out of doing what doesn't?

Task 3

- Discuss the following statement -

'There is something wrong in the world where you are promised to be immortal but cannot spend a little bit more for health care. We should set our priorities straight. We don't want higher standards of living. We want better standards of living.'

Slavoj Zizek



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TEXTS

If the ebook is all about ease and short attention spans, the ink and paper book must satisfy not just the thrill of reading, but the deep aesthetic pleasure associated with owning, holding and even scenting a favourite text... Not since the palmy days of late-Victorian publishing has so much attention been lavished on the hardback.

The Observer, 8th January 2012

'It's intimacy, the intimacy of reading and touching the world. It's the wonderment of my daughter reaching for a page with me,' said Leslie Van Every, 41, a loyal Kindle user in San Francisco whose husband Eric, reads on his iPhone. But for their 2 ½ -year-old daughter, Georgia, books are the only option. 'I feel that learning with books,' she said, 'is as important a rite of passage as learning to eat with utensils.'

The New York Times, Dec 2011

TASKS

- Is anything lost by taking a picture book for children and converting it to an ebook ?
- Do you prefer print books to ebooks ?
- Are books an outdated form of entertainment ?

