



PTIMUM

Burning Issues

Vocabulaire anglais
de l'actualité

3^e édition

- Classes préparatoires
- Instituts d'études politiques
- Lycée

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1. HEALTH




- 9/11 • abortion • advertising • alcohol abuse • armed forces • asbestos
 • bonuses • BRICS • CIA • cloning • CO₂ • computers • consumer
 society • couch potatoes **AIDS** • creationism • credit bubble
 • cultural exception • dating • DEA • death penalty
 • deforestation • dictatorship • digital piracy • diplomacy • domestic
 violence • drought • drug trafficking • endangered species • English-
 speaking world • euthanasia • fanaticism • fossil fuels • free speech • free
 trade • gender gap • glass ceiling • greenhouse gases • guinea pigs • gun
 control **eating disorders** • hijacking • human rights
 • immigration policy • intercourse
 • ISPs • IVF • justice system • labour • multiculturalism • NASA • natural
 disasters • NGOs • nuclear • nuclear deterrent • oil
 slicks • on parole • outsourcing • overfishing • ozone **food scares**
 layer • PC • pension system • philanthropy • physics
 • pidgin • prevention • racial profiling • recycling • renewables • RP • salad
 bowl • same-
 • serial killers **epidemics** • sex marriage • second-hand smoking
 • sex industry • slump • social divide
 • social networks • Spanglish **health care**
 • standard English • STDs • stem-cell research
 • suffragettes • suicide bombers • surrogacy • surveillance • technophobia
 • teenage violence • truancy • United Nations • uprisings • video games
 • waste disposal • welfare state • WMDs • working poor • WTO

| | |
|--|---|
| a disease [dɪ'zi:z], an illness | une maladie |
| to catch a disease | attraper une maladie |
| to suffer from a disease | souffrir d'une maladie |
| to die of, to die from cancer | mourir du cancer |
| to eradicate a disease | éradiquer une maladie |
| lung/breast/skin cancer | cancer du poumon/du sein/de la peau |
| carcinogenic [ˌkɑ:sɪnə'dʒenɪk] | cancérigène |
| Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) [sa:s] | syndrome respiratoire aigu sévère (SRAS) |
| a sexually transmitted disease (STD) | une maladie sexuellement transmissible (MST) |


The World Health Organization (WHO [ˌdʌblju: ɛɪtʃ 'əʊ]) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that coordinates international efforts to control outbreaks of infectious disease, such as SARS, malaria, Tuberculosis (TB), swine flu, and AIDS. It supports the development and distribution of safe and effective vaccines and drugs. For instance, after over two decades of fighting smallpox (*variole*), the disease was eradicated in 1980—the first disease in history to be eliminated by human effort. In addition, the WHO carries out various health-related campaigns—for example, to boost (*encourager*) the consumption of fruits and vegetables worldwide and to discourage tobacco use.

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| a virus (pl: viruses) ['vaɪərəs, 'vaɪərəsɪz] | un virus |
| bacteria [bæk'tɪərɪə] | des bactéries |
| a germ [dʒɜ:m] | un microbe, un germe |
| contagious [kən'teɪdʒəs], catching, infectious | contagieux, infectieux |
| to contaminate | contaminer |
| to go down with the flu | attraper la grippe |
| to be infected with a virus, by a virus | être contaminé par un virus |
| to carry a virus | être porteur d'un virus |
| a symptom | un symptôme |
| to cough [kɒf] | tousser |
| to have a temperature ['temprətʃər] | avoir de la température |
| to have a fever, to run a fever | avoir de la fièvre |

One of the obvious and measurable effects of noise pollution is hearing loss. However, a more difficult to measure, but increasingly significant, health hazard is the stress and agitation that may occur from exposure to loud noise. Persistent noise can increase stress levels, which in turn, can result in high blood pressure (*hypertension*), an important health concern. Known as the “silent killer” because there are few obvious symptoms, it can result in serious health problems requiring medical assessment and intervention. Sleep disruption (*troubles du sommeil*) is another common effect of loud and/or persistent noise...The social consequences include poor familial and social relationships, and poor work performance.

