

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2017

Épreuve EPC

**Exposé de la préparation
d'un cours**

EPC

433

Ce sujet comprend 3 documents :

- Document 1 : Matthew Patton, "America's College Promise Black History Month: an Outdated Notion", *The Guardsman*, February 16, 2015
- Document 2 : Barack Obama, "Presidential Proclamation of African American History Month", January 31, 2014
- Document 3 : An interview of Morgan Freeman by Mike Wallace on *60 Minutes*, CBS, December 19, 2005

Compte tenu des caractéristiques de ce dossier et des différentes possibilités d'exploitation qu'il offre, vous indiquerez à quel niveau d'apprentissage vous pourriez le destiner et quels objectifs vous vous fixeriez. Vous présenterez et justifierez votre démarche pour atteindre ces objectifs.

Document 1 : Matthew Patton, "America's College Promise Black History Month: an Outdated Notion", *The Guardsman*, February 16, 2015

<http://theguardsmen.com/americas-college-promise-black-history-month-an-outdated-notion>

Black History Month is now upon us. There will be posters and flyers galore. There will be special programming on any number of TV stations backdropped with a rousing image of Martin Luther King Jr peering off into that eternal blue sky, dreaming visions of the real American ideal, with a recording of his now historic "I Have A Dream" speech playing wistfully in the background.

It's going to make me puke.

Seriously. Speaking as an African-American male in this not-so-post-racial-society, I can't help but look at Black History Month as an extremely outdated concept, one that has devolved into an endless rehashing of landmark events and borderline "hero worship" of specific individuals. I don't often attempt to speak for the dead, but I can't imagine that this is what Carter G. Woodson, the African-American historian and journalist that essentially founded the concept of black history in this country, had in mind when he authored the celebration of "Negro History Week" back in 1926.

This week, which was expanded to cover the entire month of February and officially recognized by the U.S. government in 1976, was devised by Woodson as a cultural survival tool within the greater context of America, and society as a whole. He went on to elaborate at Negro History Week's launch, saying: "If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated. The American Indian left no continuous record. He did not appreciate the value of tradition; and where is he today? The Hebrew keenly appreciated the value of tradition, as is attested by the Bible itself. In spite of worldwide persecution, therefore, he is a great factor in our civilization."

While I would dare say he made some statements that were ignorant to the traditions specific to Native Americans, his stance is clear: we can't let our accomplishments disappear from the consciousness of the society we live in. And that line of thought has all but disappeared from Black History Month in favor of a more streamlined overview of certain historical figures, the "hero worship" model I referred to earlier.

Why is it that the stories/lessons contained in Black History Month invariably revolve around Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall, etc.? Why is it so rare for anyone to go deeper into the annals of this country (or the world, for that matter) when it comes to the contributions of Black people to society? For example, on a worldly note; why is it that so few people know about the Moors, a group of North Africans who traveled from Morocco all

the way to Spain? People should know who they were, considering that it was their advances in math, astronomy and agriculture that had a direct influence in pushing Europe out of the Dark Ages and into the Renaissance.

45 It was the Moors that brought the concept of universal education to Spain, which then spread throughout the rest of Europe. Keep in mind, that before their arrival, 99% of the European population were illiterate, including a few kings. At that time, Europe only had two universities, one in Paris and one in Oxford. Neither of those were built until after scholars
50 from Europe visited many of the 17 campuses in a Moorish Spain. Public libraries didn't exist in Europe for generations, while Moorish Spain had more than 70. Do you see what I'm getting at here? Can you see how such a massive shift in disseminating information (and making it available) to the public could have such a large impact on a region like
55 Europe? And that's only a little bit. This doesn't even address the lack of overall knowledge that's closer to home in America in terms of the contributions of its African-American citizens.

 Why do things like this get overlooked/left out when it comes to Black History Month? Why has the entire month of February been
60 condensed and smashed down to repeat the same awe-inspiring stories of a handful of individuals? I have my theories on that, but that's another column altogether. The biggest point to all this is that the original purpose of Negro History Week/Black History Month has been lost for a long time, both in spirit and application. No one seems to be learning anything new.
65 What's worse, no one really seems to care. Black History Month, as we have known it, has become pretty useless. I really don't see a need for its current iteration to be here.

Note: *The Guardsman* has been City College of San Francisco's bi-weekly student-run newspaper since 1930.

Document 2 : Barack Obama, "Presidential Proclamation of African American History Month", January 31, 2014

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/01/31/presidential-proclamation-national-african-american-history-month-2014>

NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH, 2014
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

5 Americans have long celebrated our Nation as a beacon of liberty and
opportunity – home to patriots who threw off an empire, refuge to
multitudes who fled oppression and despair. Yet we must also remember
that while many came to our shores to pursue their own measure of
freedom, hundreds of thousands arrived in chains. Through centuries of
10 struggle, and through the toil of generations, African Americans have
claimed rights long denied. During National African American History
Month, we honor the men and women at the heart of this journey – from
engineers of the Underground Railroad to educators who answered a free
people’s call for a free mind, from patriots who proved that valor knows
no color to demonstrators who gathered on the battlefields of justice and
15 marched our Nation toward a brighter day.

As we pay tribute to the heroes, sung and unsung, of African-
American history, we recall the inner strength that sustained millions in
bondage. We remember the courage that led activists to defy lynch mobs
and register their neighbors to vote. And we carry forward the unyielding
20 hope that guided a movement as it bent the arc of the moral universe
toward justice. Even while we seek to dull the scars of slavery and
legalized discrimination, we hold fast to the values gained through
centuries of trial and suffering.

Every American can draw strength from the story of hard-won
25 progress, which not only defines the African-American experience, but
also lies at the heart of our Nation as a whole. This story affirms that
freedom is a gift from God, but it must be secured by His people here on
earth. It inspires a new generation of leaders, and it teaches us all that
when we come together in common purpose, we can right the wrongs of
30 history and make our world anew.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United
States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the
Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim
February 2014 as National African American History Month. I call upon
35 public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United
States to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and
activities.

Document 3 : An interview of Morgan Freeman by Mike Wallace on *60 Minutes*, CBS, December 19, 2005

Document vidéo (0'54") à consulter sur la tablette multimédia fournie.