

**EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES CLASSIQUES**  
**Sessions 2023 – QUESTIONNAIRE ÉCRIT**

Date :	18.09.23	Durée :	14:15 - 16:45	Numéro candidat :	
Discipline :	Anglais	Section(s) :	CB / CB-4LANG / CC / CC-4LANG / CD / CD-4LANG / CE / CE-4LANG / CE-MATF / CF / CG / CG-4LANG / CG-COMED / CG-URBS / CI		

**TASK 1 – Reading comprehension (10 marks)**

**'Our sisters deserve better': Afghan men quit university jobs after ban on female students<sup>1</sup>**

A Taliban decree against higher education for women – called a 'betrayal of the nation' – has led to male lecturers and student walkouts in solidarity.

Baktash Amini loved his job as an assistant professor in the physics faculty at Kabul University. As well as having a passion for teaching, he took pride in helping his students pursue careers in physics, setting up partnerships with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics and Cern, among others.

But his efforts to further scientific education in Afghanistan seemed **futile** when the Taliban announced that women would be banned from university education. "The night the Taliban closed the doors of universities to Afghan women, I received many messages and calls from my students. I cannot find the words to describe their situation. – (a) – He resigned from his "dream job" on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Prof Amini is among at least 60 Afghan academics who have resigned in protest at the Taliban's **decree** banning women from higher education. "The Taliban have taken women's education hostage to their political benefits. This is betrayal of the nation," says Abdul Raqib Ekleel, an urban development lecturer at Kabul Polytechnic University, who also resigned from his position.

"In the last year and a half, the Taliban have made many irrational demands on female students, such as regulating their clothes, hijab, separate classes, being accompanied by *mahram* [legal male guardian] and the students have **obliged** with all of them. Every professor conducted the same lectures twice every week, once for the male and then for the female students. Despite that, the Taliban still banned the women," says Ekleel.

"These bans are against Islamic values and against national interest. It impacts everyone, not just the women. I could not be part of such a system," he adds.

– (b) – "Today, if my sister and my mother cannot study, what use are these education degrees to me? Here you go, I am tearing my original documents. I was a lecturer and I taught students, but this country is no longer a place for education," said a tearful Ismail Mashal in a clip that has gone viral on social media.

When the presenter asked what he wanted, Mashal said: "Until you allow my sister and mother back into universities, I will not teach."

Even before the Taliban takeover, university was often a challenging environment for Afghan women, who faced harassment and discrimination. "Every day was a struggle to prove that we

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2023/jan/04/afghan-men-quit-university-jobs-after-ban-on-women>  
by Hikmat Noori, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (966 words, adapted)

deserved to be there on campus,” says 23-year-old Samira, a final-year student. “But things have just worsened since the Taliban takeover. – (c) – And now they have completely banned us.”

35 Samira had spent the evening studying for exams when she heard about the ban. “I cannot describe the pain to you. I am in my last semester. I just had a few more months to go before I graduate. I wanted to go out and scream,” she says.

That night, she wrote on a WhatsApp group with her classmates: “Doesn’t anyone care that the future of women of Afghanistan is at stake?”

40 – (d) – In the past year and a half, Afghan women have regularly protested in the streets against the Taliban’s **regressive** policies, despite threats and attacks. However, few men have joined them and have often been criticised for their absence from the demonstrations in an already weakened civil society.

With the ban on women’s higher education, however, men have stepped up: as well as male teaching staff resigning, male students have walked out of classrooms and exam halls in solidarity with female classmates.

45 “We stood up in support of our sisters because we couldn’t tolerate this injustice any more,” says one 19-year-old male student, who participated in the walkouts on 21<sup>st</sup> December along with dozens of other students from Nangarhar University.

50 Similar protests were reported in other provinces – including Kabul, Kandahar and Ghazni – with hundreds of students and lecturers staging walkouts and chanting slogans of “all or none”, demanding women be allowed back on to campuses.

“Our sisters are talented and deserve better, but also such bans on education will have a very negative, irreversible impact on our society. This is why we [Afghan men] need to speak up now,” the student from Nangarhar adds.

– (e) –

55 However, the Taliban’s brutal reaction to **dissent** discouraged many from taking action. One of the few academics who dared to speak out was Prof Faizullah Jalal, who was arrested in January last year.

60 “Previously, we wanted to demonstrate against decisions that were unjust towards our sisters. We had created groups to mobilise classmates to raise our voice, but then the Taliban found out about it and sent threats to all the group admins, and I had no option but to keep silent,” the student from Nangarhar says.

