

SESSION 2015

**AGRÉGATION
CONCOURS EXTERNE**

**Section : LANGUES VIVANTES ÉTRANGÈRES
ANGLAIS**

COMMENTAIRE DE TEXTE EN ANGLAIS

Durée : 6 heures

L'usage de tout ouvrage de référence, de tout dictionnaire et de tout matériel électronique (y compris la calculatrice) est rigoureusement interdit.

Dans le cas où un(e) candidat(e) repère ce qui lui semble être une erreur d'énoncé, il (elle) le signale très lisiblement sur sa copie, propose la correction et poursuit l'épreuve en conséquence.

De même, si cela vous conduit à formuler une ou plusieurs hypothèses, il vous est demandé de la (ou les) mentionner explicitement.

NB : La copie que vous rendrez ne devra, conformément au principe d'anonymat, comporter aucun signe distinctif, tel que nom, signature, origine, etc. Si le travail qui vous est demandé comporte notamment la rédaction d'un projet ou d'une note, vous devrez impérativement vous abstenir de signer ou de l'identifier.

Tournez la page S.V.P.

[...] the affliction which has fallen on Ireland in the year 1846-47 has been a special visitation of PROVIDENCE – unexpected in origin, dreadful in effect, sweeping in extent. It is as though the windows of Heaven had been once more opened to sweep away not a people, but the only means on which that people could rely for support. We grant most readily that which
5 it would be affectation to deny, with the fifth report of the Relief Commissioners before us, that the root which has been the main staple of subsistence for the Irish people was, in the last year, mainly destroyed. From that source we learn that at the beginning of July upwards of three millions of persons were supported on daily rations afforded by the public bounty, while, on the 3d of August, more than two millions and a half had still no other means of
10 subsistence. The fact, however, of the destruction of the potato is quite beside the real merits of the question. The real point is, Who brought the great bulk of the Irish people to rely upon that root for support? By whose act did it happen, that while in other countries of Europe land and labour were settling themselves down into their natural relations, Ireland alone presented us with the phenomenon of an unemployed peasantry and an untilled soil?

15 There have been Irish landlords who were a credit to their country – men worthy, in every sense, of the position they were called to occupy. The white list at the present day is, we believe, still more numerous. But, when we have made every necessary abatement, it still remains a lamentable truth, that the prime cause why the Irish peasantry have been reduced to their present level must be sought for in the neglect and unthrift of past generations of claret-
20 drinking, writ-despising landlords. That is at least one reason why the Irish peasant is the worst-fed, worst-clothed, worst-housed man in Europe; fed upon lumpers, clothed in tatters, housed in a hovel which he dares scarcely thatch, lest the torch of the incendiary should be applied to it at midnight. That is the reason why bogs have remained undrained, acres untilled, and waste lands out of cultivation.

25 With the operation of the Poor Law will commence a new era for Ireland. Up till harvest-time three millions of persons will have been supported on public rations, who, after the sickle has done its work, must fall back for support on the products of their own soil. The landlords can no longer flinch from the obligation. Evictions of tenantry have had their day, but that system, at least, will no longer avail. If proprietors in Roscommon shall think fit to turn their arable
30 land, now let in small holdings, into pasture, with no holdings at all, they are welcome to work their pleasure. There is just this difference between their past and present condition, – formerly they would turn their cottiers out to die upon the roadside, now they must make a rate for their support in the union workhouse. We would have them for their own sakes to understand thus much, that they may take their measures in time – that, come ill, come good,
35 this law will be left to its natural operation. It is in vain for them to look for further aid or subsidy to this side of the Channel. All that we could do we have done already. Despite of all the obloquy and abuse of which we have been the objects, we say it in sorrow, not in anger, henceforth they must help themselves.

“Closing of the Relief Fund”, leading article, *The Times*, Tuesday, August 24, 1847.

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ANGLAIS****COMMENTAIRE DE TEXTE EN ANGLAIS****INFORMATION AUX CANDIDATS**

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Concours	Section/option	Epreuve	Matière
EAE	0422A	102	2763