

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.

How Your Brain Tricks You Into Believing Fake News

Sitting in front of a computer not long ago, a tenured history professor faced a challenge that billions of us do every day: deciding whether to believe something on the Internet. On his screen was an article published by a group called the American College of Pediatricians that discussed how to handle bullying in schools. Among the advice it offered: schools shouldn't highlight particular groups targeted by bullying because doing so might call attention to "temporarily confused adolescents."

What the professor never realized as he focused on the page's superficial features is that the group in question is a socially conservative splinter faction that broke in 2002 from the mainstream American Academy of Pediatrics over the issue of adoption by same-sex couples. It has been accused of promoting antigay policies, and the Southern Poverty Law Center designates it as a hate group.

Trust was the issue at hand. The bookish professor had been asked to assess the article as part of an experiment run by Stanford University psychologist Sam Wineburg. His team, known as the Stanford History Education Group is trying to answer two of the most vexing questions of the Internet age: Why are even the smartest among us so bad at making judgments about what to trust on the web? And how can we get better?

Wineburg's team has found that Americans of all ages, from digitally savvy tweens to high-IQ academics, fail to ask important questions about content they encounter on a browser, adding to research on our online gullibility. Other studies have shown that people retweet links without clicking on them and rely too much on search engines. A 2016 Pew poll found that nearly a quarter of Americans said they had shared a made-up news story. In his experiments, MIT cognitive scientist David Rand has found that, on average, people are inclined to believe false news at least 20% of the time. "We are all driving cars, but none of us have licenses," Wineburg says of consuming information online.

Our inability to parse truth from fiction on the Internet is, of course, more than an academic matter. The scourge of "fake news" and its many cousins—from clickbait to "deep fakes" (realistic-looking videos showing events that never happened)—have experts fearful for the future of democracy. Politicians and technologists have warned that meddlers are trying to manipulate elections around the globe by spreading disinformation.

But the stakes are even bigger than elections. Our ability to vet information matters every time a mother asks Google whether her child should be vaccinated and every time a kid encounters a Holocaust denial on Twitter. In India, false rumors about child kidnappings that spread on WhatsApp have prompted mobs to beat innocent people to death. “It’s the equivalent of a public-health crisis,” says Alan Miller, founder of the nonpartisan News Literacy Project.

There is no quick fix, though tech companies are under increasing pressure to come up with solutions. Facebook lost more than \$120 billion in stock value in a single day in July as the company dealt with a range of issues limiting its growth, including criticism about how conspiracy theories spread on the platform. But engineers can’t teach machines to decide what is true or false in a world where humans often don’t agree.

BY **KATY STEINMETZ**, TIME MAGAZINE, AUGUST 9, 2018

EXPRESSION

Question 1: According to the journalist, why does fake news spread so quickly? Answer the questions in your own words. (80 words; +/- 10%)

Question 2: In your opinion, is fake news a threat to democracy? (180 words; +/- 10%)

THEME

Je m’assis et lui avouai que, malgré mes efforts, nos conversations n’avaient jamais pu prendre un tour personnel. Miranda semblait exaspérée :

- Je suis sa fille unique, je l’aime mais je ne sais rien de lui. Quoique son comportement ait été exemplaire, mon père demeure un inconnu. Voici mon seul reproche : il aura tout fait pour moi sauf me dire qui il était.

De son panier, elle extirpa un encombrant album. Sur les clichés de groupe souriait une famille constituée de quatre personnes. Lorsque Miranda eut cinq ans, Édith disparut.

- Qu’est-il arrivé à votre mère?
- Une tumeur au cerveau. Que remarquez-vous ? s’exclama-t-elle, brutale.
- Euh...il n’y a pas de photographies datant de l’enfance de votre père.
- Ses parents sont morts. Il ne voulait jamais en parler, ainsi que beaucoup de Juifs dont la famille a été assassinée ... J’ignore tout de mes grands-parents, oncles et tantes. Lui seul a survécu.

Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt, *Les deux messieurs de Bruxelles*, 2012