

2ème année
Année 2019-2020

ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE
D'ANGLAIS

Jeudi 10 septembre 2020 de 9h30 à 12h

Recommandations importantes : *Laisser une marge suffisante*
*Écrire **lisiblement** et **à l'encre***
Prendre le temps de se relire

Attention : veuillez sélectionner le sujet correspondant à votre enseignant de P3 et à votre niveau

Aucun document n'est autorisé

The Art & Techniques of Cinema: Kyle WEINANDY	2
Comics: Fabienne ROBINSON	3
Africa: Laura LANGLOIS	4
Architecture: Louise FANG	5
Around the World in English: Dennis DAVY	7
Art of Advertising: Karin MORGAN	7
Beyond Classroom Conversation: Jeffrey SWARTWOOD.....	8
British Humour: Steve BROWN	8
British Society & Politics: Duncan THOM	9
English for the Digital and IT Industry: Patrick MASON	10
International Presentations for Maximum Impact: Trevor BOYLE.....	10
The End of the World: Meghann CASSIDY	11
Human Rights: Suhasini VINCENT	12
Ideology in TV series: Daivy BABEL	13
Intellectual Property: Suhasini VINCENT.....	14
London Calling: Dennis DAVY.....	15
Mastering Professional Communication: Kyle WEINANDY	16
Migration and Identity: Nadeera RAJAPAKSE	20
Modern Anglophone theatre: Declan Mc CAVANA	20
No Planet B: Alexis PETRIDES	21
Mass Media: Annabelle BAROUX-MARIE.....	21
Science Fiction: Christopher ROBINSON	21
The Opera House: Dwayne CANNON.....	22
Literature: Meghann CASSIDY.....	23
Speeches: Fabienne ROBINSON	24
Tutoring: Sarah BOUTTIER	25
Sports: Louise FANG.....	26
<i>Terra Australis Incognita: Australia past and present: Athina LAVABRE</i>	<i>28</i>
Sujet Hors Module	29

Choose **ONE** of the following topics below and write a well-structured essay of about 600 words (+/- 10%). (At the end of your essay, please state how many words you have written.)

A.) ESSAY REGARDING THEME (SUPPORTED BY STORY & DIRECTION)

Use the information provided in class to describe how the story and characters (screenplay) as well as the direction of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* support the themes described in the following quote:

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest is about an issue that was prominent in the 1970s (and has re-asserted itself with some force in the 2000s); the struggle of the individual against the establishment.)* The onscreen battle between Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher serves as a personal microcosm of the culture wars of the 1970s – and a testament to the director's vision that the film retains its power more than three decades later.**"

-- Quote manufactured with excerpts from a review by *James Berardinelli for reelviews.net, and **a critical consensus from Rotten Tomatoes

OR

B.) PASSAGE FOR TEXTUAL COMMENTARY

Analyze the main points made in the text below concerning the representation of the city and Bickle's violent actions in response to it. The text also focuses on the way the film may have "triggered" some actual violent crimes. To what extent can such a film be held responsible?

On *Taxi Driver* (text by Richard Schreib from *Moria Reviews*)

Taxi Driver is certainly a unique 'psycho' film – one where the psycho is the nominal hero and the real antagonist of the piece almost seems to be New York City itself. Scorsese and photographer Michael Chapman imbue New York City with a seething, unsettled energy. The intensity of the film can unnerve one – a relentless, restless anger throbs beneath the surface, sexuality and violence glitter and seem to merge into one and the same with disturbing ease. We hear Robert De Niro's haunted voice coming across the soundtrack: "All the animals come out at night – whores, scum, pussy, buggers, queens, fairies, dopers, junkies, sick, venal. Someday a real rain'll come and wash all this scum off the streets." Initially at least, Bickle seems to be heroic and the city itself seems to be the true villain.

With *Taxi Driver*, Robert De Niro was transformed into a James Dean for the 1970s. As Dean became the voice of 1950s dissatisfaction, so Robert De Niro came to embody a restless urban alienation, a sense of trying to find moral certainty in a world that no longer makes sense. There's something genuinely disturbing as we follow De Niro through this moral Hell. *Taxi Driver* finally explodes in a bloodbath, with a grim and shocking brutality. Yet we tend to idolize the freedom of this psychotic vigilante, to sympathize with his desire to save the young Jodi Foster character from a life of prostitution, and to share in his abhorrence of the sleaze of modern city life.

In *Taxi Driver* the protagonist is the madman, or at least begins as an ordinary person and gradually makes a descent into being the psychopath. Scorsese offers the audience no real choice – you can either be dragged into Travis Bickle’s decaying insanity or leave the theatre.

The seemingly triumphal note that *Taxi Driver* ends on – Bickle is called a hero for saving Iris – is an ambiguous settlement. The fact that Travis is treated as a hero for his vigilante action is disturbing to most viewers, a ‘happy ending’ to a tale that does not deserve one. Yet some viewers, it seems, see Bickle’s blood vengeance as a bona-fide triumph. This was the case with John Hinckley Jr., whose actions renewed the film’s scandalous reputation five years after its controversial release. Hinckley developed a stalker fixation with Jodi Foster, seeing her as her character Iris, a woman who needed to be saved. It was in imitation of Bickle’s attempt to kill a senator in the film that Hinckley tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in 1981. In addition, writer Paul Schrader has claimed that several disturbed young men have claimed to have been pushed to vigilante violence because of the film. The blame was again put on the film.

Comics: Fabienne ROBINSON	B2/C1 463dANG
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1. *‘Many of the elements that define cinema as I know it are there in Marvel pictures. What’s not there is revelation, mystery or genuine emotional danger. Nothing is at risk. The pictures are made to satisfy a specific set of demands, and they are designed as variations on a finite number of themes.’* Martin Scorsese said about Marvel movies in 2019.

Do you agree or disagree? (500 words +/- 10%)

(OR)

2. **MARVEL IS LOOKING FOR NEW CONTRIBUTORS!**

MCU is at a turning point and is enjoying a lull in a world without crime. Or is it? Rumour has it that new tremors are stirring in the Universe.

Who will the new 2020 supervillain be? Describe his/her physical and psychological portrait. You may include a specific episode to expand the rogue’s characteristic features.

Illustrations will be a (big) bonus!

Africa: Laura LANGLOIS	B2/C1 463vANG
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Answer one of these two questions. Minimum 500 words, no maximum.

QUESTION ONE

Read this introduction to an online article. Comment and expand on it with your examples and opinions. You could choose to continue the article from the author's standpoint, or write a response advocating a different view. Make sure to include examples from what we have seen in class and from your own research.

“THIS IS AFRICA”: USEFUL MANTRA OR UGLY PREJUDICE?

www.atlasandboots.com - 23rd December 2017 by Kia

“This is Africa”, or TIA, is used to shrug off a range of inconveniences, but does its casual use perpetuate harmful stereotypes?

Africa, more than any other continent, has a PR problem. Popular culture tells the West that Africa is a land of conflict and famine where progress is slow and corruption is rife. Even the ‘better’ half of Africa is riddled with cliché: the giant red sun, open savannah and fearsome tribes in native dress.

