

2ème année / 2021-2022

ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE D'ANGLAIS

Lundi 30 mai 2022 9h30 – 12h

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

Attention : vous devez composer sur le sujet correspondant à votre enseignant de P3 et à votre niveau. Si vous ne respectez pas cette consigne, vous obtiendrez un zéro.

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Please answer **ONE** of the 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...)

1. For many “progressives”, a community’s diversity should be reflected in the art that it produces. Is the imperative “representation matters” self-defeating, that is, ultimately *limiting*, when it comes to TV series?

Your essay might analyse the extent to which a TV series can be progressive on multiple fronts at the same time, or it might approach the question from another angle.

2. In the television shows we studied in class in particular, to what extent were the excerpts' points of view highly favourable to gender equality?

Feel free to use examples from TV series such as: *The Big Bang Theory*, *Body of Proof*, *Game of Thrones*, *Dexter*, *Breaking Bad*, *Lucifer*, *House of Cards*, *Modern Family*, *Parks and Recreation*...

<u>Behind Bars: Laura BEYER</u>	<u>B2/C1</u> <u>463sANG</u>
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Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. **Poverty shares an intimate connection with crime. Discuss.**

Draw on the causes and theories of crime documents read in class.

Write a well-structured essay. (500 words +/-10%) It must have an introduction, main body, and a conclusion.

OR

2. **The deprivation of liberty should not be the responsibility of a private company. Agree or disagree.**

Draw on your knowledge of the American prison system.

Write a well-structured essay. (500 words +/-10%) It must have an introduction, main body, and a conclusion.

<u>Food and Culture: Shukti CHAUDHURI-BRILL</u>	<u>B2/C1</u> <u>463iANG</u>
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Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. In this class we have considered several ways in which food is connected to culture and society. In a well-structured essay (500 words +/- 10%), please discuss **at least three** of these connections, using examples from class and/or your personal experience to support your discussion.

OR

2. In a well-structured essay (500 words +/- 10%), describe and discuss how early voyages of exploration and trade—such as the Silk Route and the Columbian Exchange—have had an impact on food cultures in different parts of the world. Use examples of different food commodities we have studied to support your discussion.

<u>Anglophone Theatre: Declan MC CAVANA</u>	<u>B2/C1</u> <u>463bANG</u>
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Please answer **ONE** of the following questions in (500 words +/- 10%):

1. Compare and contrast two of the extracts examined in class this year paying particular attention to how you would direct them.

OR

2. "Movies will make you famous; Television will make you rich; But theatre will make you good." — Terrence Mann

<u>Beyond the Human: Sarah BOUTTIER</u>	<u>B2/C1</u> <u>463rANG</u>
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Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. Has humanity, as a category, always been considered unproblematic? Justify your answer using the course material and your own cultural knowledge. (500 words +/- 10%)

OR

2. Imagine another species or type of being (plant, animal, robot) had been given an evolutionary advantage over humankind. What would the last centuries, or millennia, have looked like? Write this alternative history giving as many details as possible. You may adopt the style of your choosing – narrative, journalistic or scientific. (500 words +/- 10%)

<u>Tutoring: Sarah BOUTTIER</u>	<u>C2</u> <u>493ANG</u>
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Please choose **ONE** of the following topics

1. Please write a 600-word (+/- 10%), well-structured essay on the book you have selected, answering the following questions:
 - What did you expect from this book when choosing it, and how did it measure up to your expectations? Identify two or three key points (topics, style, narration, historical context, etc.) that drew your attention.
 - 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.

OR

2. Write a dialogue involving a tutor and one or more tutees during a session. The book you have chosen must be at the heart of the teaching activity you are developing here. 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)

Prepare a presentation on ONE of the two subjects below.

Whichever subject you choose, you have two tasks to complete:

Your first task is to produce 5 slides/screens. The layout of each screen should correspond to the template (Card 02) in the card deck I gave you at the beginning of the course. (Field 1 : Title / Field 2 : Key Information / Field 3 : Conclusion / Key message / Takeway). Simplify the contents as much as possible.

Your second task is to write the text of the presentation speech you would make to the audience to accompany the screens. Try and include some of the micro-oratorical techniques we have seen and used during the course to facilitate key message retention. (e.g. tricolons, *hyperbaton* (changing the word order), *parataxis* (short sentences)). This presentation text should be **600 words (+/- 10%)** long.