But, as the situation worsens in Afghanistan, men, particularly in academia, are now questioning their silence. “University professors cannot pick up a gun and stand against the Taliban and their decision. In any other democratic society, civil movements are one of the ways to fight,” says Ekleel.

65 “Even though there is no justice or democracy under the Taliban, the women have been protesting since the Taliban arrival, protecting our values all by themselves. I think it is our duty to stand with them.

**EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES CLASSIQUES**  
**Sessions 2023 – QUESTIONNAIRE ÉCRIT**

Date :		Durée :		Numéro candidat :	
Discipline :	Error! Unknown document property name.- Error! Unknown document property name.	Section(s) :	Error! Unknown document property name.		

**I. Insert sentences into the text (-1 per wrong or missing answer)**

***Choose which sentences (1-7) best fit into the gaps (a-e) in the text. Write the correct numbers into the box below. There are two sentences which you do not need to use.***

1. On Tuesday, Afghanistan’s ministry of higher education issued a letter to all government and private universities, ordering an indefinite ban on university education for women.
2. I am an academic and the only way I could express protest was by leaving a system that discriminates against women,” he says.
3. Another lecturer at Kabul University tore up his degrees and education documents on national television.
4. Many of her female classmates were already mobilising via social media, discussing ways to protest against the ban.
5. The world must reject, as Afghans have, that this is about culture or religion.
6. They kept restricting every movement, even asking questions to a male professor was forbidden.
7. Dissatisfaction at increasingly regressive policies and an environment of fear created by the Taliban was already high among Afghan academics.

***Write your answers here:***

Gap in text :	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
Sentence :					

**II. Vocabulary – multiple choice (-1 per wrong or missing answer)**

***Circle the best option – a, b or c. There is only ONE correct answer per example.***

1. The expression ‘futile’ (line 7) is closest in meaning to...
  - a) inappropriate
  - b) ineffective
  - c) useful

2. The expression 'decree' (line 13) is closest in meaning to...
- a) information
  - b) advice
  - c) law
3. The expression 'to oblige with' (line 18) is closest in meaning to...
- a) to reject
  - b) to agree with
  - c) to follow
4. The expression 'regressive' (line 39) is closest in meaning to...
- a) unprogressive
  - b) revolutionary
  - c) intimidating
5. The expression 'dissent' (line 55) is closest in meaning to...
- a) opposition
  - b) change
  - c) violence

### III. True / False / Not Stated (-1 per wrong or missing answer)

**Decide if the statements are True (T), False (F) or Not Stated (NS) in the text. For each statement, circle T, F or NS.**

- 
- |  |          |          |           |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Men from all sections of Afghan society resist and push back against the Taliban.                                     | <b>T</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>NS</b> |
| 2. Keeping girls out of schools exposes them to heightened anxiety, and greater risk of exploitation and abuse.          | <b>T</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>NS</b> |
| 3. Afghan men mostly refrained from resistance due to fear of the Taliban.   | <b>T</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>NS</b> |
| 4. Since the Taliban took over, many women have protested despite the threat of violence.                                | <b>T</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>NS</b> |
| 5. Many women never followed the regulations on wearing hijabs or not being allowed to join lectures with male students. | <b>T</b> | <b>F</b> | <b>NS</b> |

**TASK 2 – Reading into writing (20 marks)**

*You are going to read two texts on the effects of veganism on the environment.*

**Text 1 : Veganism Might Not Be the Most Sustainable Diet<sup>2</sup>**

As governments drag their feet in responding to climate change, many concerned people are looking for actions that they can take as individuals—and eating less meat is an obvious place to start. Livestock today account for about 14.5 percent of global greenhouse-gas emissions.

For people alarmed about climate change, giving up meat altogether can seem like the only option. But is it? A growing body of research suggests that the world could, in fact, raise enough beef, pork, chicken, and other meat to let anyone who wants to eat a modest portion of meat a few times a week—and do so sustainably. Indeed, it turns out that a world with some animal agriculture might have a smaller environmental footprint than an entirely vegan world. The catch is that hitting the environmental sweet spot would require big changes in the way we raise livestock—and, for most of us in the wealthy West, a diet with considerably less meat than we eat today.

One big reason for meat's outsized environmental impact is that it's more efficient for people to eat plants directly than to feed them to livestock. But two-thirds of the world's agricultural lands are grazing lands, many of which are too steep, arid, or marginal to be suitable for crops. "That land cannot be used for any other food-growing purpose other than the use of ruminant livestock," says Frank Mitloehner, an animal scientist at UC Davis.

Livestock can also use crop wastes such as the bran and germ left over when wheat is milled to white flour, or the soy meal left over after pressing the beans for oil.