The most pervasive cliché perhaps comes wrapped in a snappy epithet: “This is Africa” or its diminutive form, TIA.

TIA is used by Africans and non-Africans alike as both a term of endearment and a sigh of resignation. It’s used to shrug off a range of inconveniences, from power cuts and roadworks to general inefficiency, infuriating bureaucracy and questionable ethics. TIA is an instruction to go with the flow, to take a chill pill, to sit down and relax because *hey, this is what happens in Africa*.

TIA arguably synthesises an accepted truth. It is a calming mantra and a knowing nod to the current state of affairs, but does using it so casually perpetuate harmful stereotypes?

[...]

The writer of this article goes on to assert that TIA promotes negative stereotypes, impedes human connection, perpetuates misunderstanding between Africans and non-Africans, affects the economy and breeds apathy towards issues such as corruption.

Or...

QUESTION TWO

What are the most significant challenges faced by Africa, in your opinion? How far can Africans solve their own problems without outside help?

Make sure to include examples from what we have seen in class and from your own research.

Answer Topic 1 (essay question) in approximately 500 words using your own examples and/or those we have seen in class **OR** answer Topic 2 (two questions about an article).

Topic 1: Essay Question: Discuss the links between architecture and the environment.

OR

Topic 2: Text & Questions: Architecture in times of crisis

How New York City's Architecture Has Responded to National Emergencies over the Last 20 Years
(by Kaley Overstreet, *ArchDaily*, 22 May 2020)

New York City is the pinnacle hybrid between the vibrant and granular neighborhoods that Jane Jacobs once envisioned and the sweeping urban innovations of Robert Moses. However, its diverse population has experienced hardship over the last twenty years. After the September 11th and Hurricane Sandy tragedies, the delicate balance between promoting a sense of individual culture and the strength in unity that New Yorkers are so often known for served as the lifeblood for revitalization. New York City has consistently handled adversity, by always rethinking, redesigning, and rebuilding this city for a better future.

After the 9/11 period, many employees began to work together in temporary common workspaces. While some found the lack of privacy to be compromising, others found that it fostered a sense of community and facilitated emotional contact with their peers. As a response, the shift towards more dynamic workspaces was pushed further, leading to the development of the open office plan that has become commonplace today. Open floor plans not only paved the way for enhanced collaboration, but also allow employees to be able to find one another in case of emergency, and enhance the lines of sight out of buildings to see what is happening in the surrounding cityscape. Many of the changes after 9/11 also found their way into a multitude of building codes and improved methods of communications between first responders.

One of the most heavily impacted industries in the city was the aviation sector and the domestic and international airlines who quickly needed to restore operations and a sense of security in travellers. Terminals were retrofitted to add a visual layer of security and international oversight from aviation organizations was implemented as a response to creating a safe environment. The post-9/11 regulatory structures that came from the Aviation and Transportation Security Act of 2001 included the formation of the TSA and the current security screening processes we are so accustomed to in airports around the world.

Only eleven years later, Hurricane Sandy hit New York City on October 29, 2012, bringing with it high wind speeds, unprecedented flooding that devastated thousands of communities, and cost an estimated 19 billion dollars in damage. Serving as a wake-up call to the harsh realities of

climate change, the city quickly began the initial planning to extend the shoreline of Manhattan. Officials also launched the Rebuild by Design competition as a way to immerse architects, urban planners, and landscape architects in months of field research in design ideation to dramatically shift how New York City prepares for disaster response. Successful proposals from prominent firms including OLIN, BIG, and OMA transformed the competition into an organization that now helps five cities across the United States better understand their urban vulnerabilities, linking them with the funds and resources to address them. Although there is still much rebuilding and fortifications to be done, the many lessons that New York has learned from the storm have been implemented into how architects around the country design new, and more resilient buildings. New York has dropped the notion that the city can thumb its nose at the elements, and has instead begun to invite them in as preparation for the “next big one”.

Today, New York City finds itself, yet again, the epicenter of another crisis- the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it has by far been the most severely impacted city in the United States, it is also one of the major metropolis’ currently on the decline of cases and deaths, more than two months after the stay at home order was enforced. Companies and policymakers are looking towards the city’s designers to set the tone of what the new normal in the short term and long term post-COVID city might look like. The sudden need to create and implement these strategies has created an outpouring of innovations, similar to the aftermath of 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy. These ideas combine the best of what worked before with the future forecasting of what might have been possible in ten to fifteen years, but make it a reality in the present day. The long-term effects of this pandemic will force New York to create a more seamless and innovative built environment. From rethinking how office spaces will be made healthier on an individual level while still promoting a layer of collaboration, to envisioning cleaner and more efficient public transit systems, New York is on the path to serving as a global benchmark standard in restoring a sense of confidence in every city dweller.

Question A: Sum up the different changes that took place in architecture after the different crises mentioned in the article. (approx. 200 words)

Question B: Imagine you are an architect hired to design a new office building in Manhattan. How would your design incorporate the sanitary concerns of the post-COVID era? (approx. 300 words)

Around the World in English: Dennis DAVY	B2/C1 463jANG
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Either

Write a comparison of two English-speaking countries or territories, one from **Africa** and one from **Asia**.

Or

During the course, you studied many **English-speaking islands** -- in the Mediterranean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. Which island would you **most** like to visit and which would you **least** like to visit? You should choose islands from different parts of the world and give a detailed justification of the two islands that you choose.

Your answer should consist of at least three well-constructed paragraphs (a total of at least 450 words). Please proofread your essay carefully for spelling and grammatical mistakes and pay attention to your style and handwriting.

Art of Advertising: Karin MORGAN	C1/C2 463uANG
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Choose ONE of the following questions below: (600 words, +/- 10%)

1. Traditionally, British advertising creatives have believed that the creative concept is the most important factor in a successful advertisement while marketing and media executives have placed the focus on effective and quantifiable audience targeting. Now that the digital era offers the possibility of targeting the individual with personalised advertising, ad agency M&C Saatchi claim they have found the “the precise balance between artistic and scientific approaches to maximise returns for a client.”

To what extent do you agree that there can be a formula to make the perfect advert? Discuss with reference to material studied.

OR

2. Create a TV commercial for a well-known brand of shower gel. The client wants something different from the standard ads on TV, so that it stands out from the clutter and receives maximum exposure.

Using techniques studied, describe what the ad would look like, who it targets and why you think it would be effective.

Beyond Classroom Conversation: Jeffrey SWARTWOOD	C1/C2 483fANG
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Please respond to **one** of the following two topics in a well-constructed text of approximately 600 words (+/- 10%). The level of formality is up to you, but please do consider my eyes and keep your handwriting legible!

1. Communication can be tricky, and communication in a second language even more so due to both language and cultural issues. What is a conversation that you would *not* like to have in English, and why?
2. Describe for me, in almost excruciating detail, a single moment. It may be the exact moment that you bite into a favorite food, or get a breath of fresh air, or jump from a plane with a parachute. Be careful to solicit all of the elements necessary to convey exactly what it is that is going on.

British Humour: Steve BROWN	C1/C2 483fANG
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(Please note: the 600-word limit categorically does NOT apply to essays on British Humour).

