

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2017

**Épreuve ESP
Explication d'un texte
extrait du programme**

**ESP
213**

Explication de texte

Joseph, Keith, Speech in Birmingham, October 19, 1974.

Explication de faits de langue

Le candidat proposera une analyse linguistique des segments soulignés dans le texte.

In the wartime army, they used to tell the story, apocryphal I am sure, about the regular army officer at the end of the first world war saying, 'thank goodness now the war is over we can get back to real soldiering'.

5 In the same way, some of us will be tempted to say, 'now the election's over, we can get back to real politics, Tory politics'.

Perhaps I should explain. I mean 'politics' instead of an exclusive diet of economics, and I mean Tory politics, all the things we Tories stand for, and have stood for long before Socialists came on the scene. Yes, we have
10 to get economics back into proportion, as one aspect of politics, important but never really the main thing. This may be unfashionable, indeed anti-fashionable, because it is the current intellectual fashions which have wrought so much havoc in this country.

During the elections, discussion focused almost exclusively on
15 economics; and we lost the election. Were these two facts unconnected? I don't think so. The voter has faced three parties all of who claimed that they alone had the secret of fighting inflation, of achieving economic growth, of keeping down prices and providing benefits. This was the kind of auction in which Labour was bound to outbid us, because they are quite
20 uninhibited, in promising the earth.

Over the years, this auction has raised expectations which cannot be satisfied, generated grievances and discontents. Far from bringing well being, this economics-first approach has aggravated unhappiness and social conflict, as well as over-straining the whole economic system to a
25 point where it is beginning to seize up.

Would it not now be better to approach the public, who know that economics is not everything, as whole men rather than economic men? Should we not deal with matters which concern the nation; respect for other people and for law, the welfare of young people, the state of family
30 life, the moral welfare of all the people, cultural values, public-spiritedness or its lack, national defence, the tone of national life? These are at the centre of the public's concern. The economic situation is not an independent variable; it reflects the state of political life, the degree to which people are aware of realities, and the climate of opinion. You will
35 only have a healthy economy in a sound body politic.

In the same way, our Tory approach to economics as party, as a tradition reflects our total approach to life and society. Our approach emphasises liberties, decentralised power, individual responsibility and interdependence. It differs substantially from that of Socialists. I am not
40 talking about people who happen to vote socialist, but the active Socialist members and the socialist intellectuals, those who have shaped current

fashions regarding the economy, education, the arts, social welfare, the family.

45 And the opposite of socialist is not capitalist. Our party is older than capitalism, and wider than any class. It grew up in the first place out of concern for liberties, traditions and morals. It has evolved a good deal in the past three centuries yet it has retained its essential character; its area of concern is the whole of public life and all matters which should be of public interest down to the treatment of every man, woman and child.

50 When we oppose nationalisation and increased state control over economic life - or at least I hope we oppose them - we do not take this stand out of concern for the interests of a class of owners - and ownership is increasingly widespread - but because excessive state control and ownership limits the liberties of **all** citizens as well as leading to
55 impoverishment.

When we oppose the imposition of a uniform state monopoly over education, it is not for the sake of privilege, but, on the contrary, in order that the area of choice **can be widened** and made available to more citizens, that the talented children of the poor may have the best
60 education in the environment most suited to them. We are opposed to using children as guinea pigs or spare parts for social engineers to experiment with. We are opposed to any policy that denies to parents the right to spend their own money on their children's education if they so choose.

65 Our view of ourselves as a national party has always meant basing ourselves on what the nation has in common notwithstanding the many distinctions which characterise it and which will continue to do so. We do not believe that national unity implies homogeneity.