Subjects:

1. **Working and learning remotely compared with classroom presence**

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, both companies and educational establishments have had to adapt working and learning environments to the constraints imposed by the health crisis. Using multiple services such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams to replace face-to-face sessions has changed how we work, learn and interact and led to a more virtual existence. The goal of your presentation is to present your opinion of the advantages and disadvantages of remotely-delivered courses as opposed to in-person sessions. Should we now find an appropriate balance between the two ways of delivering courses?

OR

2. **The French education system or, for other nationals, the education system you experienced before arriving at Polytechnique**

Your presentation should explain the structure of primary, secondary and university education including the examination milestones and the choices it offers. You should make any comparisons with other nations' systems you have experienced. You should also express your opinion about the positive and less positive aspects and outcomes of the educational system in which you have grown up. Where does it really succeed? What would you like to see changed?

<u>Americana: Dwayne CANNON</u>	<u>B2/C1</u> <u>463gANG</u>
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Select **ONE** of the following options only. Please write legibly.

Option 1. The American novelist Henry Miller is said to have remarked in the mid-20th century: “The whole f***ing world is going 100% American. It's a disease.” Discuss Miller's statement in a cohesive essay. You may wish to consider the meaning(s), limits, and implications of the concept “Americanization.” (500 words +/- 10%)

OR

Option 2. In class we explored the history, mythology, symbolic meanings, and representations of the American West. Discuss the role “the West” has played – and continues to play – in the construction of an American identity. Since the subject is vast, you are encouraged to focus on and develop one or two aspects only. (500 words +/- 10%)

<u>Opera House: Dwayne CANNON</u>	<u>C1/C2</u> <u>483qANG</u>
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Select **ONE** of the following options only. Please write legibly.

Opus 1. Beethoven, Wagner, and Schoenberg were used in this class as representative of certain ideals in the history of music. Write a single, cohesive essay that is structured around the following questions: What are these ideals? How were they challenged in the 20th century? Are they still relevant today? Do not hesitate to expand your references beyond music. (600 words +/- 10%)

OR

Opus 2. Write an essay that improvises on the phrase: “Where words leave off, music begins.” This writing option leaves much liberty in terms of form and content; it can be historical, autobiographical, critical, even fictional. Whatever the direction you take, your text should somehow integrate at least one concept or theme that was discussed in class. (600 words +/- 10%)

Please respond to **ONE** of the following prompts in **600 words (+/- 10%)**:

1. Choose one of the tales we performed and/or discussed this trimester. Provide an analysis of the story. Specifically, how do the characters, their actions and the objects or materials that figure prominently in the story lead listeners to confront their own development within or beyond the family unit? Or, more simply, what might listeners learn? What might they conclude about the nature of existence? You do not have to provide an exhaustive list but rather focus on one aspect that you find particularly salient, from a philosophical, anthropological or psychological perspective.

OR

2. Do you think modern versions of fairy tales – not only Disney films, but also rewritings by Margaret Atwood, Angela Carter, Neil Gaiman or others – corrupt the powerful meanings that folk traditions once organically produced? Do the different content and media lessen their benefits? Or do today’s reformulations simply reflect the evolution of meaning, social critique and technology? Argue your position, bringing in examples, facts and reasons that persuade.

The quote below might help you formulate your response:

“For Bettelheim, the ideal way to transmit the tales is in imitation of their folkloric means of communication: tell them orally and frequently; be faithful to the original without being slavish. Not only does such oral storytelling permit the greatest flexibility of response, but it sets up a valuable interpersonal event between the storyteller and the child. In addition, by *separating* the fairy tales from tacit interpretations—via the appendage of moral lessons, illustrations, or standardized wordings—their motifs may be taken over spontaneously by the child, Bettelheim suggests, to structure other forms of unconscious activity such as dreams, waking fantasies, and play.” (J. Heisig, “Bruno Bettelheim and the Fairy Tales,” 1977)

Please respond to **ONE** of the following prompts in **600 words (+/- 10%)**:

1. Choose a game or sport (chess, soccer, Go Fish, hide and seek...) that you find philosophically meaningful. How do the rules, culture and possible outcomes of the games reflect moral, ethical, aesthetic or political models? You can think about the excerpts from James Carse, Judith Butler, Nietzsche, Aristotle or others to help you think through the sport or game you've chosen. You can also adopt a lens similar to that of Murray Ross in "Football Red, Baseball Green." Define your terms and argue persuasively.