With explicit reference to material studied in the virtual class and any other material relevant to your argument, answer **either** question 1 or question 2.

1. "British Humour"? Discuss.

or

3. If the Kantian categorical imperative fails to help us in our quest to understand humour, does this mean that it is impossible to make sense of humour?

Write 600 words (+/- 10%) on either essay subject A **OR** B. Your grade will reflect the following criteria:

- Content - refer, where relevant, to as wide as possible a range of themes covered in class (heterogeneity of countries and regions, economic interests, previous governments, evolving attitudes, major events...)
- Rhetoric - be convincing with concrete examples, clear structure, a brief explanation of terms if necessary ('third way', 'Great Britain'...)
- Language - re-read your work to weed out any slips

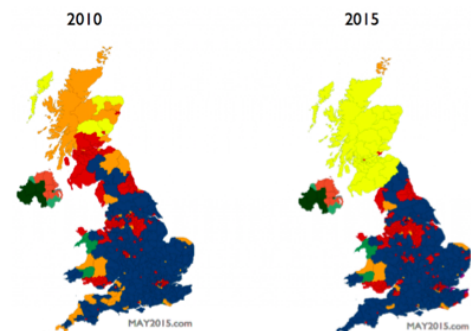
A) In the past 50 years, Labour has been in government twice (1974-79, 1997-2010). You are a senior member of the Labour party. Do you think, to win back power in today's Britain, Labour should again adopt a centrist Third Way politics?



Write a speech to tell fellow MPs what you believe and why. To convince both progressives and moderates that yours is a winning strategy, you'll need to refer to successes and mistakes of the past and show - be specific! - how Labour can tackle the major issues facing Britain today.

B) The Scottish First Minister has decided to call a second referendum on Independence for Scotland.

Write a speech to rally the people to her cause, focusing on persuading the people who last time voted to remain in the UK. Show you're in touch with as many demographics as possible: who are they and what are their concerns? Illustrate your arguments with examples from both the past and the present.



- Choose ONE of the subjects below and write a well-structured essay of around 500 words (+/- 10%) covering the areas listed.

1. Google's unofficial motto "don't be evil" seems to have been dropped. Write an essay to discuss why you think this happened and in what ways the FANGS and other technology companies are ethical or not.

2. Think of a major scientific or technological breakthrough or technology/device/service. Discuss its impact, whether positive or negative, on society and people.

You have two tasks to complete.

1. Choose one of the following subjects and produce 5 screens / slides to make a presentation.

a) A favourite political or business personality:

Objective: someone living or dead you would like, or would have liked, to have dinner with. Describe his/her achievements. Give the reasons for your choice. What would be the first question you would ask him/her?

b) A famous artist, writer, playwright or sportsperson:

Objective: a summary of his/her work, your own appreciation and interpretation of the importance of his/her works or achievements. Give the reasons for your choice. What would be the first question you would ask him/her?

2. Write the complete speech you would make to accompany your presentation screens.

Remember to use the 4-step attention management technique for each screen and to incorporate some oratorical techniques into your oral presentation to facilitate key message recall. You can include a story in your presentation and also indicate by using brackets - () – when you would modify the speed or the volume of your voice.

Choose **ONE** of the two essay questions and provide a 600-word (+/- 10%) response.

Topic 1:

Different forms of artificial intelligence, as well as the ethical choices they present, were a recurring theme this trimester. What, in your opinion, is the most effective ethical lens through which to examine the particular dilemmas posed by A.I.? Justify your response with an example of a specific form of A.I., one ethical conundrum it raises and the way this particular ethical model allows actors to address it.

You may reference a specific ethical “school” (action-centered: utilitarianism, hedonism, other forms of consequentialism; agent or patient-centered: virtue ethics, deontology...) or you may simply develop your own argumentation.

Topic 2:

Throughout our discussions this trimester, many of you alluded to what is known as “the trolley problem”, first sketched out by Philippa Foot, and subsequently fleshed out by Judith Jarvis Thompson. Both philosophers also alluded to a similar scenario, that of the transplant surgeon in need of organs. With the Covid-19 pandemic, emergency room doctors have routinely been exposed to related dilemmas.

But what are these various scenarios supposed to underscore? What key philosophical concepts and claims about moral knowledge and decision-making might the trolley problem and other dilemmas, imagined or real, demonstrate? Do you agree with these claims? Justify your answer by providing counter-examples, advocating for a different approach or simply by giving your own take on how we, as actors, can know what the “right” or the “wrong” decision might be in a given situation. You can also make up your own decision-making scenario to demonstrate your point of view.

Choose any ONE of the following Questions:

1. Read the article “No Rights for the Rohingya?” and write a **short report** using apt subtitles. (600 words +/- 10%)

No rights for the Rohingya?

The ASEAN POST, 12 February 2020

When the 34th ASEAN Summit concluded in June 2019 in Bangkok, it came as no surprise that the bloc was met with heavy criticism for suggesting Rohingya refugees will repatriate back to Myanmar within two years. More than 700,000 Rohingya were forced to flee northern Rakhine state in western Myanmar during a 2017 military-led crackdown the United Nations (UN) has said included mass killings and gang-rapes executed with “genocidal intent”. Almost 400 Rohingya villages were burned to the ground during the violence. A final statement from the weekend summit said ASEAN leaders supported Myanmar’s efforts to “facilitate the voluntary return of displaced persons in a safe, secure and dignified manner”. The statement did not even include the term Rohingya.

The criticism ASEAN faces in relation to the way it has been handling the Rohingya issue is nothing new. Human rights observers have often claimed that the 10-member bloc has done little to ensure the safety of the Rohingya; asserting that diplomacy between member countries, as well as its adherence to a non-interference policy, has consistently trumped human rights concerns. The Rohingya themselves have been largely against the idea of returning to Myanmar, citing safety concerns and a lack of citizenship.

If ASEAN is most concerned about repatriation, then more bad news for the bloc surfaced when an Australian think-tank claimed that Myanmar has made “minimal” preparations for the return of Rohingya refugees sheltering in Bangladesh. A report by ASEAN’s disaster management unit has praised the country’s efforts to ensure a “smooth and orderly” return. Myanmar has repeatedly said it is ready to take back refugees and has often blamed Bangladesh for failed efforts to kick-start the return.

“The continued destruction of residential areas across 2018 and 2019 – clearly identifiable through our longitudinal satellite analysis – raises serious questions about the willingness of the Myanmar government to facilitate a safe and dignified repatriation process,” said Nathan Ruser, one of the researchers at ASPI’s International Cyber Policy Centre, in a statement.

As mentioned earlier, human rights observers have often accused ASEAN of prioritising diplomacy over human rights concerns. One such human rights group, the Human Rights Watch (HRW), accused ASEAN of taking the Rohingya crisis lightly during the 2018 summit, saying that it focused largely on repatriation issues, treating the “humanitarian situation” in Myanmar’s Rakhine State merely as “a matter of concern” while disregarding the Myanmar government’s crimes against humanity. Unfortunately for the Rohingya, for more than 50 years, ASEAN’s non-interference principles have only been grossly contravened twice: once in 1986, when the bloc called for a peaceful resolution to political upheaval in the Philippines amidst the People Power Revolution, and again in 1997 when dealing with the admission of Cambodia into the association following a coup by its current Prime Minister, Hun Sen.

