

EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES – Sessions 2024

QUESTIONNAIRE

Date :	17/09/2024	Horaire :	08 : 15-11 : 15	Durée :	180 min.
Discipline :	ANGLAIS	Type :	<u>écrit</u>	Section(s) :	GGH
					Numéro du candidat :

PART A: Known Texts (no dictionary allowed)

/36

Short stories and texts

- 1) *US Elections (Reader U.S. Department of State – Bureau of International Information Programs)*
What is the role of the Electoral College – Explain in detail. /3
- 2) *US Elections (Reader U.S. Department of State – Bureau of International Information Programs)*
What are the legislative, the executive and the judicial powers? Why is their division so important to the functioning of a democracy? /3
- 3) *Short story: "A Sound of Thunder" by Ray Bradbury*
What is the butterfly effect? Explain its role in the short story. /3
- 4) *Short story: "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allan Poe*
What does the beating heart symbolise? /3

Novel

- 1) *Novel: "Fight Club" by Chuck Palahniuk*
"Tyler's telling me this, but somehow, I already know it." (p.164) - Who is Tyler Durden? How come he and Marla are never in the same room as the narrator? Include Palahniuk's choice of narrative perspective in your answer. How does the novel comment on mental health and societal expectations? /6

Marking	
Overall Written Production	/5
Task Achievement	/10
Structure	/5
Grammatical Accuracy	/5
Vocabulary and Spelling	/5
	/30 → /6

2) Novel: "Fight Club" by Chuck Palahniuk

Explain the novel's title: What is "Fight Club"? Look at how the idea of fighting, both in a real and symbolic way, is important in the book. How does it play a big role in the story? Study how Fight Club changes and affects the characters and what they think about themselves. Think about how the title shows important parts of the book's message about today's society and how people struggle to find who they really are. /6

Marking	
Overall Written Production	/5
Task Achievement	/10
Structure	/5
Grammatical Accuracy	/5
Vocabulary and Spelling	/5
	/30 → /6

Business English

- 1) Text: "How worried should you be about AI disrupting elections?" (The Economist 08/2023)
What are deepfakes and what harm could they do? Explain and provide one example. /3
- 2) Text: "Environmental impact of online shopping" (British Council, Learn English, 2020)
Explain the environmental impact of fast fashion. /3
- 3) Text: "Environmental impact of online shopping" (British Council, Learn English, 2020)
How does fast fashion cause exploitative labour practices? /3
- 4) Text: "Having fewer babies is no way to save humanity" (World and Press 01/2024)
Does having fewer babies actually save the planet from climate change? /3

“Power is enticing; it’s hard to give up” – US politics age problem

World and Press 12/2023

POLITICS • AGE Questions have been raised about whether older politicians are suitable for office as young challengers face a battle to oust incumbents. (By Alistair Dawber)



Donald Trump at a summit in September. | PHOTO: Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images



President Joe Biden delivering a speech in September. | PHOTO: Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images

1 THE AVERAGE American retires in their early sixties, but by the time most are on the golf course or tending a vegetable patch, the US’s political class is only just getting started. The average senator is almost 65, and at 80, President Biden is the oldest occupant of the White House in history.

2 A new book has raised more questions about his age, revealing that he has told aides he is “tired” in office. Franklin Foer’s ‘The Last Politician: Inside Joe Biden’s White House and the Struggle for America’s Future’ is likely to renew concerns that he is too old to run for a second term, which would end after his 86th birthday. “It was striking that he took so few morning meetings or pre-sided over so few public events before 10am,” Foer writes. “His public persona reflected physical decline and time’s dulling of mental faculties that no pill or exercise regime can resist.”

0– 1 **ENTICING** verlockend — **office** Amt — **to oust** verdrängen — **incumbent** Amtsinhaber(in) — **to tend** pflegen — **vegetable patch** Gemüsebeet — **occupant** Inhaber(in) 2 **aide** Berater(in) — **to run** kandidieren — **term** Amtszeit — **striking** auffallend — **to preside over** leiten — **public persona** Image in der Öffentlichkeit — **to dull** trüben — **mental faculties** geistige Fähigkeiten — **exercise regime** Trainingsprogramm — **to resist** entgegenwirken

3 Democrats claim it is unfair to single out the president in this way. Donald Trump, his probable opponent in a rematch of the 2020 race, will be a far from sprightly 78 by next year's election. The two White House favourites are not alone. Mitch McConnell, 81, appeared to freeze during an event this week – just over a month after it happened at a press conference in July. McConnell leads the Republicans in the Senate, but even he is not the party's eldest statesman.

