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| ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE | Branche : Anglais |
| Section(s) : B, C, D, E, F, G | N° d'ordre du candidat : |
| Date de l'épreuve : 24th May 2016 | Durée de l'épreuve : 120 minutes |

As Germany Welcomes Migrants, Sexual Attacks in Cologne Point to a New Reality

In early December, the Cologne police made their New Year's Eve preparations. Drawing on the previous year's experience, they identified their biggest worry as pickpocketing and fireworks among the crowds. So they increased their holiday deployment, to 142 from 88, concentrating on the banks of the Rhine River, where revellers traditionally gather for a giant fireworks display.

As 2016 neared on December 31, however, some 1,500 men, including some newly arrived asylum seekers and many other immigrants, had instead assembled around Cologne's train station. Drunk and dismissive of the police, they took advantage of an overwhelmed force to sexually assault and rob hundreds of people, according to police reports, shocking Germany and stoking anxieties over absorbing refugees across Europe.

Much is still hazy about that night. But the police reports and the testimony of officials and victims suggest that the officers failed to anticipate the new realities of a Germany that is now host to up to a million asylum seekers, most from war-torn Muslim countries unfamiliar with its culture.

Working from outdated expectations, the police made a series of miscalculations that, officials acknowledge, allowed the situation to deteriorate. At the same time, both the police and victims say, it was not a situation any of them had encountered before. This was new terrain for all, and just one taste of the challenges facing Germany and its leader, Chancellor Angela Merkel, to assimilate a huge new population in an atmosphere of dwindling tolerance and volatile politics.

According to the police reports, the precinct closest to the station received 30 to 50 complaints of sexual assault and theft in the first hour of the New Year. Women who came to the precinct were crying; several of them left when the sole female officer available could not quickly note their complaint. Later that morning, an initial news release from the police described the evening's events as "peaceful." It is still not clear, as many in the public have since charged, whether the police were covering up their failings, or the fact that migrants were involved, or whether it simply took several days for the full scope of the assaults to come to light.

So far, the police have received 653 complaints of robberies and sexual assaults, and several rapes. The hope now is that surveillance videos from the police and state railway cameras in the station, from nearby businesses and hotels, and above all from cell phones will help to identify the perpetrators. Of 19 suspects so far identified by name by the Cologne police, 10 were asylum seekers and the other nine were believed to be in Germany illegally, according to a report. None were registered as living in Cologne, and four are now in custody for robberies committed during the New Year's events. An additional 32 suspects have been identified by the federal police, including 22 asylum seekers but also three Germans and an American, among others, the report said.

Fully unravelling the Cologne events is expected to take several weeks, however. The police are also examining whether similar events reported from other cities — Hamburg, with over 100 complaints, but also Stuttgart, Frankfurt and Nuremberg — are connected, or even organized.

(543 words) - *Adapted from a New York Times article by Alison Smale published on Jan. 14, 2016*

I. Working with the text (30 marks)

A. Comprehension (20 marks)

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

- 1) Why are the facts about the sexual attacks in Cologne still “hazy”? (6m)
- 2) What is meant by Germany’s “new realities”? (4m)
- 3) To what extent are the police blamed for the events of December 31, 2015? (10m)

B. Personal opinion (10 marks)

Subject: What could be the long-term consequences of the sexual attacks in Cologne?

Word limit: 100 – 150 words.

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. “Despite the apparent success of the recent climate summit in Paris, we are fighting a losing battle.” Do you agree with this statement?
2. Are men becoming the weaker sex?
3. Have Western lifestyles changed as a result of the recent terrorist attacks?