It is understandable that ASEAN wants to maintain good diplomacy between all its members but a line must be drawn. If it is indeed true that Myanmar has made no preparations for the return of the Rohingya but claims that it is ready to take them back then something is clearly amiss. ASEAN must assume the worst in this case and act accordingly, otherwise it will be responsible for whatever atrocities might befall the Rohingya after repatriation.

Or

2. Write a **thesis driven** essay on “Gender Equality is not just a women’s issue. It is a Human Rights Issue”. Refer to instances like Emma Watson’s Speech at the UN for the campaign *He for She* or the Chilean protest song *A Rapist in your Path* to substantiate your ideas. Support your arguments with other examples. (600 words +/- 10%)

Ideology in TV series: Daivy BABEL	B2/C1 LAN463cANG01/02
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Answer ONE of the following essay questions. (500 words +/- 10%)

In either case your essay will be structured, reflect on both form and content and show perspective vis-à-vis both the intradiegetic and extradiegetic levels – and of course the links between both.

You will make detailed reference to some of the various approaches studied in class (narrative structure, editing, script, acting, camera [physical and metaphorical viewpoints, various types of shots], direction, cast, props, lighting, sound, set, costumes, production, staging, genre, viewers’ implication, serial and episodic points of view...)

Question 1

Objectification in American TV series: to what extent can the objectification of characters bear ideological consequences?

OR

Question 2

In American TV series, to what extent is the way in which females are represented ideologically linked to the portrayal of male characters?

Choose ONE of the two following questions:

1. Read the article “Protecting Against Industrial Design Infringement” and write a **short report** using the apt subtitles. (600 words +/- 10%)

Protecting Against Industrial Design Infringement

Karl Doane, MachineDesign.com, APR 04, 2019

Over the last few decades, the growing global economy, emerging markets with valuable intellectual property (IP), and business opportunities based on online commerce have led to more trademarks being filed to take advantage of commercial opportunities. Today, there are more trademarks than ever before and, according to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the number of trademark application filings is rising exponentially, with a 30% spike in 2017 compared to the year before. This rise equates to roughly 9.11 million applications filed. What this means for marketers, creative agencies, and trademark attorneys is that creating and filing a unique trademark across several jurisdictions is now a major challenge.

This increase can be attributed to several factors, including an expansion of China trademarks. That country was behind the 30% increase in the number of trademark filings in 2017, with 5.75 million marks filed there that year. Other factors include the proliferation of commercial activity on the internet and social media, and brands filing marks across global markets.

Trademark infringement can have a devastating effect on a brand, whether that’s rebranding for a launch or taking legal action against an infringing mark. Although brands are trying to minimize the effects of potential infringement, it remains on the rise. According to recent research conducted by CompuMark, 81% of respondents said they experienced instances of infringement last year, nearly 10% more than in 2017. This represents a massive problem for brands, and the rise in incidents could indicate an upward trend. What this means for trademark professionals is that they must monitor their existing industrial designs and conduct thorough research before filing new ones.

Research helps brands successfully register industrial designs, which likely will become one of their most valuable assets. As a result, they will have registered rights to the design. And every brand owner knows that the real value of their brand goes far beyond products or services; it lies in the meaning it has for its customers, often associated with its appearance. However, although there is a cornucopia of advantages in proper research, brands might be tempted to use free search tools due to budget constraints. But what is the real cost of free tools? Relying on free and easy-to-access databases or search engines—such as Google or Patent and Trademark Offices—when searching and clearing an industrial design, might seem like a good idea, but it can end up doing more harm than good, leaving companies in a vulnerable position. These resources simply can’t cover every design or area of search, don’t offer expert advice or analysis, and can’t offer the level of customization brands really need to guarantee a thorough and proper search.

Finally, a design that conflicts with an existing design will likely be rejected by the examiner, and usually months after it's been filed. Therefore, searching before filing reduces the risk of this delay. When launching a product, doing it on time is critical, and every day delayed is money lost. As far as industrial design trademark research goes, technology can change it for the better. When it comes to industrial design research, for example, technology plays a fundamental role in improving and making the process more efficient. Thanks to cutting-edge AI-powered image recognition software, technology opens the door to understanding and comprehending designs for what they represent. With different methods, and not just image codes or keywords, it creates new, faster, and more effective ways to compare designs. It also adds value and creates new opportunities for different types of businesses to build strategies that adjust to their needs, without having to compromise budgets, timeframes, or goals.

Or

2. Write a **thesis-driven essay** on the topic "Is our data safe?" Refer to the documentary *The Great Hack* and support your arguments with examples of how companies like Cambridge Analytica mine data-driven behaviour to influence us. (600 words +/- 10%)

London Calling: Dennis DAVY	B1/B2 433cANG
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Either

In what ways is London similar to and different from Paris, or the capital of your country?

Or

Imagine that you have a 7-day holiday in London. Plan your holiday carefully.

In which season will you travel? How will you get to London? How will you travel around? Which part of the city will you stay in? Which museums and famous sights will you visit? What kind of food will you try? Where will you go out in the evenings? What kind of souvenirs will you buy?

Your answer should consist of at least three well-constructed paragraphs (a total of at least 450 words). Please proofread your essay carefully for spelling and grammatical mistakes and pay attention to your style and handwriting.

Mastering Professional Communication: Kyle WEINANDY	C2 483nANG
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Read the instructions and then compose EITHER a pitch OR a speech 600 words (+/- 10%)

You have been selected to give a 5-minute public speech to an investment firm on Asteroid Mining. Read the two articles below: 'The Asteroid Trillionaires' and 'The Asteroid Bubble Has Burst'. Decide whether you are in favor, or against, Asteroid Mining.

- If you are **in favor of** Asteroid Mining, you will write a **pitch** convincing the investment firm to invest.
- If you are **against** Asteroid Mining, you will write a **speech** warning against investing.

You can use facts and quotes from either or both of the articles below to help defend your position. It doesn't matter which position you take. You will be judged on your English, your writing, and your ability to make a concise and persuasive argument.

THE ASTEROID TRILLIONAIRES

By Andrew Glester from the June 2018 issue of Physics World

The race to the riches of asteroids is on, with several private companies vying for funding to become the first space miners. **Andrew Glester** digs into the issues involved in making money from asteroids.

"I'll make a prediction right now. The first trillionaire will be made in space."

So said Texas senator Ted Cruz, shortly after a bill was signed to increase NASA's budget for 2018. To untrained ears, his claim would have sounded extraordinary. It might even have stretched credulity for those familiar with the challenges of space. But on closer inspection, Cruz was not being that revolutionary. Peter Diamandis – founder of the X Prize competition to encourage tech developments – made the same prediction back in 2008 and expanded on the theme in his 2015 book *Bold*. As for how those trillionaires will make their riches from space, both he and Neil DeGrasse Tyson – the US astrophysicist and TV host – reckon it will be done by mining asteroids.

