UNIVERSITE DE TUNIS
ECOLE NORMALE SUPERIEURE
Concours d'entrée à l'Ecole Normale Supérieure
Session : Septembre 2006
Section : Lettres Anglaises
Epreuve de Dissertation
Durée : 4 h - Coef. : 3

Discuss ONE (only *one*) of the following topics:
(Credit is given for writing legibly and illustrating your ideas with examples.)

1. Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) defined poetry as "the best words in the best order"; Jean Cocteau (1889-1963) claimed that "a true poet does not bother to be poetical."

.....

2. Kenneth Tynan (1927-1980) wrote in *Curtains* (1961) that "a novel is a static thing that one moves through; a play is a dynamic thing that moves past you."

.....

3. "All the world's a stage,
   And all the men and women merely players."

   William Shakespeare, *As You Like It* (Act II, scene 7).

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Session 2006

Section : Lettres anglaises
Epreuve de langue
Durée : 3h Coef : 2

This test is in three parts

Part I	Reading Comprehension	20 points
Part II	Writing	20 points
Part III	Use of English	20 points

Part III : USE OF ENGLISH **20 points**

*Fill each of the numbered blanks with **ONE** suitable word.*
Do not rewrite the text. On your answer sheet, write the number and the corresponding word.

The second part of an investigation is interrogation or, more simply, the (1).....of everyone who can throw light on the inquiry. Again, the object of the detective is to establish as far as possible an (2).....account of the facts. In Britain, he is (3).....by the Judges' Rules on evidence and throughout his investigation he has to keep in mind that eventually every fact, every (4).....he produces, will be (5).....to cross-examination in Court. Hearsay evidence, for example, might give him a line on the person he is seeking, but he will not be able to use it as proof of his case. He may not use force or the (6).....of force; (7).....may he use any artificial means such as 'truth' drugs or (8).....to get a statement from a witness or suspected person. Interviewing people (9).....the limits prescribed by the law is extremely difficult, and a major measure of a detective's skill is his (10).....as an interrogator.

Questioning in an investigation ranges from the straightforward door-to-door inquiry of, (11)....., all the inhabitants of a particular street in order to establish whether they have seen a specific individual or not, (12).....the complicated interrogation of a major culprit in a case of large-scale fraud. In the one case, the detective simply knocks at the door, announces that he is a police officer and asks a direct question: 'Did you see a tall thin man with red hair in this road between six and ten (13).....last night?' The householder would have no (14).....for lying, and nine times out of ten the answer would be an (15).....direct 'Yes' or 'No'. In the other case the detective would need all his skill both to (16)..... the complications of the case and to know what questions to ask and how to ask them. He would try to lead the culprit (17).....the history of the crime in an (18).....either to ease a (19).....out of him or to get enough information to show where inquiries might be (20).....made.

Part I : READING COMPREHENSION **20 points**

Read carefully the text and then answer all the questions.

1. The 1976 inoculation program--why did it start? (3 points)
2. The 1976 inoculation program--why did it stop? (3 points)
3. What is Bush's pandemic strategy? (3 points)
4. Does the author support it? Justify your answer. (3 points)
5. What, in your own words, is the key message of the article? (3 points)
6. Explain the following words / expressions as used in the text. (5 points)
   (a) "swine flu virus" (parag. 1)
   (b) "litigation" (parag. 2)
   (c) "fresh outbreaks" (parag. 4)
   (d) "hoarding" (parag. 5)
   (e) "surge capacity" (parag. 6)

Bryan Walsh

Between Panic and Apathy

How to prepare for a pandemic that may or may not be on its way

ON OCT. 14, 1976, U.S. PRESIDENT GERALD FORD PUSHED UP his sleeve and received his influenza vaccine. It wasn't an ordinary flu jab. In February of that year, an 18-year-old U.S. Army recruit had died of a swine flu virus, which scientists at the time believed was closely related to the virus that had caused the 1918 influenza pandemic. High-level disease experts worried that the new virus signaled the return of the 1918 flu, and barely a month after the soldier's death, Ford announced an unprecedented emergency plan to inoculate the entire American population. This decisive leadership was supposed to represent a crowning triumph for a public-health system that had been all but helpless in 1918.

But the inoculation program immediately hit snags. Worried about lawsuits, drug companies demanded that Congress assume liability for the new vaccines. Then, after two months, vaccinations were halted after reports that hundreds of people who had received the shot had developed a rare nerve disease. While it was never conclusively proven that the vaccine caused this disease, the result was a litigation nightmare for Washington. And it all turned out to be unnecessary—the swine flu death proved to be an isolated case, and nothing remotely like a pandemic ever materialized.



