



EXAMEN DE FIN D'ÉTUDES SECONDAIRES CLASSIQUES Sessions 2022

DISCIPLINE	SECTION(S)	ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE	
Anglais	CB / CC / CD / CE / CF CG / CI	Date de l'épreuve :	18.05.22
		Durée de l'épreuve :	14:15 - 16:55
		Numéro du candidat :	
Partie obligatoire			
Question	Nb points	Sujet	Obligatoire
Task 1	10	Climate Crisis	x
Task 2	20	Xenotransplants	x
Partie au choix			
Choisissez <u>une</u> question parmi les quatre suivantes et indiquez votre choix avec un x.			
Question	Nb points	Sujet	Choix du candidat
Task 3	30	1. Food Waste	
Task 3	30	2. Eating Disorders	
Task 3	30	3. Family Relationships	
Task 3	30	4. Gun Violence	

Task 1: Reading comprehension (10 marks)

Bill Gates is the biggest private owner of farmland in the United States. Why?¹

5 Bill Gates has never been a farmer. So why did the Land Report dub him “Farmer Bill” this year? The third richest man on the planet doesn’t have a green thumb. **_(a)_** That kind of hard work isn’t what made him rich. Gates’ achievement, according to the report, is that he’s the largest private owner of farmland in the US. A 2018 purchase of 14,500 acres of prime eastern Washington farmland – which is traditional Yakama territory – for \$171m helped him get that title.

In total, Gates owns approximately 242,000 acres of farmland with assets totalling to more than \$690m. To put that into perspective, that’s nearly the size of Hong Kong and twice the acreage of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, where I’m an enrolled member. A white man owns more farmland than my entire Native nation! But why do a handful of people own so much land?

10 Land is power, land is wealth, and, more importantly, land is about race and class. The relationship to land – who owns it, who works it and who cares for it – reflects obscene levels of inequality and legacies of colonialism and white supremacy in the United States, and the world. Wealth accumulation always goes hand-in-hand with exploitation and dispossession. In this country, enslaved Black labour first built US wealth atop stolen Native land. The 1862 Homestead Act opened

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/apr/05/bill-gates-climate-crisis-farmland> by Nick Estes, 5th April 2021 (898 words, adapted)

15 up 270m acres of Indigenous territory – which amounts to 10% of US land – for white settlement. Black, Mexican, Asian, and Native people, of course, were categorically excluded from the benefits of a federal program that subsidized and protected generations of white wealth.

The billionaire media mogul Ted Turner **epitomizes** such disparities. He owns 2m acres and has the world's largest privately owned buffalo herd. Those animals, which are sacred to my people and
20 were nearly hunted to extinction by settlers, are preserved today on nearly 200,000 acres of Turner's ranch land within the boundaries of the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty territory in the western half of what is now the state of South Dakota, land that was once guaranteed by the US government to be a "permanent home" for Lakota people. The gun and the whip may not accompany land
25 acquisitions this time around. But billionaire class assertions that they are philosopher kings and climate-conscious investors who know better than the original caretakers are little more than ruses for what amounts to a 21st century land grab – with big pay-outs in a for-profit economy seeking "green" solutions.

Our era is dominated by the ultra-rich, the climate crisis and a **burgeoning** green capitalism. And Bill Gates' new book *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster* positions himself as a thought leader in how to
30 stop putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and how to fund what he has called a "global green revolution" to help poor farmers mitigate climate change. **_(b)_**

When pressed during a book discussion on Reddit about why he's gobbling up so much farmland, Gates claimed, "It is not connected to climate [change]." The decision, he said, came from his "investment group." Cascade Investment, the firm making these acquisitions, is controlled by Gates.
35 And the firm said it's "very supportive of sustainable farming". It is also a shareholder in the plant-based protein companies Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods as well as the farming equipment manufacturer John Deere.

Arable land is not just profitable. There's a more cynical calculation. **_(c)_** And while Bill Gates **frets about** eating cheeseburgers in his book – for the amount of greenhouse gases the meat industry
40 produces largely for the consumption of rich countries – his massive carbon footprint has little to do with his personal diet and is not forgivable by simply buying more land to **sequester** more carbon.

The world's richest 1% emit double the carbon of the poorest 50%, a 2020 Oxfam study found. According to Forbes, the world's billionaires saw their wealth swell by \$1.9tn in 2020, while more than 22 million US workers (mostly women) lost their jobs.