Progress is already under way. The first asteroid company, Planetary Resources, was founded in 2012 by Diamandis, Chris Lewicki and others in Washington. Within a year the US company Deep Space Industries was set up by Rick Tumlinson, Stephen Cover and a host of others. A handful more firms have since been established, and while some are admittedly are less serious than others, the race to the riches of space is on.

Nevertheless, the investment bank Goldman Sachs has reassured its clients about the financial benefits of investing in asteroid-mining companies. "The psychological barrier to mining asteroids is high, the actual financial and technological barriers are far lower," it said in a report published last year. A Caltech study put the cost of an asteroid-mining mission at \$2.6bn – perhaps not surprisingly the same estimated cost of NASA's erstwhile ARM. It might sound a lot, but a rare-earth-metal mine has comparable set-up costs of up to \$1bn and a football-field-sized asteroid could contain as much as \$50bn of platinum.

Metals and Water

Scientists have studied asteroids using ground-based telescopes and space missions – such as NASA’s Galileo and Dawn crafts – which together have gathered close-up imagery and data. Perhaps the most important data came from Japan’s Hayabusa, which in 2010 became the first spacecraft to have landed on an asteroid and successfully returned home with samples. These studies have revealed that there are two types of asteroids of interest to the mining community.

The first are achondrites, which are rich in platinum group metals (ruthenium, rhodium, palladium, osmium, iridium and platinum). These precious metals gravitate to the cores of planets as they form, meaning that they are very deep down on Earth. In the turbulent early solar system, however, some burgeoning planets were smashed to pieces in collisions and became some of the achondrite asteroids that may provide a treasure trove for today’s space miners.

The other asteroids of interest are chondrites. They are perhaps the more immediately valuable, being rich in water. Astronauts need this vital resource not only as a drink and to hydrate food, but also because it is a very efficient radiation shield. Water will be precious for the Moon bases and hotels promised by today’s space entrepreneurs such as Elon Musk (founder of SpaceX) and Jeff Bezos (founder of Blue Origin).

But water is heavy and therefore expensive to launch out of the Earth’s atmosphere. Indeed, it costs between \$9000 and \$43,000 to send a water bottle into space – which is why it is all recycled on the [International Space Station](#). However, [Hubble](#) images of the largest known asteroid, Ceres, suggest that it could hold more water than our planet. Smaller asteroids hold lots too and a technique known as optical mining would use the heat from the Sun to bake the water out of the rock.

The elements of water can also be used for rocket fuel. Asteroid miners are already planning to split the water from chondrites into hydrogen and oxygen, which would serve as fuel and oxidizer respectively. They are hoping to set up fuel stations in low-Earth orbit and the asteroid belt so that spacecraft can fill up on their way to the outer planets of the solar system. Currently, around 90% of the weight of modern rockets is taken up with fuel, so if you can carry less fuel on take-off because you can fill up off-Earth, space flight becomes much cheaper.

The asteroid mining bubble has burst

by Jeff Foust

From ‘The Space Review’, January 7th 2019

Of all the market being pursued by space startups in the last decade, asteroid mining was perhaps the longest-term, and maybe also the most far-fetched. While space tourism has struggled to get off the ground the business case is clear once companies like Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic start flying—which may finally happen this year. Constellations of small satellites for remote sensing or broadband communications are taking shape now, stimulating demand for new launch vehicles, even if the supply of such vehicles is likely to exceed any reasonable demand forecast. Asteroid mining, though, required the patience to develop technologies to prospect, and then extract, resources like volatiles from asteroids, then find in-space applications for them.

Yet those obstacles didn’t stop two companies several years ago from starting up with goals of harvesting resources from asteroids. First came Planetary Resources, which announced plans in 2012 to develop asteroid mining systems, with the backing of prominent business people

(see “Planetary Resources believes asteroid mining has come of age”, The Space Review, April 30, 2012.) Nine months later, Deep Space Industries (DSI) announces its own, similar asteroid mining plans (see “Asteroid mining boom or bubble?”, The Space Review, January 28, 2013.)

Six years later, the answer to the question posed in that headline is clearly “bubble.” In just two months, both DSI and Planetary Resources, which struggled to raise money and even shifted focus away from asteroid mining, have been acquired by other companies. Their plans to harvest the riches of the solar system are on hold, perhaps indefinitely.

On New Year’s Day, Bradford Space announced its acquisition of DSI. Bradford, owned by a US investment group, the American Industrial Acquisition Corporation, but with facilities in Europe, manufactures spacecraft components, including a non-toxic propulsion system called ECAPS.

DSI had been working on its own non-toxic satellite thruster, called Comet, that uses water as propellant. That was billed by the company as a way to stimulate demand for space resources (most existing spacecraft use propellants, like hydrazine, not readily available from asteroids) but also as a shift in focus in the company, at least in the near-term, from asteroid mining to smallsats, a field with clear and growing demand.

Bradford saw Comet as complementary to its own ECAPS system. On last month’s SpaceX Falcon 9 launch of 64 smallsats, four of the spacecraft were equipped with Comet thrusters while three had ECAPS thrusters.

“Bradford gets a lot of interesting things from the addition of DSI, namely a very complimentary propulsion product (Comet), good customers and order book, a great engineering and production team, a position in Silicon Valley and in the US (which is important for Bradford, which until now was almost entirely Europe),” said Ian Fichtenbaum, a director of Bradford Space. He added that, besides helping Bradford sell its technologies to US customers, the deal will make it easier to sell Comet thrusters to European customers.

DSI was also working on a satellite bus, called Xplorer, intended for use on deep space missions, including the asteroid prospecting and mining missions that the company eventually planned to pursue.

Bradford, Fichtenbaum said, plans to continue that development of Xplorer. “The DSI team provided very innovative solutions to the problem of exploring the solar system at a reasonable cost, and we are eager to see if that can be developed with the help of Bradford technologies,” he said in the announcement.

In many respects, Bradford’s acquisition of DSI is a relatively conventional industry development: one component provider acquires another, looking for the expanded markets and economies of scale that a larger company can provide. But what happened to Planetary Resources is, well, less conventional.

Two months before the DSI announcement, Planetary Resources announced that it, too, had been acquired by another company. ConsenSys, which describes itself as a “blockchain venture production studio,” said it purchased Planetary Resources in a transaction terms of which were not disclosed. ConsenSys uses blockchain technologies, in particular a decentralized computing platform called Ethereum, for “building and scaling tools, disruptive startups, and enterprise software

products,” according to its website. ConsenSys has more than three dozen “spokes,” or companies working on various projects that make use of Ethereum, in areas ranging from financial management to gambling.

Even with that eclectic mix of companies, it’s not clear how an asteroid mining company fits in, and the announcement of the acquisition didn’t provide many hints. “Bringing deep space capabilities into the ConsenSys ecosystem reflects our belief in the potential for Ethereum to help humanity craft new societal rule systems through automated trust and guaranteed execution,” said Joe Lubin, founder of ConsenSys. Okay.