COURTESY GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Ford, at left, geared up for a pandemic that never materialized

For flu experts, 1976 is the flip side to 1918, a reminder that there is always a risk of overreacting to a pandemic threat. But the decision to crash test a vaccination program was based on the best available science at the time. (We know now that the 1918 flu was an avian virus, not a swine one.) While the 1976 program was an expensive and embarrassing mistake, it also underscored just how difficult it is to decide how to prepare for an influenza pandemic. "No one really knows what's going to happen," says Dr. Howard Markel, a medical historian at the University of Michigan and the author of *When Germs Travel*. "Anyone who says they do is an idiot or lying."

That's worth remembering as bird-flu panic begins to intensify around the world. In the West, individuals rattled by the news that the disease has hit poultry populations on the edges of Europe are buying up supplies of the antiviral drug Tamiflu. In Asia, fresh outbreaks were reported in three countries last week; two more deaths were reported in Indonesia, and China announced its first human victims. Government officials in Australia and New Zealand have already warned that they might close national borders in the event of a pandemic. China announced last week that it would attempt to vaccinate its domestic poultry population of 5.2 billion birds against avian flu.

It seems smart to err on the side of caution after years of failing to take the very real threat of a pandemic seriously. But panic is the enemy of good preparation. Hoarding antivirals—which may not even be that effective in the event of a pandemic—reduces the availability of the drugs at a time when supplies are already limited, and could result in more people dying of normal flu this season. To combat hoarding, Roche, the company that makes Tamiflu, recently suspended shipments to private suppliers in several countries, although an agreement brokered last week with the biotech company Gilead should help boost Tamiflu production. Closing borders in the case of a pandemic would not only be ineffective—unlike SARS, flu is too contagious to be contained—but would also prove economically disastrous in a deeply interconnected world. "Panic is a bad stimulus for action," says Markel, who studies the history of epidemics. "It never results in anything good."

What's really needed is careful, detailed, long-term planning that answers to the realities of tomorrow, not the headlines of today. Building up government stockpiles of antivirals is necessary. But what's more vital is improving the surge capacity of our health-care systems, so there will be enough hospital beds. A vaccine would help soothe our fears, but what every country needs today is a program that explains how essential services—law enforcement, transportation, even food supplies—would continue operating in the first chaotic months of a pandemic.

U.S. President George W. Bush's high-profile $7.1 billion pandemic strategy, unveiled earlier this month, is long on stockpiles and vaccines, as if the President believes he can build levee walls high enough to keep a pandemic out of the U.S. He can't—and much of that money would be better spent on the ground in countries like Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, where bird flu has hit hardest. The World Health Organization has said it will take at least $500 million to control the disease in poultry, but only a fraction of that money has so far been provided by donors. Preventing bird flu in birds is still the best way to head off a pandemic, but paying for flu surveillance in Cambodia isn't going to calm scared American voters, or earn Bush back the political capital he lost in Hurricane Katrina.

Preparing for a pandemic is challenging because it is difficult to strike a balance between acting and overreacting. President Bush and the rest of the world's leaders need to rise above panic and politics. Like Gerald Ford in 1976, they can't be afraid to make the wrong choice for the right reasons. ■

"No one really knows what's going to happen. Anyone who says they do is an idiot or lying."

—DR. HOWARD MARKEL, University of Michigan medical historian

Part II : WRITING 20 points

*Write a five-paragraph essay on **ONE** of the following topics.*
(Write legibly and remember to illustrate your ideas with examples.)

Topic 1: Should there be a limit to freedom of expression?

Topic 2: What angers you most in the world today and why?

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Translate the following text into **Arabic**:

Newman had spent four years in the army, but they had left him with an angry, bitter feeling that he had wasted a lot of precious things. He was poor when he joined the army and was poorer when he put the uniform off. But work was as natural to him as breathing. He was twenty two when necessity pushed him into the street to earn that night's dinner. He had to be adventurous, and he knew bitter failure as well as brilliant success. For some time, failure seemed to be his lot and whatever he touched he turned, not to gold, but to ashes. It was under these circumstances that he came to San Francisco, the scene of his happiest strokes of fortune. There, life became an open game for him.

"You have made a pile of money, eh?" said Mr. Tristram.
"I have made enough," answered Newman.
"Happy the man who can say that! Enough for what?"
"Enough to rest awhile, to forget about business, to see the world, and, if the fancy takes me, to marry a wife. What about you? It seems you are regularly fixed; you got a house, wife and children."
"Yes; I have a wife and two children."
Newman sighed: "I envy you."