 The French verb «guérir» is not always translated by the same English verb. For instance, you say that a doctor **cures** a patient or that a disease can **be cured** (e.g. In the Middle Ages they did not know how to cure diabetes). But a patient **gets better** or **recovers**. Eventually he will **be cured** — hopefully. On the other hand a wound (*une blessure*) will **heal** after a while.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| an epidemic [ˌepɪˈdemɪk] | une épidémie |
| to check an epidemic | enrayer une épidémie |
| a pandemic | une pandémie |
| to break out | éclater, se déclarer |
| to spread | se propager |
| the spread of a virus | la propagation d'un virus |
| to affect a country | affecter, toucher un pays |
| the scope, extent | l'ampleur, l'étendue |
| flu [flu:], influenza [ˌɪnfluˈenzə] | la grippe |
| swine flu/bird flu | la grippe porcine/la grippe aviaire |

 **The Whale** is a 2022 film directed by Darren Aronofsky which shows an obese English teacher trying to restore his relationship with his teenage daughter. It has received mixed (*mitigées*) reviews, some describing the film as an “empathetic, haunting, beautiful, heartbreakingly moving story of a broken man”, while others saw it as an illustration of fatphobia, the stigmatization of obese people which reinforced anti-fat stereotypes and preconceptions.

| | |
|---|--|
| AIDS , acquired immune deficiency syndrome | SIDA, syndrome d'immunodéficience acquise |
| to develop AIDS | contracter le SIDA |
| an AIDS sufferer, an AIDS patient | un malade du SIDA |
| HIV-positive [ˌeɪtʃaɪˈvi:] | séropositif |
| a screening test | un test de dépistage |
| to screen sb for AIDS | faire passer un test de dépistage du SIDA à qn |
| to have unprotected sex | avoir des rapports non protégés |
| a needle | une aiguille |
| antiretroviral drugs | anti-rétroviraux |

Since the late 1990s, **drug companies** have spent tens of billions of dollars on television ads, drumming up (*stimulant*) demand for their products with cheerful jingles and scenes of dancing patients. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., President-elect Donald J. Trump's choice for health secretary, is a longtime critic of pharmaceutical advertising on TV, arguing that it leads broadcasters (*personnalités de la télévision*) to more favorable coverage of the industry and does not improve Americans' health. [...] Modern drug ads aimed at consumers began appearing in newspapers and magazines in the 1980s. But for years, they were mostly kept off TV by a requirement (*condition*) that ads naming a specific illness include a litany of information about possible side effects. In 1997, the F.D.A. relaxed (*assouplir*) its rules. In subsequent years, pharmaceutical companies' spending on TV advertising exploded. In the early 2000s, Merck's TV ads helped make the painkiller Vioxx a blockbuster before it was taken off the market for raising the risks of heart attacks and strokes (*attaques cardiaques*). *The New York Times* Dec 23, 2024.

medical treatment
health care

the health system
to prescribe
a prescription
a general practitioner, a GP [dʒi:'pi:]
a surgeon ['sɜ:dʒən]
to have surgery, have an operation
to diagnose ['daɪəgnəʊz]
a diagnosis [,daɪəg'nəʊsɪs]
to cure a patient
a remedy, a cure
to recover
recovery

un traitement médical
les soins médicaux OU les services
de santé
le système de santé
prescrire
une ordonnance
un médecin généraliste
un chirurgien
se faire opérer
diagnostiquer
un diagnostic
guérir un patient
un remède
se rétablir, guérir
guérison, rétablissement



Medicare is a US social insurance program providing coverage to people who are over 65 while **Medicaid** does the same for low-income families. **Obamacare** is a colloquial way of referring to the **Affordable Care Act (ACA)**, which came into force in 2014 and allowed to halve (*réduire de moitié*) the uninsured share of the population.

a drug, a medicine
a painkiller
a side effect
an injection, a shot
a vaccine ['væksi:n]
to vaccinate
a vaccination campaign

un médicament
un antalgique, analgésique
un effet secondaire
une piqûre
un vaccin
vacciner
une campagne de vaccination



The **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** is a US federal agency that was created in 1906 to protect and promote public health.