“And it reflects our belief in democratizing and decentralizing space endeavors to unite our species and unlock untapped human potential,” he added. “We look forward to sharing our plans and how to join us on this journey in the months ahead.”

ConsenSys and Planetary Resources have not shared additional details since that announcement at the end of October. It was clear long before then, though, that Planetary Resources needed more financial resources: a funding round in 2017 involving a “major global mining company” fell through. That led to significant layoffs earlier last year. In its announcement of the acquisition, ConsenSys identified only two people from Planetary Resources who would be staying on: president and CEO Chris Lewicki and general counsel Brian Israel.

It’s not clear that ConsenSys will be able to provide significant resources. The company said last month it was laying off 13 percent of its own staff while planning to spin off many of those spokes, which may not be equipped to operate on their own. The company has cut back on spending in other areas, a dramatic change from its earlier, freewheeling days.

Even as Planetary Resources’ future remains uncertain, DSI, under new ownership, hasn’t completely ruled out asteroid mining. “We believe in developing and exploring the riches of the solar system and we want to be among the ones to make it happen,” said Fichtenbaum in the statement announcing the acquisition.

But doing so, he said later, would be done under a more methodical approach. “There is a lot that needs to be developed before people are mining asteroids,” he said. “But that doesn’t mean that there aren’t markets for solutions that solve key problems, like for high performance propulsion systems, deep space buses and precision control systems.”

“For commercial asteroid mining, we are not people who sneer at its prospects,” he added. “We believe it has a real future and want to see if DSI’s Comet and Xplorer as well as Bradford’s existing activities can play a part of that future. In terms of doing the mining activities ourselves, you never know—we will see! But for now, we are taking things step by step.”

Migration and Identity: Nadeera RAJAPAKSE	B2 / C1 483dANG
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Choose one of the two questions and write a well-structured answer (500 words (+/-10%)).

A) The excerpt below is from a review of the movie *Machan* and reveals Pasolini's words about directing the movie:

"I was attracted to the cleverness and the 'fuck-you' attitude of the people who did this," says Pasolini. "There is so much humour and daring and a surreal quality to this scam. People who had never played handball before had to put together a team and be convincing. They had to get the uniforms and arrange the trip. Someone had to have a sense of humour to do this. It's too surreal, too absurd." (Guardian.co.uk, 2009).

Imagine you are one of the real men who formed the fake Sri Lanka National Handball Team and went to Germany. State who you are - describe the character (barman, crook, fruit peddler, son of the Communist, playboy, grave digger, policeman, foreign doctor, husband of pushy wife, etc.). Imagine you come across this review wherever you are residing. Write a letter to family or a friend back in Sri Lanka describing your reaction to these words.

Your understanding of the character, his feelings and situation, as well as your imagination about his current life will be taken into account. You are free to choose the language register, but with correct grammar!

B) Discuss how migration affects identity by using examples of cases discussed in class (case studies, books, films, theatre, current issues). Be precise: pick one or two specific angles (i.e. identity as a source of conflict, identity as a factor affecting the success or failure of migration, identity as a choice, etc.).

The quality of your analysis and style of writing will be taken into account.

Modern Anglophone theatre: Declan Mc CAVANA	B2/C1 463bANG01
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Please answer ONE of the following two questions

- 1) Write a scene between any number of characters on the theme..."The World in September 2020" (There is no minimum nor maximum number of words...quality is what counts!)

OR

- 2) Write an essay of 500 words (+/- 10%) on the following subject:
"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being" – Oscar Wilde. Do you agree? If not, then what is theatre?

No Planet B: Alexis PETRIDES	B2 / C1 463uANG
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Choose ONE of the topics below and write a well-structured response of 500 words (+/- 10%).

1. To what extent could big data play a role in solving global environmental issues?

OR

2. As CSR Director, write a convincing email to the CEO of your company outlining the importance of implementing green initiatives.

Mass Media: Annabelle BAROUX-MARIE	B1/B2 433dANG
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Choose one of the topics below and write a well-structured essay of 400 words (+/- 10%) words:

EITHER

1. The media has often been accused of perpetuating stereotypes by including only one group of people in advertisements or presenting one class, race or gender in a specific manner. Explain how this statement is relevant in print media, movies or television.

OR

2. Traditional Mass Media is produced and distributed by a select group of individuals working in the field. Social Media is distributed by everyone. Explain how this affects what type of information is distributed and how people consume media.

Science Fiction: Christopher ROBINSON	C1/C2 483kANG01
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Choose ONE of the following options to write EITHER an essay OR a story of 600 words (+/- 10%).

- (1) Do the *Star Wars* films belong to the genre of science fiction, fantasy or both? Use Darko Suvin's concepts of cognitive estrangement and the *novum* to defend your point of view.
- (2) Write a short story using a *novum* of your own invention. (*N.B.* You may not use the 'Penfield Mood Organ' for this exercise).

The Opera House: Dwayne CANNON	C1/C2 483qANG
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Select a topic, opus 1 or opus 2. Compose an essay of 500 – 700 words (depending on which topic you choose). Please write *neatly, clearly, legibly*.

Opus 1: About 700 words (+/- 10%).

Write a personal and subjective essay entitled “Music and Me.” This topic is less class-specific and so is wide open in terms of content. In light of this, I consider it to be somewhat easier. Thus, if you choose **Opus 1** your essay should be so creative, so insightful, so *eye-poppingly* good that it justifies your decision.

Opus 2: About 500 words (+/- 10%).

The unofficial title of this course is “*Classical Music Then and Now: Style, Culture, and Stakes.*” The *Then and Now* part of the title refers specifically to an evolution (real or perceived) over time, but it also sets up an opposition between what was and what is. All of the terms in the title — *Classical Music, Style, Culture, and Stakes* — are pregnant with meaning and worth exploring. Focus on one or two of these aspects and dive deep: dissect, deconstruct, explore and/or explain what these words (the one or two you choose to focus on) mean to you. How do they relate to the historical, artistic, social examples we saw in the course? Below is a bank of concepts, names, and vocabulary to help you along. All of these came up in class.

	Ideology of	Cultural Appropriation	
	Democratization	Periodization	CANONS
	Art vs craft	<i>Culture industry</i>	Spirituals-Jazz-Blues
BROW DEBATE	<i>Gesamtkunstwer</i>		ROMANTICISM-MODERNISM-
Art-for-art		<i>Werktreuel</i>	Work-
	Gender	Written vs Oral	Bourgeois vs Bohemian
Kant-Schopenhauer-Adorno	Pre- & post-WWII cultural politics		Cross-over
Avant-garde			vs
	MUSIC AS OBJECT	Tonality	formal purity
Interpretation	& ACTIVITY	“culture of abundance”	Concert etiquette and practices
vs			
Improvisation	Dissonance-Resolution		

Mozart (1756-1791) - Beethoven (1770-1827) - Rossini (1792-1868) - Chopin (1810-1849) - Liszt (1811-1886) Richard Wagner (1813-1883) - Debussy (1862-1918) - Schoenberg (1874-1951) - Gershwin (1898-1937) Stravinsky (1882-1971) - Florence Price (1887-1953) - Duke Ellington (1899-1974) - John Cage (1912-1992) Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) - Stockhausen (1928-2007) - Phillip Glass (b.1937) Camille Pépin (b.1990)

Political Literature

Choose one of the two topics and provide a response of approximately 600 words (+/-10%).