4 Senator Chuck Grassley was born six years before the start of the Second World War and is adamant that he will stand again for a fresh six-year term next year. Should he retain his Iowa seat, which he has held without serious challenge since 1981, he would retire at 96, assuming he doesn't run again. The House of Representatives fares little better, with 15 of its 435 sitting members aged over 80.

5 "Whether it's members of Congress, President Biden, or before him, President Trump, we're edging towards historic levels of age among our elected officials," says Casey Burgat, assistant professor at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management. "It's hard to run for office and win, so once you do, some of those barriers are removed. There's more money available from donors for incumbents, and you have a track record to campaign on. Also, power is enticing. It's hard to give up."

6 A poll for the Associated Press this week showed that 77 percent of voters think that Biden is too old to serve in the White House. By contrast, only 51 per cent say Trump is past it. Yet most polls tend to put Biden slightly ahead in a straight contest between the two, suggesting perhaps that age is just one thing voters are willing to consider. "If you show most people Biden's legislative agenda and accomplishments, they might well say that it is the work of a successful president, irrespective of age," says Burgat. "People, when they vote, have a binary choice. Do they wish he was younger? Yes, but it's relative to what they are choosing against."



3–4 **to single out** herausheben — **sprightly** rüstig — **to freeze** erstarren — **to be adamant** darauf beharren — **assuming** vorausgesetzt — **to fare better** besser abschneiden — **sitting** amtierend
5–6 **to edge towards s.th.s.** auf etw. zubewegen — **official** Mandatsträger(in) — **assistant professor** Dozent(in) — **donor** Spender(in) — **track record** Erfolgsbilanz — **to campaign on s.th.** mit etw. Wahlkampf betreiben — **poll** Umfrage — **legislative agenda** Gesetzesvorhaben — **accomplishment** Leistung — **irrespective** ungeachtet — **binary choice** Entweder-oder-Wahl

7 Biden often becomes irritable when his age is raised. “You think I don’t know how f***ing old I am?” he is reported to have said to an official last year. But Ronald Reagan often turned it to his advantage, famously saying that he would not make an issue of his opponent Walter Mondale’s “youth and inexperience” during the 1984 presidential campaign. He won by a landslide.

8 Moreover, the longer a member of Congress serves, the more likely they are to find themselves on important committees that can help them direct federal re-sources to their own state or district. This gives them an advantage over younger challengers that only grows with time.

9 American society is ageing dramatically, so perhaps it is no wonder that the people it votes for look and sound more like the electorate. Voters “find comfort in people that look, act, think, and experience the same things they do,” Burgat says. “This is particularly true in America, because older people vote at disproportionately high rates”.

10 Some states have tried to introduce term limits for their elected federal officials, but this has been struck down on several occasions by the Supreme Court, where justices are appointed for life.

11 Commentators point out that the presidency is the only job in Washington that is limited to two terms and that Congress and the Supreme Court should follow suit. “Whynot have term limits in Congress?” says Alvin Felzenberg, who worked in the White House for both presidents Bush and has since become a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. “We did it with the president. Clinton knew, Bush knew, Reagan knew that they could only serve two terms, and they made their plans accordingly. Why not do it in Congress? We need new blood in every job.”

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7– 9 irritable gereizt — to win by a landslide ein Erdrutschsieg davontragen — to direct lenken — to age altern — electorate Wählerschaft— disproportionately high überproportional hoch 10 – 11 to strike down kippen — Supreme Court Oberster Gerichtshof — justice Richter(in) — to appoint ernennen — to follow suit nachziehen — accordingly entsprechend

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|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Vocabulary | Grammar | Content | TOTAL |
| /1,5 | /1,5 | /3 | /6 |

- | Vocabulary | Grammar | Content | TOTAL |
|------------|---------|---------|-------|
| /1,5 | /1,5 | /3 | /6 |

3) Essay Question:

Your opinion on politicians' age

Do you believe that age should be a determining factor in assessing the suitability of politicians for office?

(250 words, +- 10%)

Marking	
Overall Written Production	/5
Task Achievement	/10
Structure	/5
Grammatical Accuracy	/5
Vocabulary and Spelling	/5
	/30 → /12

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