The opioid crisis has been ravaging communities across the United States for the past decade. Encouraged by pharmaceutical giants such as *Purdue Pharma* or *Johnson and Johnson* which presented opioids (*opiacés*) as a magic bullet (*remède miracle*) against chronic pain, US doctors began prescribing them massively in the late 1990s, even though they were known to be addictive. As a result, hundreds of thousands became addicted and more than 645,000 US citizens have died from opioid overdoses since the epidemic began. 90% of the 81,806 overdose deaths recorded in 2022 involved opioids. The number of these deaths started declining in 2023. Opioids are a comparatively cheap way of treating pain, less expensive than other therapies. That's why **the opioid epidemic** has been described as "a uniquely American problem" since the insurance of many poor Americans will not pay for anything more than a pill.

food scare

health scare

alerte à l'intoxication alimentaire

péril sanitaire, alerte aux risques
sanitaires

bovine spongiform encephalopathy,

BSE

ESB, encéphalopathie bovine

spongiforme

mad cow disease

la maladie de la vache folle

dioxin [daɪ'ɒksɪn]

dioxine

traceability

la traçabilité

eating patterns, eating habits

les habitudes alimentaires

food

la nourriture

foodstuffs

denrées alimentaires, aliments

to cook

cuisiner

vegetables

légumes

fruit

fruits

green vegetables, greens

légumes verts



The **National Health Service** (NHS) is the British equivalent of the French *Sécurité sociale*. It was set up in 1945 and constitutes the mainstay (*principal pilier*) of the welfare state.



The world has made substantial progress in child survival since 1990. Globally, the number of **neonatal deaths** declined from 5.0 million in 1990 to 2.3 million in 2022. In 2022, sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 57% (2.8 (2.5–3.3) million) of total under-5 deaths but only 30% of global live births. (Source: WHO)

weight

to weigh [weɪ] oneself

le poids

to put on weight

se peser

to be overweight

prendre du poids

fat

être trop gros, en surpoids

obese [əʊ'biːs]

gros, gras

bulimia [bʊ'limiə]

obèse

binge eating

la boulimie

anorexia [ænə'reksɪə]

les excès de nourriture

to be underweight

l'anorexie

thin

être trop maigre, ne pas peser assez

slim

maigre

mince



A **binge** is an informal word that is used to refer to a short period when you do too much of something, in particular eating or drinking but also shopping. Thus you may **binge on** chocolate, for instance, but you can also **go on a shopping binge**.

a fast food restaurant

to eat junk food

un fast food

processed foods

manger des cochonneries

fatty foods

des aliments préparés

aliments riches en graisses

sodas, fizzy drinks
a chocolate bar

boissons gazeuses
une barre chocolatée

a diet
to go on/be on a diet ['daɪət]
balanced/unbalanced diet

un régime
commencer/faire un régime
une alimentation équilibrée/
mal équilibrée

diet foods/health foods

aliments basses calories/
aliments diététiques

organic food
vegetarian [ˌvedʒɪ'tɛəriən]

nourriture biologique, aliments bio
végétarien

Our **cognition and mental wellbeing** are crucial factors for our quality of life and put us in a good position to contribute to society. Ultimately, it can be near impossible to achieve physical goals and demanding life challenges if our brain health is not optimal. Yet most of us appear to be more concerned with physical health than brain health. According to the YouGov website the most popular New Year's resolutions in the UK in 2024 were doing more exercise, saving money, losing weight and dieting. A large study of approximately 1,000 participants showed that mental health only featured in about 5% of resolutions. It's easy to monitor (*surveiller*) your physical health using mobile devices and wearable technology to preserve physical health throughout your life. It may be more unclear, however, how to improve and monitor brain health and mental wellbeing. *The Conversation* Jan 27, 2025

LANGUAGE PRACTICE

1. Find the appropriate suffix.

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <i>un chirurgien</i> | a surgeon | surg _ _ _ | <i>chirurgie</i> |
| <i>contagion</i> | contagion | contagi _ _ _ | <i>contagieux</i> |
| <i>cancer</i> | cancer | carcino _ _ _ _ | <i>cancérigène</i> |
| <i>se rétablir</i> | to recover | recov _ _ _ | <i>guérison</i> |
| <i>retrouver</i> | to trace | trace _ _ _ _ _ | <i>traçabilité</i> |

2. Find the words corresponding to the following abbreviations.

The **NHS** is the N..... H..... S.....

