

FRENCH
Unit 6 Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

FR6T/FR6V

Candidate's Material

To be conducted by the teacher examiner between 7 March and 15 May 2008 (FR6T)
To be conducted by the visiting examiner between 7 March and 15 May 2008 (FR6V)

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

Instructions

- During the 20 minutes preparation time you are required to prepare **one** of the two reporting and discussion cards given to you.
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Text A

Crime and punishment

France's plans to reduce youth violence provoke violent opposition

Youths fought with hundreds of police in a north Paris suburb in the early hours of yesterday, burning cars and attacking the home of the conservative mayor in the worst disturbances since the urban riots of 2005.

The violence began as the interior minister prepared to present his proposed law on delinquency to parliament next month to try to reduce criminality among France's youth. He wants to give more power to mayors and to local councils* to deal with difficult adolescents.

On Monday night, youths opposed to the mayor began burning cars on the Bosquets estate. At least 150 fought with the police for more than four hours, setting fire to buildings and smashing the windows of the town hall before gathering outside the mayor's house at which they threw stones and other missiles.

The mayor was a target for this violence because of the arrest of a teenager suspected of attacking a bus driver. The attack was witnessed by the mayor, Xavier Lemoine, who gave evidence to police. Mr Lemoine started a row last month when he banned teenagers aged 15 to 18 from going out in groups of more than three, and ordered under-16s to be accompanied by an adult in public. A court overturned the ban after protests from civil liberties groups.

Source: ANGELIQUE CHRISAFIS, *The Guardian*, Wednesday May 31 2006
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*local councils : les municipalités

Questions

- De quoi s'agit-il?
- Comment le ministre de l'Intérieur propose-t-il de réduire la délinquance juvénile?
- Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé lundi soir?
- Que pensez-vous des idées de M. Lemoine pour réduire la criminalité?
- A votre avis, est-ce que le traitement des criminels en France est plus efficace qu'en Grande-Bretagne?

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Text B

Health issues

School meals in France

As the government announces an extra £220 m for school meals in England, we look at how France feeds its pupils.

Compared with their British equivalents, school meals in France – taken by half of all French schoolchildren – are well-balanced three or even four-course affairs. Menus for the week are posted on school notice boards so that parents can plan appropriate evening meals; many local councils* also put them on their website.

Government school meal regulations in France date from 1971 and state that at least 45 minutes must be allowed for each meal, which must contain a raw vegetable or fruit (crudités, salad or fruit as a dessert); animal proteins at least one part of which must be in the form of milk or a dairy product; cooked vegetables or fruit at least twice a week.

With more and more local councils around France contracting school meals out to private companies, more appropriate advice has been offered by a number of health and nutrition institutes. In practice, until the publication of new official guidelines, this advice is being used by many councils to check on the quality of meals. Paris city hall, for example, employs a team of full-time school meals inspectors.

The actual cost of a school meal in France varies according to the size of the town but the average would be around 5 to 6 euros per child, with around 1 to 2 euros going on the ingredients. 50% of the cost is subsidised; the rest is met by parents who pay according to their means. A two-parent family with both parents in full-time employment can expect to pay in the region of 3 euros per meal.

Source: GLWADYS FOUCHÉ, *Guardian Unlimited*, March 30 2005
Copyright Guardian News & Media Ltd 2005

*local councils : les municipalités

Questions

- De quoi s'agit-il?
- Que dit-on dans l'article sur les repas dans les établissements scolaires en France?
- Selon le texte, comment est-ce qu'on garantit la qualité des repas fournis par les entreprises privées?
- Que pensez-vous de ce qu'on dit sur le coût des repas dans les écoles?
- A votre avis est-ce que les Français attachent plus d'importance à la santé que nous en Grande-Bretagne?

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



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Text C

Transport issues

13 dead in French train crash

Up to 13 people were feared to have been killed and around 20 more injured when a passenger train collided with a goods train in north-eastern France today. The majority of the fatalities in the accident - which happened near the border with Luxembourg - were on a Luxembourg express passenger train that was travelling to the French city of Nancy.

According to the SNCF, either nine or 10 people on the passenger train were believed to have been killed, as well as the drivers of both trains and a person who had been working on the track.

The local government for the Lorraine region said it could confirm only that four people were dead, with nine others seriously injured. Regional authorities said the collision happened at around 11.45 am local time near the village of Zoufftgen, around 18 kilometres from the border with Luxembourg.

A spokesman for the SNCF said the passenger train had been moved onto a different track because the line it was travelling on was being repaired. It then hit the freight train, which was on its way towards Luxembourg.