45 Like wealth, land ownership is becoming concentrated into fewer and fewer hands, resulting in a greater push for monocultures and more intensive industrial farming techniques to generate greater returns. 1% of the world's farms control 70% of the world's farmlands, one report found. The biggest shift in recent years from small to big farms was in the US.

50 The principal danger of private farmland owners like Bill Gates is not their professed support of sustainable agriculture often found in philanthropic work – it's the monopolistic role they play in determining our food systems and land use patterns.

55 **_(d)_** For Indigenous caretakers, land use isn't premised on a return of investments; it's about maintaining the land for the next generation, meeting the needs of the present, and a respect for the diversity of life. That's why lands still managed by Indigenous peoples worldwide protect and **sustain** 80% of the world's biodiversity, and practice anathema* to industrial agriculture.

60 The average person has nothing in common with mega-landowners like Bill Gates or Ted Turner. The land we all live on should not be the sole property of a few. The extensive tax avoidance by these titans of industry will always far exceed their supposed charitable donations to the public. The "billionaire knows best" mentality detracts from the deep-seated realities of colonialism and white supremacy, and it ignores those who actually know best how to use and live with the land. **_(e)_**

* anathema: something or someone that one vehemently dislikes

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**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. Investment firms are making the argument farmlands will meet “carbon-neutral” targets for sustainable investment portfolios while anticipating an increase of agricultural productivity and revenue.
2. Nor does he put in the back-breaking labour that humble people do to grow our food and who get far less praise for it.
3. His firm’s largest farmland acquisition happened in 2017, when it acquired 61 farming properties from a Canadian investment firm to the tune of \$500m.
4. These billionaires have nothing to offer us in terms of saving the planet.
5. What expertise in climate science or agriculture Gates possesses beyond being filthy rich is anyone’s guess.
6. The United States is defined by the excesses of its ruling class.
7. Small farmers and Indigenous people are more cautious with the use of land.

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 ‘to epitomize’ (line 18) is closest in meaning to...
 - a) to sum up
 - b) to be a perfect example of
 - c) to explain or make clear
2. The expression ‘burgeoning’ (line 28) is closest in meaning to...
 - a) growing rapidly
 - b) intensifying
 - c) engendering
3. The expression ‘to fret about’ (line 38) is closest in meaning to...
 - a) to complain about
 - b) to express worry about
 - c) to boast about

4. The expression 'to sequester' (line 41) is closest in meaning to...

- a) to separate
- b) to emit
- c) to capture

5. The expression 'to sustain' (line 55) is closest in meaning to...

- a) to verify
- b) to own
- c) to maintain

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.

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- | | | | |
|---|---|---|----|
| 1. People who aim to increase their capital always tend to take advantage of others and deprive them of property or possession. | T | F | NS |
| 2. Farmland can be used to reduce the effects of climate change and many investors have to meet zero emissions targets. | T | F | NS |
| 3. Investors are arguing that they are buying land in the interest of making our world greener, but their claims are merely a ploy to obtain more land which can eventually benefit them financially. | T | F | NS |
| 4. The author states that there is an upside to investors taking over the majority of farmland since their main focus lies in improving productivity and sustainability. | T | F | NS |
| 5. Bill Gates' acquisition of all this land has blinded people to the realities of the ongoing inequalities and discrimination. | T | F | NS |
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Task 2: Reading into writing (20 marks)

You are going to read two texts in which the authors tackle the issue of xenotransplants.

Text 1: In a First, Man Receives a Heart from a Genetically Altered Pig²

A 57-year-old man with life-threatening heart disease has received a heart from a genetically modified pig, a ground-breaking procedure that offers hope to hundreds of thousands of patients with failing organs.

It is the first successful transplant of a pig's heart into a human being. "It creates the pulse, it creates the pressure, it is his heart," said Dr. Bartley Griffith, the director of the cardiac transplant program at the medical centre, who performed the operation. "It's working and it looks normal. We are thrilled, but we don't know what tomorrow will bring us. This has never been done before."

Last year, some 41,354 Americans received a transplanted organ according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, a non-profit that coordinates the nation's organ procurement efforts. But there is an acute shortage of organs, and about a dozen people on the lists die each day. Some 3,817 Americans received human donor hearts last year as replacements, more than ever before, but the potential demand is still higher.

Scientists have worked feverishly to develop pigs whose organs would not be rejected by the human body, research accelerated in the past decade by new gene editing and cloning technologies. Researchers hope procedures like this will usher in a new era in medicine in the future when replacement organs are no longer in short supply for the more than half a million Americans who are waiting for kidneys and other organs.