OR

2. According to Daniel Dennett, the self does not correspond to a physically localizable entity, but is rather a fiction, a "centre of narrative gravity." ("The Self as a Center of Narrative Gravity," 1992) In this respect, Dennett seems to follow in the footsteps of Hume and other skeptics. Do you agree? Is this a helpful or meaningful way to talk about selfhood? Contrast this view of personal identity as essentially fictive with another – your own, one that appears in the philosophical tradition, or one that we've seen exemplified in film (e.g., *The Fisher King*), sport (e.g., baseball) or literature (e.g., Walt Whitman).

Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. You are the newly appointed CEO of a large consultancy in central Paris. Write a proposal outlining three action points to make the company more sustainable. (500 words +/- 10%)

OR

2. Write a short article with title 'Why our honeybees are disappearing.' (500 words +/- 10%)

<u>History of Art: Alice CENTAMORE</u>	<u>C1/C2</u> <u>483aANG</u>
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Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. The experimentation of the 1960s drives a wedge between modernism and postmodernism. Its radical artistic interventions into accepted frameworks and conventions reveal an entire topography of transformation. The 1960s surely changed all criteria of “art” as they had been categorized to date, but how? Discuss, with examples, in a well-structured essay (600 words +/- 10%).
2. In his essay “The Legacy of Jackson Pollock” (written in 1956, published in October 1958 in *Art News*), Allan Kaprow writes: “[...] Pollock, as I see him, left us at the point where we must become preoccupied with and even dazzled by the space and objects of our everyday life, either our bodies, clothes, rooms, or, if need be, the vastness of Forty-second Street. Not satisfied with the suggestion through paint of our other senses, we shall utilize the specific substances of sight, sound, movements, people, odors, touch. Objects of every sort are materials for the new art: paint, chairs, food, electric and neon lights, smoke, water, old socks, a dog, movies, a thousand other things will be discovered by the present generation of artists. Not only will these bold creators show us, as if for the first time, the world we have always had about us but ignored, but they will disclose entirely unheard-of happenings and events, found in garbage cans, police files, hotel lobbies; seen in store windows and on the streets; ad sensed in dreams and horrible accidents. An odor of crushed strawberries, a letter from a friend, or a billboard selling Drano; three taps on the front door, a scratch, a sigh, or a voice lecturing endlessly, a blinding staccato flash, a bowler hat—all will become materials for this new concrete art.”

Contextualize Kaprow’s essay and main argument for art after Pollock and discuss at least two different artistic tendencies that developed after 1958. You can mention the influence of Duchamp and Cage, among others, and should cite examples of works including titles, dates (it’s a plus if you remember them), and as many details as you can to present a complete and differentiated sense of the works. Your essay should be 600 words +/- 10%.

<u>Africa, the Bright Continent: Laura LANGLOIS</u>	<u>B2/C1</u> <u>463vANG</u>
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Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. How have non-African history books, the media and the arts (including the cinema) presented an incomplete picture of Africa? How could this image be remade?
(500 words +/- 10%)

OR

2. Once perceived as a single entity, the “dark continent”, a place to be exploited by others, Africa is proving itself to be a continent of great diversity, ambition and potential, despite ongoing problems. Discuss Africa’s challenges, hopes and successes by focusing on two or three countries or regions.
(500 words +/- 10%)

Wildlife and Biodiversity: Laura LANGLOIS

B2/C1

463fANG

Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. Choose one of the main themes we covered in class. Your task is to write a text for a nature magazine aimed at a young audience (13-18 year-old English speakers). As well as writing clearly and informatively, make sure to begin with a catchy title, give interesting examples and show by means of sketches or side notes what illustrations you would include (photos, drawings, graphs, etc.). (500 words +/- 10%)

These are the themes we covered:

Variety & Specialisation; Hunters & Prey; Cooperation & Rivalry; Migration & Invasion; Intelligence & Communication; Biomimicry; Restoring the Balance

OR

2. *Humans have used and abused the natural world for too long. It's time to change.* Comment on this assertion in a well-structured essay with a variety of examples. (500 words +/- 10%)

Art of Advertising: Karin MORGAN

C1/C2

483uANG

Please answer **ONE** of the following questions (**600 words, +/- 10%**):

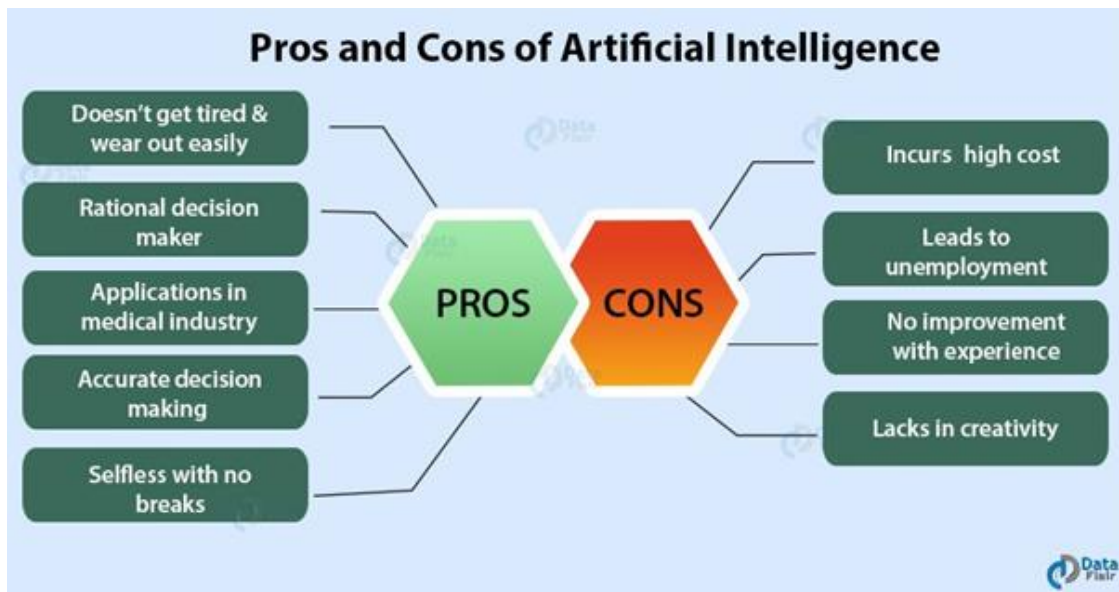
1. Assael (1984) suggests that celebrity advertising is successful because of its "ability to tap into consumers' symbolic association to aspirational reference groups." In Britain, however, savvy marketers believed that both male and female consumers identified more with 'regular' people, replacing the age-old notion that supermodels and beefy athletes were essential to successful advertising. Discuss why, today, Britain on the whole rejects the aspirational qualities associated with celebrities in favour of 'guy marketing.'

OR

2. "Twenty years ago an advertiser could reach eighty per cent of the US population with just three television commercials. Today it takes 150. Advertising is suffering because of the sheer amount of it, the lack of innovation within traditional advertising formats and the power that media fragmentation and technology give to consumers to tune out the noise. The new buzzwords are guerrilla, stealth, ambush, buzz, viral, grassroots, wildfire and ambient" (*Advertising is Dead, Long Live Advertising!* by Tom Himpe, Thames & Hudson, 2008). Discuss what you think this means and how it relates to material studied in class.

Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. **Artificial Intelligence:** Using the information in the image below and the work done in class, **write a well-structured essay to discuss the pros and cons of AI and its potential impact on society and humanity.** You may choose a discursive format where you expose the facts, or an augmentative format, where you take a position and defend it. (500 words +/- 10%):



OR

2. **The Power of Big Tech.** Using the article below and based on the work done in class, **write a well-structured essay to discuss whether Big Tech companies have become too powerful, if they need stricter regulation or should even be broken up.** You may choose a discursive format where you expose the facts, or an augmentative format, where you take a position and defend it. (500 words +/- 10%)

On Sept. 9, 50 attorneys general across the country started a joint antitrust investigation of Google. On Sept. 6, attorneys general in eight states kicked off an antitrust inquiry into Facebook. Against that backdrop of fast-growing support for a big tech breakup, it's unclear how breaking up big tech would affect the larger tech industry and customers, though it appears likely it could benefit smaller competitors of the tech giants -- and possibly Chinese cloud, AI and e-commerce platforms unhampered by government regulation. In the wake of a breakup, smaller entities could theoretically be easier to regulate in areas such as data privacy while also finding it harder to share data among themselves. But a big tech breakup would not necessarily be driven primarily by consumer protection issues, said Brian Hopkins, a Forrester analyst. Rather, such an antitrust move would be consistent with the historical American impulse to whittle down overly dominant corporations, just as the government dismantled steel and telecommunication monoliths of earlier eras, he said. "It's an antitrust issue. How powerful should a big company be?" Hopkins said. "What you're seeing is a consolidation of power and you're giving these companies enormous power over the underlying fabric of our business." Incidentally, Microsoft, which survived a government antitrust suit in the mid-2000s,

is now not being targeted by regulators. Even so, Microsoft could benefit if AWS and Google were forced to spin off their cloud businesses and Microsoft was not.

As for what would happen if tech giants were taken apart, the tech industry would likely see a period of chaos, then reconsolidation as smaller platform vendors establish stronger positions, Hopkins said. Meanwhile, enterprise customers could end up paying more to AWS and Google in the wake of any big tech breakup, said Alan Pelz-Sharpe, founder of the Deep Analysis. That's because Amazon, to a large extent, subsidizes its cloud services and storage business with revenues from its e-commerce operations. The same goes for Google, to a lesser extent. Other observers have noted that after a big tech breakup, spinoff vendors would be likely to continue to dominate their niches. For example, Google search would probably remain dominant even if it were untethered from other Google apps. And there is little reason to expect Facebook to lose its position as the dominant social media platform if it were disconnected from Instagram. The most widely known and detailed proposal for a big tech breakup has come from Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren, who wants to bust up the tech companies into smaller "platform utilities" with revenue limits of \$25 billion. President Donald Trump has often attacked social media platforms for allegedly being unfair to him personally and excluding conservative voices, and he has said publicly that he supports a big tech breakup. But he has criticized Warren's plan, claiming the vendors she focuses on -- Amazon, Facebook and Google -- are protective of her. Meanwhile, as some conservatives have joined in calls for a potential big tech breakup, many in the tech industry are steadfastly opposed to it. "The bottom line is a tech breakup is not good because we have to scale to compete with China. "If we break up the tech companies and go too far, China's companies -- Baidu, Alibaba and Tencent -- will achieve a scale we can't compete with." Wang argued that lawmakers should pass laws that make personal data akin to personal property and attach property rights to it. Colin Pape, founder of ShopCity.com, a blockchain-based local marketplace network, and Presearch.org, a search vendor, criticized what he said was the lack of transparency of competitor Google's search algorithms. Pape alleged that it's impossible to know if the algorithms are fairly treating competitors and argued for a breakup, but also at least for an independent auditing authority to oversee Google algorithms. "It's really most about the barriers to entry for competitors," Pape said. "Google search is the most concentrated area for Google and its most important product as the gateway to all of their other options."

Without any strong regulation of Google search, "you're really asking the fox to guard the henhouse," Pape said. Should a big tech breakup actually come to pass someday, "I don't think you'll see anyone become that dominant again," he said. Google responded Sept. 6 to the move by the 50 state attorneys general with a blog post by Kent Walker, its vice president for global affairs. "Google's services help people, create more choice, and support thousands of jobs and small businesses across the United States," the post said. "We have answered many questions on these issues over many years, in the United States as well as overseas, across many aspects of our business, so this is not new for us. "The DOJ has asked us to provide information about these past investigations, and we expect state attorneys general will ask similar questions," it said.

Adapted from "How big tech breakup would affect the tech industry" by Shaun Sutner, 16 September 2019.

Please answer **ONE** of the following questions: **500 words (+/- 10%)**

1. 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 pedlar, 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!

OR

2. Read the extract below from *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid. What does this passage reveal about migration and identity?

