

<b>EAE 0422 A</b>	
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**La leçon se déroule en anglais. Elle est suivie d'un entretien en français.**

**SUBJECT:**

"Accessibility Theory (Ariel, 1990; Givón, 1989, 1998) claims that nominal forms are chosen to signal differing degrees of accessibility of the conceptions that they reference, where accessibility refers to the amount of effort that one must expend to retrieve the conception of the referent. Use of a full name, such as *James Duderstadt*, signals that the referent is relatively less accessible for the addressee, requiring more information and more effort to access a conception of the individual. [...] [Personal] pronouns signal much greater accessibility. [...]

The existence of these accessibility distinctions suggests that we can characterize the principles governing (pro) nominal reference fairly straightforwardly:

Speakers use full noun phrases (including names) to refer to entities that are not believed to be active in the addressee's immediate awareness (Givón, 1998; Kibrik, 1999; van Hoek, 1995, 1997; *inter alia*). Immediate awareness can be defined in terms of the immediate context. A speaker uses a [personal] pronoun if a person who was attending to the immediate context would reasonably be expected to have the referent in immediate awareness (Kibrik, 1999, defined the relevant degree of accessibility in terms of presence within working memory)."

Michael Tomasello, *The New Psychology of Language: Cognitive and Functional Approaches to Language Structure*, vol.2. London: Routledge, 2003, 173.

Discuss.

Candidates will use relevant excerpts from the following corpus to address the above topic.

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### Excerpt 1

#### Barack Obama pushes for \$1bn green tax credits

*President pushes energy-efficient auto agenda in North Carolina truck factory – his third speech on cars in three weeks.*

Another week, another car talk. Barack Obama stopped by a North Carolina truck factory on Wednesday to announce \$1bn in tax credits and grants for alternative-energy cars and trucks. It was Obama's third speech on cars and fuel in an election battleground state in three weeks.

The president has travelled from New Hampshire to Florida and now North Carolina to insulate himself from Republican attacks on rising gas prices and the on-again, off-again Keystone XL tar sand pipeline ahead of the general election.

"We can't just keep on relying on the old ways of doing business. We can't just rely on fossil fuels from the last century. We've got to continually develop new sources of energy," Obama said in his speech at the Daimler truck plant in Mount Holly North Carolina. [...]

*The Guardian*, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

### Excerpt 2

#### Biography

**John Steinbeck** (1902-1968), born in Salinas, California, came from a family of moderate means. He worked his way through college at Stanford University but never graduated. In 1925 he went to New York, where he tried for a few years to establish himself as a free-lance writer, but he failed and returned to California. After publishing some novels and short stories, Steinbeck first became widely known with *Tortilla Flat* (1935), a series of humorous stories about Monterey paisanos.

Steinbeck's novels can all be classified as social novels dealing with the economic problems of rural labour, but there is also a streak of worship of the soil in his books, which does not always agree with his matter-of-fact sociological approach. After the rough and earthy humour of *Tortilla Flat*, he moved on to more serious fiction, often aggressive in its social criticism, to *In Dubious Battle* (1936), which deals with the strikes of the migratory fruit pickers on California plantations. This was followed by *Of Mice and Men* (1937), the story of the imbecile giant Lennie, and a series of admirable short stories collected in the volume *The Long Valley* (1938). In 1939 he published what is considered his best work, *The Grapes of Wrath*, the story of Oklahoma tenant farmers who, unable to earn a living from the land, moved to California where they became migratory workers.

Among his later works should be mentioned *East of Eden* (1952), *The Winter of Our Discontent* (1961), and *Travels with Charley* (1962), a travelogue in which Steinbeck wrote about his impressions during a three-month tour in a truck that led him through forty American states. He died in New York City in 1968.

<http://www.nobelprize.org/>, 1962

### Excerpt 3

For these 15 celebrities and public figures, their teachers helped cultivate their self-confidence and talent, allowing them to lead famously successful lives. Read on to find out how teachers made a difference in the extraordinary lives of these former students. [...]

3. President Bill Clinton: Bill Clinton is best known for two things: his legacy as the 42nd president of the United States, and his love of playing the saxophone. Clinton's high school band director, Mr. Virgil Spurlin, helped to grow both of Clinton's identities. Mr. Spurlin didn't just support Clinton and his classmates as they developed musically, he took an interest in their lives and was always there to help if they were having trouble at home or in school. Clinton says that he has thought of Mr. Spurlin and his influence all his life, staying in touch with him until he passed away. He believes that his years with Mr. Spurlin made him what he is today, and that he convinced him that he could "organize and run things," doing whatever he wanted to do in life.