Topic 1:

Throughout the course, we sampled many different literary forms and devices and, through them, were initiated into a particular historico-political context or “set of problems”. In some cases, we as readers were also persuaded to adopt new beliefs and to envision a different horizon for our own political action. Which forms – speech, biography, traditional storytelling, magical realism, patchwork narrative, irony, science-fiction, etc., – did you find the most compelling? Which combination of genre and literary style was the most revelatory, persuasive or even transformative for you personally? Provide reasons and examples to back up your answer.

Topic 2:

Write a story, or a part of a story, beginning with or including the lines below. Pay attention to the clues in the text before crafting your story; you do not need to know who the author is, nor do you need to recreate her story. We are simply borrowing her lines to build our own work.

“Lighted windows: cutouts of home in the night. When he came from his meeting he turned the key but the door was quickly opened from the inside – she was there, Teresa, a terribly vivid face. Her thin bare feet clutched the floorboards, she was in her cotton nightgown that in bed he would draw away tenderly, the curtain of her body.

– They’ve taken my mother. Robbie and Francie and my mother. – “
(Nadine Gordimer, “Home”)

DO NOT INCLUDE THE CITATION AS PART OF YOUR WORD COUNT. YOU DO NOT NEED TO COPY THE ENTIRE CITATION ON YOUR TEST PAPER. YOU MAY SIMPLY WRITE:

“Lighted windows...and my mother”.

Speeches: Fabienne ROBINSON	B2/C1 463Oang
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'A commencement speech, simply, is an opportunity to share your experience, values and advice. The precise form is up to you. This affords the speaker a platform to say amazing, unlimited things.'
(Anthony Trendl, executive speechwriter)

- **Speech analysis** – Comment on Mr. Obama’s 2020 Commencement speech (500 words +/- 10%)

(...) Now graduating is a big achievement under any circumstances. Some of you have had to overcome serious obstacles along the way, whether it was an illness, or a parent losing a job, or living in a neighborhood where people too often count you out. Along with the usual challenges of growing up, all of you have had to deal with the added pressures of social media, reports of school shootings, and the specter of climate change. And then, just as you’re about to celebrate having made it through, just as you’ve been looking forward to proms and senior nights, graduation ceremonies — and, let’s face it, a whole bunch of parties — the world is turned upside down by a global pandemic. And as much as I’m sure you love your parents, I’ll bet that being stuck at home with them and playing board games or watching Tiger King on TV is not exactly how you envisioned the last few months of your senior year. (...)

If you’d planned on going away for college, getting dropped off at campus in the fall — that’s no longer a given. If you were planning to work while going to school, finding that first job is going to be tougher. Even families that are relatively well-off are dealing with massive uncertainty. Those who were struggling before — they’re hanging on by a thread.

All of which means that you’re going to have to grow up faster than some generations. This pandemic has shaken up the status quo and laid bare a lot of our country’s deep-seated problems — from massive economic inequality to ongoing racial disparities to a lack of basic health care for people who need it. It’s woken a lot of young people up to the fact that the old ways of doing things just don’t work; that it doesn’t matter how much money you make if everyone around you is hungry and sick; and that our society and our democracy only work when we think not just about ourselves, but about each other.

(...) Since I’m one of the old guys, I won’t tell you what to do with this power that rests in your hands. But I’ll leave you with three quick pieces of advice.

First, don’t be afraid. America’s gone through tough times before — slavery, civil war, famine, disease, the Great Depression and 9/11. And each time we came out stronger, usually because a new generation, young people like you, learned from past mistakes and figured out how to make things better.

Second, do what you think is right. Doing what feels good, what’s convenient, what’s easy — that’s how little kids think. Unfortunately, a lot of so-called grown-ups, including some with fancy titles and important jobs, still think that way — which is why things are so screwed up.

I hope that instead, you decide to ground yourself in values that last, like honesty, hard work, responsibility, fairness, generosity, respect for others. You won’t get it right every time, you’ll make mistakes like we all do. But if you listen to the truth that’s inside yourself, even when it’s hard, even when it’s inconvenient, people will notice. They’ll gravitate towards you. And you’ll be part of the solution instead of part of the problem.

And finally, build a community. No one does big things by themselves. Right now, when people are scared, it's easy to be cynical and say let me just look out for myself, or my family, or people who look or think or pray like me. (...)

But the truth is that you don't need us to tell you what to do.

Because in so many ways, you've already started to lead.

Congratulations, Class of 2020. Keep making us proud.

(OR)

- You have been asked by the Ecole polytechnique to write a commencement speech for next year's X19 graduation ceremony. You will need to emphasise the context, but also the highlights of the school, both academic and otherwise.

(500 words +/- 10%)

Tutoring: Sarah BOUTTIER	C2 493ANG
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Please choose ONE of the following topics

1. Write a 600-word (+/- 10%), well-structured essay on the book you have selected, answering the following questions:

- What is the value of this book? Identify two or three main points (topics, style, narration, historical context, etc.) that you found particularly interesting and that motivated your choice.
- How could it be used in a teaching context? You may talk about the type of English, certain passages, or the general issues at stake. If you have used it with your tutees, do refer to your experience.

Make sure you are as specific as possible and give examples to illustrate your claims whenever possible.

2. Write a dialogue involving a tutor and one or more tutees during a session.

The book you have chosen must be part of the teaching material of that session. The dialogue may be invented, or a recollection of a real one. If invented, it must, however, be as close as possible to the kind of dialogue you would have had with your tutees. (Minimum 500 words)

Answer the essay question in approximately 500 words using your own examples and/or those we have seen in class **OR** answer the two questions about the article.

Essay Question: What is the role of sports in society? (approx. 500 words)

OR

Text & Questions: Drugs in Sports (2 questions to be found at the end of the article)

Drugs in sport: what constitutes ‘unfair advantage’?

Gary Wickham, *The Conversation*, 20 March 2013

At the heart of growing concern about performance enhancing drugs in Australian sport is the very basic matter of sport as an even contest. As Roy and H.G. used to put it, no one is particularly interested in an exhibition of a man kicking a dog. Sport is the pursuit (and the industry) it's become because those who play it and those who watch it desire, and now expect, a close contest between relatively equally matched teams or individuals.

While some fans might wish to have their team win every game by a street, this outcome would be a turn-off for other fans, broadcasters, sponsors, administrators, and many others. The same is obviously true for a mismatch in boxing or tennis. So, the idea that some teams or individuals are using drugs in a bid to defeat not just their opponents but the contest itself needs to be confronted. Punishments need to be meted out. But are we overreacting?

Before I go further, let me stress that I'm dealing here only with the use of drugs in sport deemed by officials to be performance enhancing to the point of creating an unfair advantage. My comments do not apply to any drug use that is illegal under Australian law (federal or state), which is a matter for the police and the courts (and for commentators qualified in that area). When we leave illegal drugs out of the argument, it is vital that we answer a double-barreled question: what advantages are unfair and, at the other end of the problem, what is to count as a level playing field?