The **WHO** is the W..... H..... O.....

STDs are s..... t..... d.....

A **GP** is a g..... p.....

AIDS means A..... I..... D..... S.....

3. Associate the following words so as to form compound nouns and translate them: binge/breast/foods/screening/drinking/fatty/test/vaccination/cancer/campaign

| | |
|-------|-------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

4. Find the appropriate prepositions or adverbial particles.

Adrian's lost two kilos since he went a diet last month.

My wife came with the flu twice last winter.

His grandfather suffers Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease, I can't remember which.

Vince has put a lot of weight since he got married.

In my company, new employees are always screened AIDS.

5. Translate into French

Anorexia is estimated to affect 1% of adolescent girls.

.....

My uncle, a heavy smoker, was diagnosed with lung cancer last year.

.....

Ivor will have to be operated on if his health doesn't improve.

.....

Sophie's husband is at least ten kilos overweight.

.....

Some young people don't realize how dangerous unprotected sex is.

.....

6. Translate into English

Les soins médicaux représentent une part énorme de notre budget.

.....

L'épidémie s'est déclarée il y a trois jours et se propage rapidement.

.....

Il faudra changer tes habitudes alimentaires si tu veux perdre du poids.

.....

On ne sert pas d'aliments diététiques dans les fast foods.

.....

Les effets secondaires de ce nouveau vaccin sont encore mal compris.

.....



Is medical tourism unethical?

A healthy mind in a healthy body. Discuss.

Do you think students should be allowed or even encouraged to use brainpower-enhancing drugs?

WRITING TIP N° 1: Form vs content*

If you have to write an English essay or answer questions in English, you must be aware that your mark* will depend to a large extent* on the quality of the language used. *How* you express yourself counts as much as *what* you say.

Students sometimes believe that their "ideas" are all-important, and that the way they are expressed does not make any difference. But **examiners read words, not minds**. This is particularly true in the context of a language exam, where form matters more than in other exams or in normal, everyday, communication.

This means in particular that it is vital for you to save some time at the end of the exam to re-read your text in order to eliminate blunders* — those silly mistakes you made simply because you were concentrating on *what* you wanted to explain, not the grammar. **Pay special attention to the final -ed** (simple past, or past participle) **or the final -s** (which may be a plural -s, a third-person -s, or a genitive -s). Before the exam, you need to become aware of potential grammar stumbling blocks. Reserve a few minutes at the end of the test to go over* your essay, focusing on one specific problem at a time: for instance, preterite and present perfect, verb constructions, prepositions, articles, spelling... This is the surest way of making certain you do not overlook* anything.

You may also need to do some grammar exercises to improve your command of the language. You will not make yourself understood if you have no idea of when and how to use the appropriate pronouns, articles, prepositions or modal verbs such as "must, will..." etc.

To be able to pay close attention to the way you express yourself, the best strategy is probably to **dissociate content from form** as much as possible. First focus on the content. Think about the question as *if* you were going to write in French. Then, when you know what you want to say, you'll be able to devote* your attention to the best way of expressing yourself: grammatical correctness, choice of vocabulary, use of idiomatic phrases... In this way, you'll be less likely* to make silly mistakes. Of course, it is impossible to make a strict separation between content and form, but you should nevertheless start by focusing on content for a few minutes and then only on the language you'll be using.

But **don't write your answer in French first**. That would be a waste of time and besides, you would probably make mistakes, translating word for word from the French.

form vs content: *forme contre contenu* • **mark** (= grade US): *note* • **to a large extent:** *dans une grande mesure* • **blunders:** *bourdes, bévues* • **go over:** *vérifier* • **overlook:** *laisser échapper* • **devote:** *consacrer* • **you'll be less likely:** *vous aurez moins de risques*

In brief

- In a language exam, *how* you formulate your ideas matters a lot.
- Hence it's very important to save time at the end to re-read yourself.
- Prepare a checklist of the mistakes you often make.
- If necessary, do some grammar exercises on a regular basis.
- Before writing your answer, take a few minutes to think about it as if it was going to be in French.