<http://www.onlineuniversities.com/15-famously-successful-people-who-credit-their-teachers>, 31 January 2012

### Excerpt 4

#### Sir John Major criticises Tony Blair over Iraq war

*Former Prime Minister Sir John Major has criticised Tony Blair's handling of the Iraq war and his presentation of the case for invasion in March 2003.*

Sir John said he had reluctantly backed the war because he believed what Mr Blair had said as prime minister.

But now, he said, big questions had been raised by the evidence given to the Chilcott Inquiry into the war.

He told the BBC the argument that Saddam Hussein was a bad man and must be removed was an "inadequate" one.

Sir John said it now seemed there were doubts before the invasion about whether there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

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In an interview with BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, he said he wanted to know whether the Cabinet had known about those doubts.

He said: "I had myself been prime minister in the first Gulf War, and I knew when I said something I was utterly certain that it was correct, and I said less than I knew."

*BBC News Online*, 2 January 2010

### Excerpt 5

#### Obama Flip-Flops: Does He Know Who Snooki Is, Or Not?

Barack Obama has been caught in a contradiction. Asked about Jersey Shore star Snooki on *The View* today, the President replied, "I don't know who that is." But two months ago he knew who she was! Nitpicky video analysis ahead.

<http://gawker.com>, 29 January 2011

### Excerpt 6

"They're Not Your Husband"

Earl Ober was between jobs as a salesman. But Doreen, his wife, had gone to work nights as a waitress at a twenty-four-hour coffee shop at the edge of town. One night, when he was drinking, Earl decided to stop by the coffee shop and have something to eat. He wanted to see where Doreen worked, and he wanted to see if he could order something on the house.

He sat at the counter and studied the menu.

Raymond Carver, "They're Not Your Husband", *Short Cuts*, 1993

### Excerpt 7

Chapter One

Apart (of course) from Wagner, apart from Mozart's compositions for the clarinet, Schubert was one of the select composers who could occasionally transport him to the frontier of tears. And it was Schubert's turn in the early evening of Wednesday, 15 July 1998, when – *The Archers* over – a bedroom-slipped Chief Inspector Morse was to be found in his North Oxford bachelor flat, sitting at his ease in Zion and listening to a Lieder recital on Radio 3, an amply filled tumbler of pale Glenfiddich beside him. And why not? He was on a few days' furlough that had so far proved quite unexpectedly pleasurable.

Morse had never enrolled in the itchy-footed regiment of truly adventurous souls, feeling (as he did) little temptation to explore the remoter corners even of his native land; and this, principally, because he could now imagine few if any places closer to his heart than Oxford

Colin Dexter, *The Remorseful Day*, 1999

### Excerpt 8

Jack tracked Eliot down after a few days and met him at the Crystal Palace pub for lunch. Emma was not with them. He had thought it best not to tell her. He found Eliot already in denial. He pretended not to know what Jack was talking about when he asked him what he had discovered about himself in Egypt.

"I still think the whole trip was nonsense," Eliot declared. "And as for those old bones! I'm astonished Hassan has taken them so seriously."

Jack decided to let the matter drop.

He cleared his throat.

"Emma and I are living together now," he said, waiting somewhat anxiously for Eliot's reaction.

Moyra Caldecott, *The Ghost of Akhenaten*, 2001

### Excerpt 9

No bird-lovers can but desire the destruction of the Little Owl (*Athene Noctua*), a prolific bird introduced in England half a century ago by Lord Lilford. It has no redeeming trait. I have watched several pairs, and my observations show without doubt that he deserves not the slightest mercy.

Henry Williamson, *The Lone Swallows and Other Essays of Boyhood and Youth*. [1922] 1946

### Excerpt 10

"We met a few years ago, his engineer was the lead guitar player of Steppenwolf, how about that? It was at an Oscar party... he goes, 'Danny, do you like coffee?' and I go, 'Yeah, David, I like coffee!' And he goes, 'Why don't you come over to the house and we'll have some coffee.' So he played for me... and he has a really nice studio in his house... he lays his guitar in his lap, and he's right handed, but he lays it left-handed."

<http://www.splacetoday.com/>, 3 March 2011