

## **IENA LV2**

### **I. VERSION**

The Edward Snowden leak case, which exposed some of the practical elements of NSA surveillance operations unknown to many Americans, has also revealed just how divided the nation remains over whether the government should be permitted to intrude on privacy to safeguard national security.

According to the Pew Research Center, 56% of Americans think the “NSA getting secret court orders to track calls of millions of Americans” is acceptable. For many, such intrusions are legitimate sacrifices if intelligence-gathering programs can help fend off terrorist threats. That surprises privacy experts. “The same people who are unwilling to trust the government in any other walk of life,” says Elizabeth Goitein, co-director of the Liberty and National Security Center at NYU’s Brennan Center for Progress, “are oddly willing to give absolute trust and control to the government on issues of national security.”

L’affaire des fuites d’Edward Snowden qui a dévoilé quelques éléments concrets des opérations de surveillance, inconnues de beaucoup d’Américains, menées par l’Agence Nationale de Sécurité (NSA), a aussi mis au jour le degré latent de polarisation de la nation sur la question du droit du gouvernement à s’immiscer dans la vie privée pour sauvegarder la sécurité nationale.

Selon le Centre de Recherche Pew, 56% des Américains pensent « qu’autoriser la NSA à exploiter des décisions de justice secrètes pour espionner des appels téléphoniques de millions d’Américains » est acceptable. Pour beaucoup d’entre eux, de telles intrusions sont des sacrifices légitimes si les programmes de collecte de renseignements secrets peuvent aider à repousser/parer les menaces terroristes. Voilà qui surprend les experts de la vie privée. « Ceux-là même qui répugnent à accorder leur confiance au gouvernement dans n’importe quel autre domaine de la vie politique/courante », déclare Elizabeth Goitein, co-directrice du Centre de Liberté et Sécurité Nationale au Centre Brennan pour le Progrès de New-York, « sont étrangement disposés à accorder au gouvernement une confiance et une autorité absolues en matière de problèmes de sécurité nationale ».

## II. QUESTIONS (*sur 40 points*)

### 1. *Question de compréhension du texte*

What contrasting reactions have been provoked by the American government's surveillance program? (*150 mots + ou – 10%\* ; sur 20 points*)

### 2. *Question d'expression personnelle*

At a time when most people expose their private lives online through social media, is it fair to complain about government surveillance? (*250 mots + ou – 10% \* ; sur 20 points*)

#### 1. Answer 1

The National Security Agency's monitoring programmes are raising much controversy in the US. Whistle-blower Edward Snowden has uncovered secret practices that pit Americans against one another.

More than half of Americans are willing to surrender some privacy to ensure their security. They consider the government is entitled to intrude on everyone's privacy as the end – staving off terrorism – justifies the means – hence, round the clock surveillance and telephone tapping. It is the government's duty to fight terrorism whatever the price to pay. It does not really matter to them if their confidential information is overseen and scrutinised.

Conversely, libertarians determined to safeguard the most basic civil liberties are complaining about the secrecy surrounding operations like domestic wiretapping. The PRISM programme collects mass electronic data not only from suspected terrorists but also from any American citizen. Civil liberties groups object to such indiscriminate intelligence gathering, all the more so as the government act without checks and balances.

(156 words)

#### 2. Answer 2

In the wake of Snowden's revelation about the clandestine practices of NSA's intelligence services, lively debates are flaring up in America and all over the world. Is total surveillance of private e-mails and phone calls not breaching every citizen's liberty? Have we not stepped into a Big Brother world where every single act we do and word we speak is tracked and monitored by the government as in Orwell's fiction?

Most importantly, should we blame the government or ourselves? The *raison d'état*, national security, and the defence of democracy may justify the intrusive actions of a police state. Hiding the truth from people in the name of the war on terrorism may be justified especially when innocent civilians are the victims of unprecedented acts of terrorism. Data-mining security agencies and Internet operators may collect tons of data violating our intimacy and trampling on our civil rights but is it not too high a price to pay for security?

State-regulated snooping sounds unpalatable for many but would we feel any happier if anarchy and nihilism supplanted democracy? I doubt it. Furthermore, are we not responsible

as compulsive netizens for surrendering our own privacy through social networks? We all use cell-phones, we all have a Facebook page, we all twitter, and we all buy products online, giving away digital data that are screened not only by government intelligence-gathering agencies but also by Internet marketers.

All in all, far from being the victim of an inquisitive government, the hyper-connected individual contributes to his loss of privacy. That is why he should be more self-critical and make amends. (265 words)

### **III. THÈME (*sur 20 points*)**

1. D'importants progrès ont été accomplis dernièrement dans la lutte contre la corruption.
2. Les grévistes étaient prêts à continuer leur mouvement, lorsqu'un accord fut trouvé.
3. Quelle nouvelle incroyable que la démission du premier ministre !
4. Cela fait plus de quarante ans que le Royaume-Uni est membre de l'Union Européenne.
5. Ne devrait-on pas donner à tout citoyen la possibilité de reprendre ses études ?
6. Les ventes en ligne permettront-elles à cette marque d'améliorer son image ?
7. Il est à craindre que nous manquions de pétrole plus tôt que prévu.
8. Grâce à la détermination de leurs avocats, la plupart des clients ont été remboursés.
9. Il est évident qu'on écrit beaucoup moins de lettres depuis l'arrivée d'Internet.
10. Les loyers londoniens ont toujours été parmi les plus élevés au monde.

1. Great progress has recently been made in the fight against corruption.
2. The strikers were ready to continue their strike action when an agreement was reached.
3. What incredible news the resignation of the Prime Minister was!
4. The United Kingdom has been an EU member for over forty years.
5. Should we not give every citizen the opportunity to resume their studies/take up their studies again?
6. Will online sales enable this brand to improve its image?
7. It is to be feared that we might run out of oil sooner than expected.
8. Thanks to their lawyers' resolve, most customers were paid back/reimbursed.
9. It is obvious far fewer letters have been written since the advent of the Internet.
10. The cost of renting in London has always been among the highest in the world.