

FRENCH
Unit 6

FR6T

Examiner's Material

To be conducted by the teacher examiner between 6 January and 28 January 2005 (FR6T)

Time allowed: 35 minutes (including 20 minutes preparation time)

Instructions

- During the 20 minutes preparation time candidates are required to prepare **one** of the two reporting and discussion cards given to them.
- Candidates may make notes during the preparation time only on the Supplementary Answer Sheet provided.
They must not write on this card.
- Candidates should take the reporting and discussion card with them into the examination room. They may refer to the card and any notes they have made at any time during the reporting and discussion section of the test.
- Candidates should hand the reporting and discussion card and the Supplementary Answer Sheet to the examiner before the start of the conversation section of the test.

Information

- The test will last approximately 15 minutes and will consist of a reporting and discussion card and a conversation based on topics studied during the A2 course.
- Candidates will be expected to respond to questions and discuss in **French** issues arising from the chosen card.
- Candidates must **not** use a dictionary.

Text 1**The State and the individual****Chirac goes on TV to quell heatwave anger**

In a rare public address to the nation, President Jacques Chirac conceded yesterday that weaknesses in France's health system had contributed to the thousands of heat-related deaths in recent weeks linked to the 2003 *canicule* (heatwave).

Prior to his television appearance, Mr Chirac called on several key ministers to explain their part in the weeks of crisis that had troubled France in his absence.

In the course of the two-hour session, the interior minister, Nicolas Sarkozy, spoke about the forest fires which destroyed thousands of hectares of land in the south of the country, the environment minister reported on the record-breaking pollution levels, the health minister, Jean-François Mattei, was forced to explain why hospitals had coped so badly with the consequences of the heatwave, while the agriculture minister outlined the massive scale of problems facing farmers after months of drought.

In his broadcast, the President stressed that the tragic consequences of the weather should be a reminder of the important social obligation France had towards the most fragile members of its population. "Our society must become more responsive and attentive to others, to their problems, their suffering and their vulnerability," he warned. "These dramas again illustrate the solitude of many aged or handicapped citizens."

It was not clear last night whether his speech would do much to quell the anger still simmering within the health service, the opposition ranks of parliament and the general public. His emphasis on collective responsibility appeared to irritate those who have called on the government to face up to its own failures.

Source: © The Guardian, August 2003

Questions:

- De quoi s'agit-il dans ce texte?
- De quoi les différents ministres ont-ils parlé au Président?
- Quel message le Président a-t-il communiqué aux Français?
- Qu'est-ce que vous entendez par la « responsabilité collective » dont on parle dans le dernier paragraphe?
- Comment voyez-vous le rôle d'un chef d'Etat ou d'un Premier Ministre?

NOTES

Text 2**Health issues****Life's healthier across the Channel**

When Valérie Délieutraz felt the pain in her knee getting worse she knew it was a bone problem and didn't bother going to her GP. The 57-year-old Parisian asked friends if they knew of a good specialist and arranged to see one who was recommended the following week.

She would have to pay 20 euros – or about £15 – for the consultation, but she would get it back from the medical insurance she and every other French citizen has.

She had some tests, which she also had to pay for and reclaim from insurance, and the doctor told her she had arthritis and would need a knee replacement. She told him she wanted the operation as soon as possible, and booked it a fortnight later. The specialist recommended a particular surgeon.

She had the operation done at a private hospital, with the surgeon using an advanced robot to make sure the artificial joint fitted perfectly. Her insurance covered the cost of treatment, but she had to pay an extra 10 euros a day for food while in hospital. That was covered by a supplementary insurance almost all French people have.

'I am fine now and can walk almost normally again. There is no more pain,' she said from her apartment near Les Invalides. 'I think the treatment I had was very good. I am more than happy with it – it is what I chose!'

International surveys show the French are more contented with their healthcare than just about any other developed nation. The medical results are also better. From survival rates for cancer to levels of infant mortality, the French health system saves more lives than the British one. As the Department of Health in Britain resorts to sending patients to French hospitals, opposition party politicians are increasingly looking to France to seek solutions to the problems of the NHS. Last week Shadow Health Secretary, Liam Fox, toured French hospitals and clinics to find out what they are doing right.

