

UNIT 2 – THE BRITISH MONARCHY

TEXT TO STUDY - CORRECTION

READING & WRITING (like for « MINES-PONTS » exam)

Durée de l'épreuve : 1 heure 30 minutes

L'emploi de tout document (dictionnaires, imprimés, ...) et de tout appareil (traductrices, calculatrices électroniques, ...) est interdit dans cette épreuve.

Cette épreuve est commune aux candidats des filières MP, PC et PSI.

L'épreuve de langue vivante est constituée d'un exercice d'expression écrite qui consiste à répondre à deux questions, et d'un thème.

La première question est notée sur 4.

La deuxième question est notée sur 8.

Le thème est noté sur 8.

La réponse à la première question devra comporter 80 mots plus ou moins 10 %.

La réponse à la deuxième question devra comporter 180 mots plus ou moins 10 %.

Dans les deux questions de l'exercice d'expression écrite, le candidat indiquera le nombre de mots employés dans sa réponse.

Le non-respect des limites indiquées sera sanctionné.

Les références et les titres du thème, lorsqu'ils existent, ne sont pas à traduire.

Pour faciliter la correction de l'épreuve, les candidats écriront leur texte toutes les deux lignes.

Expression écrite

A rising tide of anti-royal sentiment thrusts a British throne without Elizabeth into precarious territory, particularly when her successor happens to be her **less popular, long socially awkward son Charles**.

Royal-watchers say the situation raises questions about the future of the monarchy and how, or whether, it can continue to hold its sovereign sway. At the least, they say, Charles will have to streamline an organization that controls vast numbers of estates, castles and treasures. And as Britain faces high inflation and other economic woes, members of the extended family need to be seen as paying their own way, the analysts say.

Moreover, the new king **will face mounting demands from the descendants of Britain's colonial lands who seek justice, apologies and reparations for the brutality of British settlers and enslavement of untold thousands of Black people and others.**(...)

The British monarchy is an institution that has existed for more than a millennium in one form or another and has survived cataclysmic wars and tectonic political shifts. It evolves. (...)

Elizabeth's greatest success was to continually justify the monarchy by using it to encapsulate the values Britons wanted to hold dear and believe in — stoicism, dignity, service — and then reflected back on them, said Katie Hindmarch-Watson, a historian at Johns Hopkins University.

Whether Charles can re-create the "fantasy and aspirational character" of the monarchy that secured Elizabeth is an open question, Hindmarch-Watson said.

"Will it work in 2022 the way it did in 1953? Will it do that magical trick of **turning Charles into a national figure and mascot of values?**" she said. "Or will it highlight the artifice of the monarchy, its oddness in modern society in a purported democracy?" (...)

On one hand, the family and its working members are engaged in a variety of charitable causes. At the same time, **the image of an aristocratic clan that jet-sets around the world and lives in palaces and castles clashes with that of everyday Britons struggling with skyrocketing energy costs and inflation that has left the nation on the verge of recession.**

It is difficult to say with precision how much the royal family costs the British public. The palace says each Briton pays about a pound a year (about \$1.16) to sustain the monarchy, a total of roughly \$80 million a year. But anti-royalists insist the annual cost is five times that. A 2015 analysis by Reuters estimated the family's assets to be worth nearly \$35 billion.

Polls before Elizabeth's death have shown continued support for the monarchy, but those campaigning to do away with it and replace it with a republic believe they may have an opening with the ascension of Charles.

Adapted from www.latimes.com, 09/09/2022

Question 1

According to the article, what are the challenges and weaknesses of King Charles III? Answer the question in your own words. (80 words, +/-10%)

Éléments de réponse extraits du texte	Paragraphe	Remarques
1. "less popular, long socially awkward son Charles."	Being less cherished by Britons, the new monarch's main challenge is to replace his mum in the nation's heart. To do so, he will have to embody values to represent his people with as much panache.	Utiliser des synonymes (1)
2. "will face mounting demands from the descendants of Britain's colonial lands who seek justice, apologies and reparations for the brutality of British settlers and enslavement of untold thousands of Black people and others."	Internationally speaking, the King must meet the expectations of the former British Empire's citizens awaiting both a recognition of their ancestors' suffering and compensations.	Dire les choses différemment (3) (4)
3. "Whether Charles can re-create the "fantasy and aspirational character" of the monarchy that secured Elizabeth	In the United Kingdom, the daunting task is to make do with his relatives' lavish lifestyle while his subjects go through a galloping inflation.	(2)
4. turning Charles into a national figure and mascot of values		(5)
5. the image of an aristocratic clan that jet-sets around the world and lives in palaces and castles clashes with that of everyday Britons struggling with skyrocketing energy costs and inflation that has left the nation on the verge of recession.		Il faut souvent trouver un moyen de donner des faits de façon plus concise.
		Tous les éléments de réponses donnés dans le texte doivent apparaître.
		88 words

Question 2

In your opinion, why was Queen Elizabeth's death widely covered by the media? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples. (180 words, ± 10 %).

- Raisons
- Dimension internationale et quantité de reportages, articles, vidéos sur l'événement.
- Exemples mettant en avant votre culture générale.

Introduction

Plan

I. An internationally renowned Queen

- Length of her reign (longest reign of a British monarch)
- Head of state of 56 countries since she was at the Head of the Commonwealth of Nations.
- 90% of the world's population is said to have known this British monarch only.
→ transition: the media coverage illustrates her international celebrity. Her death thus may have an impact worldwide.

II. A powerful monarch due to the sense of stability / constancy she provided.

- Multiple titles among which Commander in chief, Head of the Anglican church.
- Embodied stability since she lived through the second world war, the cold war and underwent many family debacles, yet, always found the right words to make her people move forward.
- Embodied stability unlike the long list of PMs and heads of states she convened in Buckingham palace, 15 PMs — Liz Truss being the last and 10 French Presidents.
→ transition: Therefore, reporters and journalists across the world consider her death as a turning point.

III. A way to assess her legacy and question what may happen next.

- In her unfashionable style, her reassuring figure paradoxically incarnated the power of Britain to constantly adapt to changing times while being anchored in the past.
- As the world is currently entering a new era due to the war in Ukraine which has triggered a new Cold War, the media try to spot signs of the impact of her death.
- The issue at stake is whether the new monarch will be accepted by the British people and the members of the Commonwealth or whether it will entail profound changes worldwide.
- Some of them are said to have been waiting for her death to quit the Commonwealth. This is the case of Australia – Albanese sworn in an assistant minister for the republic 4 months ago.
- Will the British want to do without a monarch so as to save money spent on castles, international travels, you name it, while going through a period of recession?

Conclusion

The media seized this historical event to shed light on what the world was until September 8th, 2022 and what it could become.