



ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE	Branche : Anglais
Section(s) : B-G	N° d'ordre du candidat :
Date de l'épreuve : REPÊCHAGE (JUIN)	Durée de l'épreuve : 2h

Perils of Merkel's open door for migrants

The Sunday Times Published: 10 January 2016

Europe's migrant crisis, with its tragic drowned children, bedraggled groups of refugees and violent border clashes, was one of the defining themes of 2015. It presents a serious challenge to David Cameron's desire to win backing for Britain's continued membership of the European Union. If this is Europe, many voters will decide they want nothing to do with it.

The migrant crisis presents a more pressing challenge for Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, whose open-door policy towards migrants — her Willkommenskultur — had already faced significant domestic criticism. Now she has some hard questions to answer.

The events in Cologne on New Year's Eve, when some 120 women were sexually assaulted or robbed by men described as Arabic-speaking and of north African appearance, has opened a new front in the debate. Of the 32 men identified by police as suspects in Cologne, 22 were seeking asylum.

It should be said that the men chasing women through Cologne's streets, groping them and demanding sex, represented the tiniest fraction of the 1.1m migrants who entered Germany last year. The overwhelming majority are law-abiding and grateful to their host country. They now fear a backlash.

Symbols are, however, important. And the symbolism of young male asylum seekers treating badly the women of a German city which has been more welcoming than most is tragic. Is this how refugees respond to the country's helping hand? The fact that Cologne's police initially played down the assaults for fear of creating an anti-immigrant backlash has fuelled the mood of suspicion.

When Mrs Merkel announced her open-door policy last year, liberals hailed her. She was applauded at the United Nations general assembly and praised by Bono, the U2 singer, for the "kind of leadership we haven't seen on the global stage for a long, long time". Time magazine made her its person of the year.

It was always clear, however, that her policy was naive. While television coverage concentrated on women and children, the traffic is overwhelmingly young men. Two-thirds of the arrivals registering in Greece and Italy last year were male, rising to 90% among the under-18s. Some were Syrian doctors, scientists and engineers but the vast majority were unskilled. Not all of them were Syrian and many were economic migrants.

Mrs Merkel's safe haven policy acted as a magnet and increased migrant flows, as the EU's eastern members soon discovered. Her "moral imperialism", as the Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orban described it, infuriated other EU countries and may have put an end to the Schengen agreement on open borders, one of Europe's proudest achievements.

The German chancellor now wants legal changes to make it easier to deport asylum seekers who commit crimes. The open-door policy has been modified but not abandoned. While it remains, Europe's migrant problem will persist and probably grow beyond the 1.5m arrivals of last year.

Nobody has yet found a solution to this crisis. Mr Cameron's policy of limiting Syrian refugees to 20,000 over five years, concentrating Britain's support in the camps, assumes there will be a viable state for Syrians to return to. But that, in principle, is preferable to the unlimited migration Mrs Merkel encouraged and for which Germany and the rest of Europe appear to be paying the price. (541 words)



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I. Working with the Text (30 marks)

A) COMPREHENSION (20 marks)

1. How does the author describe the large majority of asylum seekers in Germany? (6)
2. Compare the different reactions to Angela Merkel's open-door policy in Germany and abroad! (10)
3. How has the British Prime Minister decided to tackle the issue? (4)

Use your own words as far as possible to answer the comprehension questions.

B) PERSONAL OPINION (10 marks)

Write your personal view concerning the following topic! Write between 100 and 150 words!

Do you think that the high number of refugees will be beneficial for Europe? Why (not)?

II. ESSAY (30 marks)

Write an essay (between 300 and 400 words) on ONE of the following topics. Indicate your choice CLEARLY and include the word count.

1. "The state calls its own violence law, but that of the individual crime."
Max Stirner (German philosopher)
To what extent do you agree with this statement?
2. Are social media a blessing or a curse? Discuss!
3. Discuss the following quote in the light of global warming:

"Men argue. Nature acts."