

EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES – Sessions 2024**QUESTIONNAIRE**

<i>Date :</i>	04.06.24	<i>Horaire :</i>	08:15 - 11:15	<i>Durée :</i>	180 minutes	
<i>Discipline :</i>	ANGLA	<i>Type :</i>	écrit	<i>Section(s) :</i>	GCC / GCF / GCG / GCGSL / GCG_ANGDF / GMM	
					<i>Numéro du candidat :</i>	

PART A – KNOWN TEXTS**DICTIONARIES ARE NOT ALLOWED FOR THIS PART****Essential Articles (15 marks)****'Why are we wasting?' (various authors)**

1. What do the authors accuse supermarkets of? (8 marks)

'There's a population crisis all right. But probably not the one you think.' (George Monbiot)

2. How does George Monbiot view population campaigners? (7 marks)

Short Stories (15 marks)**'The Doll's House' (Katherine Mansfield)**

3. Compare and contrast Kezia Burnell and Else Kelvey. (7 marks)

'The Third and Final Continent' (Jhumpa Lahiri)

4. Describe the narrator's relationship with Mrs. Croft and say what significant role she plays in shaping his relationship with Mala. (8 marks)

PART B – UNKNOWN TEXT

DICTIONARIES ARE ALLOWED FOR THIS PART

Having fewer babies is no way to save humanity

The number of births in England and Wales has hit a 20-year low. It has gone down by 3.1 per cent in a year, reflecting a long-term trend across the developed world. Professor Sarah Harper, the founder and director of the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing and a leading demographer, said in response that falling birth rates in the West were “good for our planet”. Declining fertility in rich countries, she said, would help to address the “general overconsumption that we have at the moment”, which was having a negative impact on the world.

This is a view with a long history. The climate change “emergency” is rooted in the **neuralgic*** issue of population control. Over the past two centuries and more, progressive people have believed that the number of people in the world is potentially catastrophic and must be reduced. For a brief period, this preoccupation went underground, having been given some rather bad PR by Nazism, but resurfaced among environmentalists.

In 1972, the Club of Rome global **think tank*** predicted that the inevitable exhaustion of the world’s natural resources would prevent indefinite economic growth. In 1993, it proclaimed that environmental concerns such as pollution, the threat of global warming, water shortages, and famine all signalled that “the real enemy, then, is humanity itself”. In 2009, the Optimum Population Trust (now called Population Matters) argued that population growth was a key driver of greenhouse gas emissions and suggested that the UK should cut its population by half if it is to feed itself sustainably.

Young people increasingly seem to agree. In 2021, a global study published in ‘The Lancet’ found that 40 per cent of young people aged 16 to 25 were reluctant to have children because of their fears about climate change.

Whatever one’s views about that issue, it is striking that what is thought to be needed is not to find ways of ridding the world of a problem that people have apparently created but to get rid of people instead. In other words, there is no confidence in the creative ability of human beings to solve environmental problems, despite overwhelming evidence that this is indeed what people have done over the years.

The 18th-century economist Thomas Malthus, who first **started** the population **hare***, predicted that the number of people in the world would outstrip its food supply. In fact, as the world’s population has grown, starvation and absolute poverty across the world have declined. Although still an acute problem in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, the number of people living in extreme poverty dropped overall by more than half between 1990 and 2015.

Meanwhile, a birthrate falling below the population replacement rate of 2.1 babies per woman – the rate in England and Wales in 2021 was 1.55 – betokens disaster. The inverted population pyramid, with a large and increasing number of ageing people having to be supported by a smaller and diminishing number of young people, threatens economic growth, productivity, and welfare. It results in the need to import productive people from abroad, which erodes social cohesion and

national identity. Moreover, such foreign imports are themselves threatened if other countries are similarly failing to reproduce themselves.

Beyond 2100, the projected fertility rates in 183 of the 195 countries in the world will be too low to maintain present population levels. The decline is generally put down to factors such as individualism and consumerism, women's enhanced participation in education and the workforce, lower infant mortality (reducing the need to have a lot of children), and greater use of contraception.

As a number of commentators have observed, birthrates tend to rise and fall based on how optimistic or pessimistic people feel. In America, the birthrate peaked in 1957 when the economy was booming; sagged in the 1970s under the pressure of inflation and other problems; stabilised in the 1980s; and started to dip again after the financial shock of 2008.

Although the precise causes may differ, people stop having children when they no longer feel optimistic about the future. Falling below replacement rate is a sign of cultural despair. But enthusiasm for the progressive suicide of the human race is the problem, not the solution.

698 words. Adapted from *World and Press* (Melanie Philipps). 2nd January 2024.

Glossary

neuralgic:	causing intense emotional reactions
think tank:	a group of experts brought together to develop ideas on a particular subject and to make suggestions for action
to start a hare:	to raise, introduce, or prompt discussion about a certain topic

Comprehension Questions (15 marks)

Answer the following questions in your own words. Do not copy from the text.

1. What are the harmful consequences associated with overpopulation? (4 marks)
2. What are the population control beliefs of the 18th century, early 20th century, and present times? (7 marks)
3. What negative impacts are linked to declining birth rates? (4 marks)

Development Essay (15 marks)

Write a well-structured essay of around 250 (+/-10%) words on the following topic. Indicate the number of words used at the end of the essay.

How can humanity be saved?

Attention: Do NOT restate ideas from the text.