More than 100 rescue workers have been sent to the site to set up a mobile hospital and to treat victims. The local prefecture of Moselle implemented an emergency rescue plan and told hospitals to expect casualties.

The accident was the second major rail crash to happen in Europe in little more than two weeks. Last month, 23 people were killed when a high-speed train crashed into another train in northern Germany.

Source: *Guardian Unlimited*, October 11 2006, Staff & agencies
Copyright Guardian News & Media Ltd 2006

Questions

- De quoi s'agit-il?
- Quels sont les renseignements donnés par la SNCF sur la collision des deux trains?
- Comment les autorités locales dans la Moselle ont-elles réagi à l'accident?
- A votre avis est-ce que cet article prouve que les trains sont dangereux?
- En France le TGV devient de plus en plus populaire: est-ce que les trains ultra-rapides sont une bonne chose, à votre avis?

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Text D

The Future of Europe

Barroso talks of Europe's new and future challenges

No nation state can meet the challenges of climate change, mass migration, global competition and terrorism on its own.

Europe's political landscape is today characterised by a tension between those who fear the future, who fear the world, and want protection from it, and those who reach out to it. Should we close or open our doors to what comes from outside? According to José Manuel Barroso, the answer is that we must have a Europe which is open to the rest of the world.

But the EU needs a new purpose. One which looks forward and recognises new realities. In 1950 the challenge was peace. Today the challenges are climate change, growing competition from China and India, mass migration, international terrorism. These challenges are shared by all Europeans, from London to Lisbon. They are challenges which no state can deal with successfully alone.

The fact is, the EU is a uniquely effective instrument for helping France and other European countries to develop solutions to these new, cross-border challenges. And surely this is the EU's *raison d'être* for the 21st century: to help Europeans prosper in a globalised world.

Those who claim that in our globalised age it is local politics that matter are wrong. The opposite is true. Globalisation makes the case for the EU. If a European country wants to tackle climate change, fight poverty in Africa, deliver greater security, if it wants a more open, competitive environment, then that country needs the EU.

Source: *The Guardian*, October 18 2006, JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO
Copyright Guardian News & Media 2006

Questions

- De quoi s'agit-il?
- Selon Barroso, comment l'Union européenne devrait-elle agir face à l'avenir?
- Quels sont les problèmes auxquels les pays de l'Union européenne font face?
- Trouvez-vous le message ici plutôt optimiste ou pessimiste? Pourquoi?
- A votre avis, est-ce que la France joue un rôle plus important que la Grande-Bretagne dans l'Union européenne?

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Text E

Distribution of wealth

French oldies enjoy better standard of living than their children

The problem is simple. While those in their seventies, such as Jacques Chirac or the actress Catherine Deneuve, have a quality of life that is the envy of much of Europe, the generations born after them have no such privileges. According to the sociologist Louis Chauvel, French citizens between the ages of 20 and 40 will have a lower standard of living than older citizens, mainly because the previous generation have decided not to share.

There are plenty of statistics to support the argument. In 1973, only six per cent of recent university leavers were unemployed, now the rate is 25 to 30 per cent. Salaries have stagnated for 20 years while property prices have doubled or trebled. Although the overall proportion of French citizens suffering in poverty has not changed, where in the 1960s the poor were predominantly the old, now they are the young.

In one bistro in Paris's seventh arrondissement last week this problem raised tempers. Sylvie Fayard, a 31-year-old teacher, agreed. 'I rent an apartment. I haven't got a car and I'm not sure what will happen if I have kids. It makes me angry when I see how some of the older bureaucrats live. They only care about themselves.' Alain Fredet, a 62-year-old administrator, disagreed. 'You shouldn't attack the high wages of some. You should try to broaden them for everybody,' he said. 'We had to fight hard for what we had.'

Source: *The Observer*, October 22 2006, JASON BURKE

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Questions

- De quoi s'agit-il?
- Que dit le sociologue Louis Chauvel?
- Que dit-on dans le deuxième paragraphe sur les pauvres en France?
- Que pensez-vous des opinions exprimées par Sylvie Fayard et Alain Fredet?
- Selon vous quelle est la responsabilité de la société envers ses pauvres?

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Text F

The State and the individual

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Questions

- De quoi s'agit-il?
- Que dit-on dans le deuxième paragraphe sur Ségolène Royal?
- Selon l'article, en quoi est-ce que la France est différente des autres pays européens?
- A votre avis, est-ce que c'est la responsabilité du gouvernement de rendre la vie plus facile pour les familles?
- Dans quels autres domaines le gouvernement a-t-il des responsabilités envers les citoyens?