Henry James, *The American* (Harmonsdworth, Mddlx, England: Penguin Books, 1981 (first pub. 1876-1876)), pp. 48-52.

ملاحظة هامّة: يُشكل النصّ المعرّب شكلا تامّا.

Translate the following text into **French**:

"You take a great interest in the family?" said Newman.
"A deep interest, sir. Especially in the countess."
"I am glad of that," said Newman. And in a moment he added, smiling: "So do I!"
"We can't help noticing these things and having our ideas; can we, sir?"
"You mean as a servant?" said Newman.
"I believe that when I let my thoughts meddle with such matters I am no longer a servant. But I am so devoted to the countess. If she were my own child, I couldn't love her more. That is how I come to be so bold, sir. They say you want to marry her.'

Newman eyed his interlocutress and satisfied himself that she was not a gossip, but a faithful domestic. "It is quite true," he said. "I want to marry Madame de Cintré."
"And to take her away to America?"
"I will take her wherever she wants to go."
"The farther away the better, sir! exclaimed the old woman with sudden intensity. But she checked herself and, taking up a plate, began to polish it with her black apron. "I don't mean anything against the house or the family, sir."

Henry James, *The American* (Harmonsdworth, Mddlx, England: Penguin Books, 1981 (first pub. 1876-1876)), pp. 229-31.

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Translate the following text into **English**:

La nuit de mon arrivée dans cette ferme du Sahel, je ne pouvais pas dormir. Le pays nouveau, la fatigue du voyage, les aboiements des chiens, puis une chaleur suffocante, me donnaient des heures d'insomnie. Quant j'ouvris ma fenêtre, à l'aube, une brume d'été lourde flottait dans l'air comme un nuage de poudre sur un champs de bataille. Bientôt, une cloche sonna, et au bout d'un moment les ouvriers défilèrent sur la route. A chacun d'eux le fermier, debout devant la porte, distribuait sa tâche de la journée. Quand il eut fini, il leva la tête, scruta le ciel d'un air inquiet ; puis, m'apercevant à la fenêtre :

- Mauvais temps pour la culture, me dit-il . . .

On allait se lever de table, après le déjeuner, quand de grands cris retentirent :

- Les criquets ! les criquets !

Mon hôte devint tout pâle comme un homme à qui on annonce un désastre, et nous sortîmes précipitamment. Pendant dix minutes, ce fut dans l'habitation, si calme tout à l'heure, un bruit de pas précipités, de voix indistinctes . . .

Alphonse Daudet, *Lettres de mon moulin* (Tunis : Maison tunisienne de l'édition, 1990), pp. 399-303.

ترجم(ي) النص التالي إلى الإنجليزية:

عشت في ذاك المنزل عشرين سنة عندما وجدتني مجبرا على مغادرته. جئته صبيًا في السادسة بعد أن سافر أبي إلى الجبهة واستودعني عمّي. كان عمّي كريما وعطوفا فرعاني وعلّمني، بل اعتبرني أخا لابنته الوحيدة التي تصغرني بعامين. فأصبحت أختا لي، وكان لا يرانا الرائي إلا ذاهبين إلى المدرسة أو عائدين منها أو لاعبين في حديقة المنزل أو متحدّثين في المكتبة إلى أن بلغت الرابعة عشرة فلزمت منزلها واستمررت في دراستي. مرّت السنوات عادية إلى أن جاء يوم مرض فيه عمّي وأحسّ بقرب أجله، فقال لزوجته: "إنّ هذا الفتى أصغر من أن يعوّل على نفسه بعدي، فكوني له أمّا كما كنت له أبا."

وإنّي لجالس ذات يوم في غرفتي إذ دخلت عليّ الخادم. تقدّمت منّي مترددة وقالت في خجل: "قد أمرتني سيّدتي أن أقول لك يا سيدي إنّها قد عزمت على تزويج ابنتها قريبا وإنّها ترى أنّ بقاءك في البيت بعد موت أبيها وبلوغكما هذه السن أمر فيه حرج." قلت: "فهمت ما ينبغي أن أفعل." وعندما خرجت، وضعت ثيابي وكتبي في الحقيبة وانسللت من المنزل انسلالا حتّى لا يشعر أحد بمغادرتي.

هكذا فارقت المنزل الذي سعدت فيه برهة من الزمن فراق آدم جنّته.

مصطفى لطفي المنفلوطي، "العبرات" (بيروت: المكتبة الثقافية، د. ت.)،
ص.ص. 10-14. (بتصرّف)