On the first issue, should we treat what's regarded as a fair advantage in some domains as unfair in sport? If someone playing in the Tasmanian badminton championship, for example, has taken cold tablets for the two days before the tournament to help them get through their job as a librarian (a fair advantage, surely), should we regard this as a step down the Lance Armstrong path the minute that player takes the court, or should we treat it as we would treat any of us taking a cold tablet as we head off to work – not be tested and not to be frowned upon? And what if the attempt to gain an advantage doesn't work? Should the investigation into Cronulla's supposedly enhanced performance in the 2011 NRL season take into account the fact that they finished 14th of 16 teams that year? Or the fact that in 46 seasons in the top flight they've never won anything?

In other words, how are we to measure the difference between Armstrong winning the Tour de France seven times and a team used to losing coming third last in the NRL 2011? Are the present proposed penalties too harsh for such (alleged) offences? Why are we considering punishing fans and entire competitions for the sort of offences being investigated in this case (wherever the investigation ends up going)?

Zealotry, in my opinion, is not the sign of a healthy society, but one too obsessed with perfection and too keen to punish those who aren't perfect. Think Salem witch hunts, or their McCarthyist equivalents. I doubt that most Australians want their sport to be absolutely pure. Sure, they don't want it rigged, but there are many degrees of minor adulteration before one gets to "rigged" or "corrupt". Some of these minor adulterations are treated as folklore.

The matter of defining a level playing field is even more complex. Are we hankering for contests between teams or individuals that rely only on their "natural" abilities, free from the "taint" of money and the drugs and other advantages it can buy? If so, this could be another case of wrongly aiming for a mythical standard of perfection, putting us in danger of basing our system for determining unfair advantage on the old ideal of amateurism, which reigned in an era when television was barely interested in sport.

Surely it would be better if we could sort out the unfair advantage problem more sensibly, so that we can continue to enjoy access to sport in ways we couldn't dream about even in the sixties and seventies. And if we are going to be purists, why should we stop at drugs? Doesn't unequal access to training facilities and expertise create what some might consider an unfair advantage? Shouldn't we make sure every athlete and every team has equal access? What about access to good food? Should Olympic athletes from poor countries be given the same access to the performance boosting diets enjoyed by those from rich countries? I'm obviously being ridiculous here in a bid to drive home my point. It would be madness to try to equalise absolutely everything. It would be like insisting every cricket Test be played at a neutral venue with wickets scientifically tested and adjusted hourly to make sure conditions are the same for both sides.

Life just isn't like that. Sport in a complex modern society like Australia requires complex modern procedures, procedures which acknowledge differences and issue punishments in a spirit of tolerance and with a determination to be reasonable to the sportsmen and women who give so much pleasure to the rest of us, sometimes for big rewards, often not.

Question 1: What is the author's argument and to what extent do you agree with him? (approx. 200 words)

Question 2: How do you think television changed the way we view and practise sports? (approx. 300 words)

PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE WRITING TASKS BELOW

1) Essay: Read the text, then answer the essay question below in 500 words (+/-10%).

“Victoria defends deputy chief medical officer after she compared James Cook to Covid- 19”
Ben Doherty, 30 April 2020, Indigenous Australians, *The Guardian*

Victoria’s deputy chief health officer, who drew a historical analogy between the arrivals of James Cook and Covid-19 to Australia, has been defended by the state government, which has praised her for doing “an outstanding job”. Dr Annaliese van Diemen, public health physician and general practitioner, who holds degrees from Monash, Sydney and James Cook universities, tweeted:

“Sudden arrival of an invader from another land, decimating populations, creating terror. Forces the population to make enormous sacrifices & completely change how they live in order to survive. COVID19 or Cook 1770?”

Van Diemen was drawing an analogy between the arrival of Europeans in Australia in the late 18th century and the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. European explorers had been visiting the Australian continent since the 17th century, and Cook did not settle in Australia. But British settlement, led by Arthur Philip, followed Cook’s extensive mapping of Australia’s east coast. Van Diemen’s tweet generated a vituperative¹ response from opposition members of the Victorian parliament, as well as federal MPs and senators. Victoria’s opposition leader, Michael O’Brien, said the tweet was embarrassing and inappropriate. [...]

Using the various material studied in and out of class, including any of the activities you did, what is *your* opinion regarding the historical analogy between the arrivals of James Cook and Covid-19 to Australia? Do you agree with Dr van Diemen’s analogy and tweet or do you agree with Victoria’s opposition leader who finds the tweet ‘embarrassing and inappropriate’? Use examples to justify your answer. Please write on every second line and read over your work carefully before handing it in.

OR

2) Letter: 500 words (+/-10%)

Using the various material studied in and out of class, including any of the activities you did, write a letter to your grandparents about your English class “*Terra Australis Incognita: Australia past and present*”. You can choose to write to them very briefly about all the topics we looked at or write to them about a selection of topics (3 or 4) in which case you will need to deal with them in more detail. Please write on every second line and read over your letter carefully before handing it in.

¹ severely critical / criticising in a cruel and angry way

Sum up and comment on the following essay (600 words)

STUDENT EDITORIAL CONTEST WINNER:

Maggie Strauss, age 17. June 6, 2019

'Cultural Appropriation' Is Critical to Human Progress

A skirt on Zara. A Dior campaign. Keziah Daum's prom dress. What do all of these things have in common? They are the latest victims of America's politically correct crusaders. In today's "cancel" culture, people are quick to attack others for behaving in a way they deem socially unacceptable. Central to many of these accusations is the idea of cultural appropriation: the adoption of the customs, practices, or ideas of one society by a member of another.

The fashion industry in particular has come under severe scrutiny in the past year for "stealing" traditions. As Vanessa Friedman writes in "Fashion's Year in Cultural Don'ts", the aforementioned skirt was too similar to an Indian lungi, the Dior campaign drew too much inspiration from the Mexican *escaramuzas*, and Keziah Daum's qipao was too Asian for her.

These fashion statements were clearly not designed to offend or degrade the cultures that influenced them. However, that is not to say that everyone who draws inspiration from different cultures is doing it with the right intentions. Issues arise when imitation is based on a shallow and offensive stereotype, which is just blatant racism.

Cultural appropriation is not a modern concept; it has existed as long as culture itself. From a historical perspective, the term that is typically used to describe the adoption of certain practices from one culture to the next is syncretism. Without syncretism, human progress would be next to impossible.

Often referred to throughout history as a "melting pot," America is a perfect example of the importance of syncretism. Immigrants from diverse backgrounds can all come together under a common American nationality. Pizza, hot dogs, and soft drinks are often considered characteristically American, but they were originally Italian, German, and Swedish, respectively. Is this cultural appropriation? Even Democracy, the very basis of American society, was first seen in ancient Greece. Is it time to "cancel" America?

Obviously not. But what makes drinking a carbonated beverage so different from wearing a Chinese-inspired prom dress? Cultural appropriation is just the modern term for a concept that has aided in the development of human society for centuries. Those who perpetuate "cancel" culture ignore this. And that has dangerous implications for the future.