"This is a watershed event," said Dr. David Klassen, the chief medical officer of the United Network for Organ Sharing and a transplant physician. "Doors are starting to open that will lead to major changes in how we treat organ failure."

Mr. Bennett decided to gamble on the experimental treatment because he would have died without a new heart, had exhausted other treatments and was too sick to qualify for a human donor heart, family members and doctors said.

The new heart is functioning and already doing most of the work, and his doctors said he could be taken off the machine soon. Mr. Bennett is being closely monitored for signs that his body is rejecting the new organ, but the first 48 hours, which are critical, passed without incident.

He is also being monitored for infections, including porcine retrovirus, a pig virus that may be transmitted to humans, although the risk is considered low.

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/10/health/heart-transplant-pig-bennett.html> by Roni Caryn Rabin, 10th January 2022 (507 words, adapted)

Pigs offer advantages over primates for organ procurements, because they are easier to raise and achieve adult human size in six months. Pig heart valves are routinely transplanted into humans, and some patients with diabetes have received porcine pancreas cells. Pig skin has also been used as a temporary graft for burn patients.

Dr. Jay Fishman, the associate director of the transplantation center at Massachusetts General Hospital, said that using pig organs provides the ability to perform genetic manipulations, the time to carry out better screening for infectious diseases, and the possibility of a new organ at the time that the patient needs it.

“There are challenges for sure, but also opportunities,” he said.

Text 2: Pigs Aren't Spare Parts!³

Reports regarding the first heart and kidney transplants from genetically altered pigs into humans should serve as reminders that animal-to-human transplants are unethical, dangerous, and a tremendous waste of resources that could be used to fund research that might actually help humans. The risk of transmitting unknown viruses during such procedures is real and, in the time of a pandemic, should be enough to end these studies forever. Animals aren't tool-sheds to be raided—they're complex, intelligent individuals. Pigs, for example, communicate using specific oinks, grunts, or squeals when trying to woo a mate or express hunger—and mother pigs sing to their babies while nursing, just as many human mums do. The only right thing to do—and the healthiest option for humans—is to leave pigs and other living, feeling beings alone and seek cures using modern science. And for patients in desperate need of organs, presumed consent laws would make human organs far more available.

News stories about the latest pig kidney xenotransplantation stunt often leave readers in the dark about the truth behind this so-called “transplant” procedure. Experimenters used a brain-dead patient on a ventilator, not a person with kidney disease. And the pig's kidney was attached via blood vessels to the outside of the patient's body, where it stayed for only 54 hours.

Pigs and other animals used for xenotransplantation are genetically engineered and subjected to a lifetime of confinement and almost unimaginably painful procedures before being killed, all without their consent.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, public health experts—including a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention researcher and researchers with the World Health Organization—raised concerns about the potential of xenotransplantation to spread infectious pathogens. These transplants are dangerous to humans, as pigs carry viruses and other infectious pathogens that could potentially be introduced into human populations.

³ <https://www.peta.org/blog/pig-kidney-attached-human-problems-frankenscience/> by Danny Prater, 23rd January 2022 (498 words, adapted)

In addressing the issue of too few donated organs to match human needs, some experts have also noted the high public health risks of using organs from other species compared to the zero public health risk associated with making simple policy changes aimed at increasing organ donations.

The ethical concerns of animals being used as warehouses for spare parts were brought into sharp relief after a whistleblower from the University of Alabama–Birmingham shared troubling reports that baboons were subjected to agonizing kidney and heart transplants using pigs' organs.

Another whistleblower from Columbia University leaked protocols to PETA, documenting that baboons and macaques were caged alone, subjected to multiple major survival surgeries, numerous biopsies, and repeated blood draws.

In some experiments, the animals at Columbia were kept alive for up to 360 days following transplantation and then finally killed. The experimenters listed these potential side effects: severe gastrointestinal symptoms, severe diarrhoea, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, anaemia, weight loss, untreatable viral disease, bacteraemia, severe infection, unrelieved pain, uncontrollable bleeding, and maculopapular rash.

Human organs are still the best hope, and presumed consent laws would make enough available to help people in need of a transplant.

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. 'Food waste is an atrocity that is reducible, if not completely avoidable.' – Stephen Hough
To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
2. A significant number of people suffer from eating disorders.
What are the reasons for this and what can society do to prevent such disorders?
3. Too many parents make life hard for their children by trying, too obsessively, to make it easy for them. Discuss.
4. Evil does not exist within a gun. It exists in the hearts and minds of those who pull the trigger for evil purposes.
To what extent do you agree?