Saeed leaves his father behind when he migrates. He didn't pray before, but he starts doing it in his new life.

"... prayer for him became about being a man, being one of the men, a ritual that connected him to adulthood and to the notion of being a particular sort of man, a gentleman, a gentle man, a man who stood for community and faith and kindness and decency, a man, in other words, like his father. Young men pray for different things, of course, but some young men pray to honour the goodness of the men who raised them, and Saeed was very much a young man of this mould."

The quality of your writing (grammar and syntax, precision and clarity) and the examples and references you give will be taken in to account.

<u>The Fantastic: Christopher ROBINSON</u>	<u>C1/C2</u> <u>483&ANG</u>
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In this course, we discussed how the unexplained, uncanny, or seemingly supernatural object or event in a work of the fantastic reveals the shadows, cracks, or contradictions in our knowledge and experience of the “real” world (i.e., described according to a natural, rational, scientific conception). Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. In a well-structured essay (600 words +/- 10%), explain why so many authors and readers, or filmmakers and spectators (etc.), feel drawn to treat such tensions in our knowledge and experience of the world. Support your argument with concrete examples taken from fiction, cinema, TV, art or games of your choice.

OR

2. Write a short story that illustrates this concept of the fantastic (600 words +/- 10%).

<u>Science Fiction: Christopher ROBINSON</u>	<u>B2/C1</u> <u>463jANG</u>
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In this class we discussed several concepts devised by scientists in relation to the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence (SETI): the Drake Equation, the Kardashev Scale, and the Fermi Paradox. Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. In a well-structured essay (500 words +/- 10%), illustrate ONE of these concepts using a work or multiple works of SF of your choice as a framework. Show how the concept contributes to a better understanding of the work(s) in question.

OR

2. Write a short story (500 words +/- 10%) based on ONE of these concepts.

Please answer **ONE** of the following questions (500 words +/- 10%)

1. **Comment on the style, contents and historical significance of President Truman's speech, delivered from the White House to the UN General Assembly on 25th April, 1945:**

(...) You members of this Conference are to be the architects of the better world. In your hands rests our future. By your labors at this Conference, we shall know if suffering humanity is to achieve a just and lasting peace. Let us labor to achieve a peace which is really worthy of their great sacrifice. We must make certain, by your work here, that another war will be impossible. We, who have lived through the torture and the tragedy of two world conflicts, must realize the magnitude of the problem before us. We do not need far-sighted vision to understand the trend in recent history. Its significance is all too clear. With ever-increasing brutality and destruction, modern warfare, if unchecked, would ultimately crush all civilization. We still have a choice between the alternatives: the continuation of international chaos--or the establishment of a world organization for the enforcement of peace.

It is not the purpose of this Conference to draft a treaty of peace in the old sense of that term. It is not our assignment to settle specific questions of territories, boundaries, citizenship and reparations. This Conference will devote its energies and its labors exclusively to the single problem of setting up the essential organization to keep the peace. You are to write the fundamental charter. Our sole objective, at this decisive gathering, is to create the structure. We must provide the machinery, which will make future peace, not only possible, but certain. The construction of this delicate machine is far more complicated than drawing boundary lines on a map, or estimating fair reparations, or placing reasonable limits upon armaments. Your task must be completed first.

We represent the overwhelming majority of all mankind. We speak for people, who have endured the most savage and devastating war ever inflicted upon innocent men, women and children. We hold a powerful mandate from our people. They believe we will fulfil this obligation. We must prevent, if human mind, heart and hope can prevent it, the repetition of the disaster from which the entire world will suffer for years to come. If we should pay merely lip service to inspiring ideals, and later do violence to simple justice, we would draw down upon us the bitter wrath of generations yet unborn.

We must not continue to sacrifice the flower of our youth merely to check madmen, those who in every age plan world domination. The sacrifices of our youth today must lead, through your efforts, to the building for tomorrow of a mighty combination of nations founded upon justice--on peace. (...)

OR

2. You represent *Ecole polytechnique* at an international academic event. You are expected to deliver a speech entitled: '**What it means to be an X**'.

You want your speech to include all the best rhetorical devices, but also to catch your audience's attention in an original way, and to distinguish yourself from the other speakers.