2. DRUGS



9/11 • abortion • advertising • AIDS • armed forces • asbestos • bonuses
 • BRICS • CIA • cloning • CO₂ • computers • consumer society • couch
 potatoes • creationism • credit bubble • cultural **alcohol abuse**
 exception • dating • death penalty • deforestation
 • dictatorship • digital piracy • diplomacy • domestic violence • drought •
 eating disorders • endangered species • English-speaking world • epidemics
 • euthanasia • fanaticism • food scares • fossil fuels • free speech • free
 trade • gender gap • **drug trafficking** • glass ceiling
 • greenhouse gases **DEA** • guinea
 pigs • gun control • health care
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 overfishing • ozone layer • PC • pension system •
prevention • philanthropy • physics • pidgin • racial profiling •
 recycling • renewables • RP • salad bowl • same-sex
 marriage • serial killers • sex industry • slump • social divide • social networks
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 • suicide bombers • surrogacy •
 surveillance • technophobia • teenage violence • truancy • United Nations •
 uprisings • video games • waste disposal • welfare state • WMDs • working
 poor • WTO

| | |
|--|---|
| drugs (plural) | la drogue |
| a soft/hard drug | une drogue douce/dure |
| cannabis ['kænəbɪs] | le cannabis |
| marijuana [mæɪrɪ'hwɑːnə] | la marijuana |
| amphetamines | les amphétamines |
| heroin | l'héroïne |
| to sniff cocaine | inhaler, sniffer de la coke |
| a needle | une aiguille |
| a syringe [sɪ'rɪndʒ] | une seringue |
| a recreational drug | <i>une drogue à usage récréatif occasionnel</i> |
| a designer drug, a synthetic drug | une drogue de synthèse |
| a psychoactive, psychotropic substance | un psychotrope |
| to become commonplace | se banaliser |
| a plague, a curse, a scourge [skɜːdʒ] | un fléau |



Drugs commonly taken for **recreational** use are drugs taken on an occasional basis for enjoyment, especially when socializing. They include alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, cannabis, ecstasy... Even if cannabis use is still prohibited in most countries, a significant number have decriminalized simple possession of small amounts. It is now legal in Canada, Germany, Luxembourg, Mexico, South Africa as well as in 24 states of the USA, among others.

| | |
|---|--|
| drug trafficking | le trafic de drogue |
| a drug trafficker | un trafiquant de drogue, un narcotrafiquant |
| a drug ring, a drug cartel | un réseau de trafiquants |
| a drug baron, a drug lord, a drug kingpin | un baron de la drogue |
| a mule [mjuːl] | un passeur, une mule |
| a drug pusher, a drug peddler, a drug dealer | un revendeur de drogues |
| drug-related crime | la criminalité due à la drogue |




Requiem for a dream is a 2000 film drama film directed by Darren Aronofsky about addiction to various drugs such as heroin or amphetamines. The film was praised in particular for its clever depiction of the mental states of addicts thanks to the technique of "hip hop montage" (successions of extremely short cuts). It is a powerful description of the ravages caused by drugs, ranging from physical harm —the hero's arm has to be amputated following an infection— to hallucinations and psychosis.



In the US, the **Drug Enforcement Administration** (DEA) was created in 1973 to combat drug smuggling and use.

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| to use drugs, to take drugs | consommer, prendre de la drogue, se droguer |
| drug use | la consommation de drogue |
| drug abuse | la toxicomanie |
| a drug user | un usager de drogue |
| a casual/heavy user | un consommateur occasionnel/ un gros consommateur |
| to experiment with heroin | essayer l'héroïne |
| a joint, a reefer | un joint |
| to be high, to be spaced out | planer, être défoncé |

 The distinction between **soft drugs** such as cannabis or ecstasy and **hard drugs** such as cocaine or heroin is controversial since it may imply (*laisser entendre*) that some of them are harmless (*inoffensif*) whereas in fact all drugs are dangerous, to various degrees. Moreover both soft and hard drugs are addictive, even if some are more so than others. It should also be pointed that alcohol and tobacco, although legal, are “harder”, that is to say more addictive, than some illegal drugs. Finally, do not forget that the word **drug** is an ambiguous word because it can refer to a **narcotic** but also to a **medicine**. This other meaning is reflected in the American word **drugstore**, a place where you can buy medication and toiletries, but not marijuana or LSD.