The problem is that a world entirely without meat would require about one-third more cropland—and, therefore, more energy-intensive fertilizer, pesticides, and tractor fuel—to feed everyone, says Hannah van Zanten, a sustainable-food-systems researcher at Wageningen University, in the Netherlands.

Livestock also bring other benefits. Meat provides balanced protein and other nutrients, such as iron and vitamin B12 that are more difficult to get from a vegan diet, especially for poorer people who can't always afford a variety of fresh vegetables and other nutritious foods, says Matin Qaim, an agricultural economist at the University of Bonn in Germany.

Moreover, many of the world's natural grasslands have evolved in the presence of grazers, which play a key role in ecosystem function. Where those native grazers—the vanished bison from the American prairies, for example—no longer dominate, domestic livestock can fill the same role.

For all these reasons, some experts say, the world is better off with some meat and dairy than it would be with none at all—though clearly, a sustainable livestock system would have to be much different, and smaller, than the one we have today.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://knowablemagazine.org/article/food-environment/2022/how-much-meat-can-we-eat-sustainably>

by Bob Holmes, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022 (adapted, 497 words)

**Text 2: Veganism is 'single biggest way' to reduce our environmental impact, study finds<sup>3</sup>**

Eating a vegan diet could be the “single biggest way” to reduce your environmental impact on earth, a new study suggests.

Researchers at the University of Oxford found that cutting meat and dairy products from your diet could reduce an individual's carbon footprint from food by up to 73 per cent.

If everyone stopped eating these foods, they found that global farmland use could be reduced by 75 per cent, an area equivalent to the size of the US, China, Australia and the EU combined.

Not only would this result in a significant drop in greenhouse gas emissions, it would also free up wild land lost to agriculture, one of the primary causes for mass wildlife extinction.

The new study, published in the journal *Science*, is one of the most comprehensive analyses to date, looking into the detrimental effects farming can have on the environment and included data on nearly 40,000 farms in 119 countries.

The findings reveal that meat and dairy production is responsible for 60 per cent of agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions, while the products themselves providing just 18 per cent of calories and 37 per cent of protein levels around the world.

Researchers examined a total of 40 agricultural products in the study, covering 90 per cent of all food that is eaten. They looked at how each of these impacted the environment by analysing climate change emissions, water pollution and air pollution.

Lead author Joseph Poore said: “A vegan diet is probably the single biggest way to reduce your impact on planet Earth, not just greenhouse gases, but global acidification, *eutrophication*\*, land use and water use.”

“It is far bigger than cutting down on your flights or buying an electric car,” he explained, which would only reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“Avoiding consumption of animal products delivers far better environmental benefits than trying to purchase sustainable meat and dairy,” he added.

The research also looked into the different techniques used to produce the same foods and found vast distinctions in terms of environmental impacts.

For example, beef cattle reared on natural pastures used 50 times less land than those raised on deforested land.

The latter can lead to up to 12 times more greenhouse gas emissions by comparison.

This starkly contrasts with emissions of greenhouse gases released as a result of plant-based protein production for items such as tofu and peas.

Poore also explained that even production methods which are thought of as sustainable, such as freshwater fish farming and grass-fed beef, can pose environmental problems.

“Converting grass into meat is like converting coal to energy. It comes with an immense cost in emissions.”

Poore's research is the result of a five-year-long project, which initially began as an investigation into sustainable meat and dairy production.

He stopped eating animal products altogether himself after the first year.

\**eutrophication* : the process of too many plants growing on the surface of a river, lake, etc.

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/veganism-environmental-impact-planet-reduced-plant-based-diet-humans-study-a8378631.html> by Olivia Petter, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (adapted, 492 words)

**Writing task**

Write a structured **analysis** of **200-250 words** in which you do the following:

- Compare and contrast the overall points of view expressed in the two texts (referring to 2-3 main arguments put forward in each text).

Your analysis must represent  $\pm 2/3$  of your answer, i.e.  $\pm 140-170$  words.

- Explain which point of view you agree with more, and why. If you agree with both or neither, explain why.

Your personal opinion must represent  $\pm 1/3$  of your answer, i.e. 60-80 words.

Use your **own words** as far as possible. Do not copy from the texts, except for short quotes (with quotation marks) to support your statements.

Indicate your word count at the end.

**TASK 3: Essay writing (30 marks)**

***Write a well-structured essay of between 300 and 400 words on ONE of the topics below. Indicate your choice of topic clearly and include the word count.***

1. Should drug addicts be treated like criminals? Discuss.
2. In many states of the USA, abortion has been banned in 2023. Should women have the right to abort? Discuss.
3. Some people think that social networking sites have negative effects on society. Discuss.