'Stage directions' for the delivery of the speech (rhythm, pauses, emphasis, word stresses, etc.) will be a bonus.

Please answer **ONE** of the following questions (500 words +/- 10%)

1. **Comment on this quote, and illustrate your own viewpoint with precise examples:**

Comics (as a genre) is named on a false assumption: that comics themselves are necessarily comical or funny (thus, “the funnies”). And as a form, comics has been plagued by a series of critical misconceptions and misunderstandings that have only served to compound the error of the name: that they are directed primarily at juvenile audiences; that they are easy or transparent reading; that they are, if not beneath contempt, certainly not worth notice from those whose job it is to determine what is, indeed, worthy of notice.

Alex S. Romagnoli and Gian S. Pagnucci, *Enter the Superheroes: American Values, Culture, and the Canon of Superhero Literature*, 2013.

OR

2. **DC IS LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS!**

Scarecrow, Joker, Bane, Poison Ivy, Riddler – they were all brought down by the Batman. Gotham is enjoying a lull in a world without crime. Or is it? Rumour has it that new tremors are stirring the city’s underbelly.

Who will the supervillain of the 2020s be? Draw his / her physical and psychological portrait. You may include a specific episode showing that this new character is to become the new arch nemesis for the Dark Vigilante.

Illustrations will be a bonus.

Please write a well-structured essay (500 words +/- 10%) on **ONE** of the following topics:

1. Referring to both the current economic context and historical precedents, what role do you think the economy is likely to play in November's mid-terms? What strategies and tactics is each party likely to deploy regarding the economy?

Your essay could discuss the impact of ideological movements on economic policy, both in the current context and historically. Additionally, your analysis might comment on the specific challenges the U.S. political system poses for a given administration's implementation of economic policy goals (Biden's infrastructure bills for example).

OR

2. Barack Obama obliquely referenced the culture wars when he said at a 2008 campaign fundraiser: "*You go into these small towns in [...] the Midwest, the jobs have been gone now for 25 years and nothing's replaced them. [...] And it's not surprising then that they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy toward people who aren't like them [...] as a way to explain their frustrations.*"

What is meant by 'culture wars'? As well as providing a detailed typology of the issues, identify and explain any underlying ideologies or values which cultural warriors on one side or the other seem to share. Your essay might illustrate these underlying values through one or more examples of relatively uncontroversial subjects that have become politicised and provide an analysis of their political impact. Finally, what cultural issues do you think will be prominent in the coming months?

Confidence & Culture: Janette TRAYAUD	B1/B2 433eANG
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Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. Essay: Business Culture

Write an essay about the business culture of a country of your choice. Your essay should include the following topics: appearance, behaviour (first names, personal space etc.), entertainment, meetings, and business practice (usual business hours, usual time for lunch etc.).

(400 words +/-10%)

OR

2. Essay: The American Dream

Write an essay about the American Dream. Share your personal opinion about the American Dream, whether you feel the American Dream still exists today, and name a person (an American, living or dead) who you feel embodies the American Dream, explaining why this person embodies the American Dream to you.

(400 words +/-10%)

Thinking About A.I.: Ali Deniz ÖZKAN	B2/C1 463eANG
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Please answer **ONE** of the following questions:

1. Should a General A.I. system be built and would you consider such a system to be “alive” and therefore have rights and obligations? Discuss in a well-structured essay (500 words +/- 10%)

OR

2. The mathematician Irving John Good wrote the following in 1965:

"Let an ultraintelligent machine be defined as a machine that can far surpass all the intellectual activities of any man however clever. Since the design of machines is one of these intellectual activities, an ultraintelligent machine could design even better machines; there would then unquestionably be an 'intelligence explosion,' and the intelligence of man would be left far behind. Thus the first ultraintelligent machine is the last invention that man need ever make, provided that the machine is docile enough to tell us how to keep it under control." (Good, I. J. (1965), Franz L. Alt and Morris Rubínoff, eds., "Speculations Concerning the First Ultraintelligent Machine", Advances in Computers)

What are the implicit assumptions of Good's argument and how plausible is the idea of an “intelligence explosion”? Discuss in a well-structured essay (500 words +/- 10%)