| | |
|---|--|
| substance abuse | la toxicomanie, la consommation de substances illégales |
| to be addicted to sth | être accro à qch |
| to be hooked on cocaine | être accro à la cocaïne |
| to crave sth [kreɪv] | avoir un besoin maladif de qch |
| addiction (to sth), dependency (on sth) | l'accoutumance (à qch), la dépendance |
| addictive | qui crée une accoutumance, addictogène |
| drug addiction | la toxicomanie |
| a drug addict, a drug abuser | un drogué, un toxicomane |
| a junkie, a druggie | un drogué, un camé, un toxico |
| to take an overdose, to OD [əʊ'di:] | faire une overdose, une surdose |

Costa Rica, often considered one of the region's most idyllic destinations, long escaped the scourge (*fléau*) of cartels that has pervaded the region. But now, the lush (*luxuriantes*) forests blanketing a quarter of Costa Rica are being infiltrated by drug cartels seeking new trafficking routes to evade the authorities. Costa Rica surpassed Mexico to become the world's leading transshipment point for cocaine destined for the United States, Europe and beyond in 2020. Mexico returned to the top spot last year, but Costa Rica remains close behind. And with the rising drug trafficking, a surge of violence has hit the nation. Homicides in Costa Rica soared 53 percent from 2020 to 2023, according to government figures. The same is happening in nearby Caribbean countries, with rising homicide rates a result of gangs competing over drug markets. *The New York Times* Sep 17, 2024

prevention

an awareness campaign,
an awareness-raising campaign
to legalize cannabis use
to decriminalize
the pros and cons of legalization

la prévention
une campagne de sensibilisation

légaliser la consommation de cannabis
dépénaliser, décriminaliser
les arguments pour et contre,
les avantages et les inconvénients
de la légalisation

treatment ['tri:tmənt]
to seek treatment
a rehabilitation center
to go into rehab

le traitement
demander à être soigné
un centre de désintoxication
entreprendre une cure
de désintoxication

to phase sth out
to go cold turkey

éliminer qch progressivement
arrêter la drogue d'un seul coup

withdrawal [wɪθ'drɔ:əl] symptoms
methadone

OU être en manque
les symptômes de (l'état de) manque
la méthadone

repression

to clamp down on, to crack down
on drug abuse
to impose penalties for drug possession
a fine
to fine sb
the drug tsar [tsɑr] (GB),
the drug czar [dzɑr] (US)

la répression
réprimer la consommation
de drogues
pénaliser la possession de drogues
une amende
condamner qn à une amende
le responsable de la lutte
contre la drogue



The phrase **drug czar** is an informal expression used to refer to the person in the US Administration in charge of the fight against drug abuse. Since the 1960s, the US has been engaged in a **war on drugs** to reduce the illegal drug trade. It has led to the mass incarceration of African Americans who are often made to work for next to nothing once in prison. As of 2025, 43,8% of prisoners are in jail on drug-related offences. In her widely-acclaimed 2016 documentary film **13th**, Ava Du Vernay has convincingly argued that the war on drugs was in fact a covert way (*un moyen détourné*) for the whites to perpetuate slavery.

alcohol ['ælkəhɒl] abuse

alcoholism
alcohol-related disease
underage drinking
the drinking age

l'abus d'alcool
l'alcoolisme
une maladie liée à l'alcool
l'alcoolisme des mineurs
l'âge auquel on a le droit d'acheter
de l'alcool

to be a heavy drinker
binge drinking
a drinking binge
to get drunk
a drunk
to drink and drive
to drive while intoxicated (US),
drive under the influence (GB)
drunk(en) driving

boire beaucoup
les excès de boisson
une saoulerie
se saouler
un ivrogne
conduire après avoir bu
conduire en état d'ivresse
la conduite en état d'ivresse



The sale and consumption of alcohol were banned in the US during **Prohibition**, starting in 1919. The result was that organized crime and corruption thrived as consumers bought their liquor illegally. Prohibition was eventually abolished in 1933.