Source: © The Guardian, November 2001

Questions:

- De quoi s'agit-il dans ce texte?
- Racontez un peu ce qui est arrivé à Valérie.
- Pourquoi à votre avis serait-elle contente du traitement qu'elle a reçu?
- Qu'est-ce qui marche bien dans les hôpitaux en France?
- Quels sont les problèmes des services de santé en Grande-Bretagne?

NOTES

Text 3**Distribution of wealth**

Sangatte may be closed but the refugee debate continues

The French interior minister, Daniel Vaillant, is expected to press France's key point that it was not the Sangatte Red Cross centre that attracted refugees, but British laws on immigration and asylum. A spokesperson said Mr Vaillant would be pointing out that the differences between British and continental legislation and practice made Britain "a particularly attractive destination for all candidates for immigration".

Paris considers that despite recent moves by London to make Britain less appealing for asylum seekers, refugees believe – with some justification – that conditions in the UK are better, and that it will be much easier for them to find a home and job there.

Unlike most of continental Europe, Britain has no national identity card system. Asylum seekers can apply for work permits, no law deters British companies from employing illegal immigrants, the black economy in the UK is four times larger than in France, and well organised immigrant networks exist to help newcomers.

Mr Vaillant will be asking the Home Secretary Mr Blunkett to consider concrete ways in which Britain's treatment of refugees could be brought in line with the rest of Europe. He will stress the fact that of 40,000 immigrants who passed through the Sangatte centre, only 120 asked for asylum in France.

Mr Vaillant is expected to reject British criticism of French inactivity over Sangatte, noting that professional people smugglers were given heavy prison sentences and that the French police presence at the tunnel entrance had always been effective.

But he is believed to favour the opening of several smaller centres further inland as proposed earlier this month by the social affairs minister, Elisabeth Guigou.

Source: © The Guardian, September 2001

Questions:

- De quoi s'agit-il dans ce texte?
- Que dit Daniel Vaillant sur le centre de Sangatte?
- Que dit-on dans l'article sur la popularité de l'Angleterre par rapport à celle de la France?
- Comment la France traite-t-elle des groupes comme les réfugiés et les demandeurs d'asile?
- A votre avis comment est-ce que les richesses du monde pourraient être mieux partagées?

NOTES

Text 4

Science and technology

Out of this world

Raël, a softly spoken Frenchman, says that aliens told him to abandon his career as a racing-car driver, leave his wife and children and start a worldwide movement to glorify human cloning. So he did.

The world is full of people claiming to have experienced encounters with extraterrestrials – in Raël’s case, a meeting in the south of France in 1973 with the pilot of a flying saucer, on top of a mountain. He chose to turn this encounter into a career. He has since created secret laboratories, financed by clients investing hundreds of thousands of dollars to produce clones.

Raël, in London to promote his new book, *Yes to Human Cloning*, is careful to keep his religious sect, the Raëlian Movement, separate from the project to clone a human being, run by Clonaid. Yet he describes the scientist who heads Clonaid, Brigitte Boisselier, as a Raëlian “bishop”, and it is Raëlian women volunteers who are supposedly providing both the eggs and the *mères porteuses* (surrogate mothers) required for the cloning effort.

“We don’t support Clonaid financially,” says Raël. We support Dr Boisselier morally, spiritually, and by providing the surrogate mothers. “We asked our members: ‘How many of you will volunteer to become surrogate mothers?’ and the answer was overwhelmingly receptive, with over a hundred women coming forward.”

The idea of a scientist – with a background in chemistry rather than embryology – carrying out unsupervised human cloning experiments on women who are motivated to participate by mystical beliefs horrifies the mainstream scientific community. They are not reassured by the fact that Boisselier’s work is being promoted by a man who dresses like a character from *Space 1999*.

Source: © *The Guardian*, February 2002

Questions:

- De quoi s’agit-il dans ce texte?
- Racontez un peu la vie de Raël.
- Que fait-il pour promouvoir le clonage humain?
- A votre avis devrait-on prendre au sérieux la possibilité de cloner un être humain?
- Que savez-vous des avancements technologiques en France?

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