The original motive for banning the sale of alcohol in the United States was humanitarian. Evangelical Christians, and a growing number of female activists worried—quite rightly (*à juste titre*), it turns out—that many families were being driven into poverty as working-class men spent their weekly paychecks at the pub and left their families to starve. Ban alcohol, the Prohibitionists argued, and you eliminate most of America's social scourges. But when Prohibition ruled the land, from 1920 to 1933, it didn't stop people from drinking. It stopped them from drinking in public. Criminal syndicates smuggled alcohol into the country and sold it in speak-easy pubs, often under the winking eye of corrupt authorities... American folk musicians wrote countless songs to deride (*tourner en ridicule*) Prohibition, but it was probably the realization of lost tax revenues that eventually caused the US Congress to repeal (*abroger*) prohibition in 1933. Scott Baldauf, *Christian Science Monitor*, December 15, 2011

smoking

tobacco

a cigarette-manufacturer,

a cigarette-maker

a tobacconist

a pack, a packet of cigarettes

nicotine ['nikəti:n]

tar

to light a cigarette, to light up

a lighter

to ask for a light

ash

an ashtray

to put out a cigarette

a cigarette butt

a heavy smoker

to cough [kɒf]

le tabagisme

le tabac

un fabricant de cigarettes, un cigarettier

un marchand de tabac

un paquet de cigarettes

la nicotine

le goudron

allumer une cigarette

un briquet

demander du feu

la cendre

un cendrier

éteindre une cigarette

un mégot

un gros fumeur

tousser



In Britain the legal drinking age is 18 and you may be asked to prove your age, for instance by showing your driving licence, when ordering alcoholic beverages in pubs or bars.

to give up smoking, to quit smoking

to cut down on, to cut back

on one's consumption

a skinpatch, a nicotine patch

to resist temptation

a non-smoking area

a smoke-filled room

arrêter de fumer

réduire sa consommation

un patch

résister à la tentation

une zone non-fumeurs

une pièce enfumée

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a smoking-related disease | une maladie provoquée par le tabac |
| the number of smoking-related deaths | le nombre de morts dus au tabac |
| lung/throat cancer | le cancer du poumon/de la gorge |
| passive smoking, second-hand smoking | le tabagisme passif |
| to inhale [ɪn'heɪl] smoke | respirer, avaler la fumée |

At every stage of the process of producing drugs such as cocaine, there are not only societal impacts but environmental ones too. An example of the interconnected relationship between climate change and drugs is demonstrated in the use of land.

Demand for cocaine has grown rapidly across many western countries, and this demand can only be met by changing how land is used. Forests are cleared (*rasées*) in South America to make way for growing coca plants. The refinement of coca into cocaine involves toxic chemicals that pollute the soil and nearby watercourses. This in turn compromises those living in these areas as access to clean water and fertile land is reduced. Until this is reversed, these local communities will not be able to cultivate the land to earn an income or rely on water sources to live. And each year, some of their number will add to the hundreds of thousands of people around the world who die, directly or indirectly, as a result of illicit drug use. *The Conversation*, 3 February, 2025

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| to prohibit, to ban smoking | interdire de fumer |
| in public places | dans les lieux publics |
| in the workplace | sur les lieux de travail |
| to deter, discourage people from smoking | dissuader les gens de fumer |

LANGUAGE PRACTICE

1. Choose the appropriate word in the following pairs.

Their daughter smoked a few joints when she was a student but she's never dared (experiment/experience) with other psychoactive substances.

Sam got (drunken/drunken) every night and then went home to beat his wife.

Not least among the (pros/cons) of a less repressive policy is the fact it would help save a lot of money.

Some think that people who start smoking marijuana always move on to (soft/hard) drugs.

Phil became a (heavy/casual) cannabis user and after only six months, he was diagnosed with schizophrenia.

2. All the following compounds include the word "drug".

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| <i>la toxicomanie</i> | |
| <i>un toxicomane</i> | |
| <i>une drogue de synthèse</i> | |
| <i>un trafiquant de drogue</i> | |
| <i>un réseau de trafiquants</i> | |

3. Add the suitable prepositions or particles, or write ø where none is needed.

Most smokers find it very hard to cut down their consumption of cigarettes.

Adriana managed to phase her use of all mind-altering substances in record time after she met Tom.

Are price increases enough to deter people smoking?

He couldn't resist temptation and relapsed after a few weeks.

It is a well-known fact that you may become hooked crack cocaine very quickly.

4. Find the missing words in the following sentences.

Half the inmates in this prison have been convicted on drug-..... charges.

You may be fined or even jailed if you are caught driving intoxicated.

People have only recently become aware of the damage caused by second..... smoking.

Working in a smoke..... environment may seriously damage your health.

He used heroin for a few months and then decided to quit cold

5. Translate into French

He was a chain-smoker and eventually died of throat cancer.

.....

They used mules to smuggle LSD and amphetamines into the country.

.....

You can become addicted even if you don't inhale the smoke.

.....

Prohibition encouraged the spread of guns and crime.

.....

Turning to crime may be the only solution some addicts have to pay for their daily dose.

.....

6. Translate into English

Il faut aussi réduire la demande de drogue dans les pays riches.

.....

Le tabac et l'alcool sont responsables de milliers de morts chaque année.

.....

La cocaïne s'est beaucoup banalisée ces dernières années.

.....

Il faut sensibiliser les jeunes aux dangers du cannabis.

.....

Devrait-on dépénaliser les drogues douces? Faut-il criminaliser l'abus d'alcool?

.....



Why is it that so many young people are attracted to drugs, whether legal or not?

Prevention or repression?

How far should the state regulate individual behaviour?

WRITING TIP N° 2: What to say

Written tests in English require students to either explain a text or express their own views on a particular issue (the so-called* «essay» question).

1. Explaining

The important thing when you explain a text is to do so **“in your own words”**: you must not just copy and paste* parts of the text into your answer. This implies that you must be able to do two things: first understand the words of the original text, and then convey* the same meaning in a different way. To do so, you must find synonyms for individual words and use different constructions*. For instance “a fifth of the voters” is exactly the same as “20% of the voters”. When a journalist writes about “tackling climate change”, he is also “dealing with global warming”.

Of course, if the question concerns, say, the rise in tuition fees* in Britain or Canada, you cannot help using* basic words like “student, university...”, which are probably used in the text you are expected to explain. This is not a problem. **What you must avoid repeating are collocations** (an adjective + a noun, a verb + a noun), metaphors, images, chunks* of text. The bottom line* is that you must not plagiarize instead of explaining.

This rephrasing* of the text necessarily implies a certain amount of interpretation, especially if you have to summarize a whole page in a paragraph or two, or present its main arguments in a few hundred words. However, you should remain as neutral as you can, avoid passing judgment on what is said in the passage or adding any information that is not included in it.

2. Expressing an opinion

• In a way*, answering an essay question is exactly the opposite because it means you must take a stance* on a particular issue. For instance you may have to say whether or not you agree it would be a good idea to legalize cannabis, or to tax motorists driving into the center of a city; you may have to explain what to do to put an end to racial profiling, or whether globalization has had a positive or a negative impact ...

The important thing in this type of question is that you should not shirk* the issue, but at the same time you must make sure you come to a balanced* conclusion. **Most issues are complex and many-sided, not black and white.** Start out by bringing together everything you know about the questions, remembering what you learned about it in your history or philosophy classes, adding facts and figures relating to it, considering the arguments in favour of a course of action as well as those opposing it etc. Avoid stereotypes: **think outside the box***!

so-called: *ce que l'on appelle* • tackle: *aborder* • copy and paste: *copier-coller* • convey: *exprimer* • whenever possible: *chaque fois que c'est possible* • tuition fees: *droits d'inscription* • you cannot help using: *vous ne pouvez pas ne pas utiliser* • chunks: *morceaux* • the bottom line: *l'essentiel* • rephrasing: *reformulation, paraphrase* • in a way: *d'une certaine façon* • take a stance: *prendre position* • shirk: *éluder* • balanced: *équilibré* • Think outside the box!: *Sortez des sentiers battus!*

In brief:

- To prepare an essay, start by thinking about it as if it was a French test.
- Don't be content with copying the words used by the writer as if they were your own.
- "a fifth of the voters" means the same as "20% of the voters".
- When you explain a writer's views, do not express your own opinion or mention elements they don't.