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La leçon se déroule en anglais. Elle est suivie d'un entretien en français.

SUBJECT:

"(i) Comparison – or rather its result – rests on two basic concepts: resemblance and identity. Suppose I saw two cats in my garden on two separate occasions. If I want to compare them, there are, basically, three types of comparison I can make: I can say that they resemble each other (this of course is resemblance), or that they are one and the same cat (this is identity), or that they do not resemble each other (this is the negation of resemblance, but may imply that of identity). In language, the difference between identity and resemblance is sometimes blurred (for instance in *As I said... / Like I said...*), but, as we shall see, there is no ambiguity in *as* and *so* from that point of view: what they express is identity – or more precisely a variety of identity, based on comparison, which can be called **identifying comparison**."

Paul LARREYA, "On the semantics of SO and AS", *Sigma* 17-18, 1996, p. 100.

Discuss.

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

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Excerpt 1

As part of the panel discussion following the release of SBX2 1, she emphasized the cooperative nature that any solution will have to take. "There is no silver bullet, but we have a lot of silver buckshot," she said, noting that any workable solution would have to be multi-faceted, spreading a variety of costs and benefits among a variety of partners. "It's only going to be crafted on a region-by-region basis, each time as unique as the soils are, unique as the circumstances are," she said.

"Reactive Nitrogen Wrangling Strategies For Mitigating Pollution", *Environmental Health Perspectives*, May 2012

Excerpt 2

As we will see, Manent disagrees with Weber's characterization of values as merely subjective, but he more than tolerates the language when employed by thinkers, such as Aurel Kolnai, who have more objectivistic or realistic understandings of values. All value-talk is not created equal and unlike, say, Allan Bloom, Manent is willing to make distinctions. And on the other hand, what, more precisely, is the content of the moral consciousness that Manent invokes in contrast to the Weberian? And is it as unproblematic as the foregoing description may have implied? In as much as these are deep matters, one should not expect a totally complete or "adequate" response to either set of queries.

"Liberation from the Weberian Iron Cage", *Perspectives on Political Science*, Summer 2002

Excerpt 3

"Sergeant, not sir," Mauer said tugging the peak cap over his thinning blond hair "Your main priority is to get to know the city as quickly as possible, so we'll be acting mainly as back-up for the first few days. It'll also help you to get to grips with police procedures." He held up his finger as Richter opened his mouth to speak.

Alastair MacNeill, *Death Train*, 1989

Excerpt 4

Goblins are so weak and vulnerable that small units are all but useless, while the principle of deep ranks and narrow frontage is essential for combat survival. If you include a Boss and Big Boss in your front rank this will reduce the number of vulnerable Goblins fighting and cut down on the number of casualties you suffer. At the same time you might score a few wounds on the enemy, and with a huge rank bonus and bonus from your standard you stand as good a chance as you're going to get. Consider upping the effect with magic weapons if you can afford it. Remember, an Orc or Black Orc Big Boss can be placed with a Goblin unit to lead it, raising your deplorable leadership value as well as stiffening your front rank.

Warhammer Armies: Orcs & Goblins, 1993

Excerpt 5

In a Mercedes, a marque known for providing an almost absurd amount of legroom for its drivers, this is a bad fault. Otherwise you are pampered like only a Mercedes driver can be. Pitting the hood down is a joy to watch. All you have to do is press and hold down a button. In under half a minute of whirring and clicking, the hood has unlocked itself and been folded away in its casing behind the back seats. Raising it is just as simple.

Autocar and Motor, 1990

Excerpt 6

"When light dawned, both sides looked very foolish, and made a treaty that everything should be put back exactly as it had been." Sabine laughed too. "It's a nice story. I wish all wars could be settled as easily."

Sara Craven, *Tower of Shadows*, 1993

Excerpt 7

PAMELA: I know the charms of my rival are too powerful for me to contend with. I will therefore, sir, dear as you are to me, give up your person to the happier, to my worthier rival. BELVILLE: Are you in earnest, Pamela? Can you so easily part with me? PAMELA: I can, sir, and I will, rather than divide my interest in you knowingly with any lady upon earth. BELVILLE: You talk to me, my dearest life, as if all you had heard against me was true.

Fidelis Morgan & Giles Havergal, *Pamela, or, The reform of a Rake*, 1987

Excerpt 8

Though Seattleites had clearly reveled in the opportunity to rehash one of the few lurid scandals to hit their comparatively whitewashed city, as far as the rest of the world was concerned, Margaret Grayson-Maxwell's arrest and the nefarious activities of her dead husband were lost in the ether. And as Rosie had so wisely pointed out, Talia should have let it stay lost, in the past, rather than spend all of her free time delving back into every lurid detail of the past she worked so hard to escape.

Jami Alden, *Run from Fear*, 2012

Excerpt 9

It will be henceforth assumed that the typical unit of lexicology is the word (this statement is so obvious as to have an air of tautology). However, there do exist, and not so uncommonly that they can be safely ignored, minimal semantic constituents which consist of more than one word.

D. A Cruse, *Lexical Semantics*, 1991

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Excerpt 10

Then Alice said, "I know you're not supposed to socialize with parents while their children are in school, but that's so long to wait and too much to ask in so small a world as ours is." Later they went out to join the men.

Joanne Greenberg, *No Reckling Made*, 1993

Excerpt 11

When you see him in private with William and Harry, he is exactly as she said in that relaxed loving sense, playful, all of those things – pulling their legs, them pulling his leg and so on. And there really is a difficulty, when he goes out in public, because he's such an intelligent man, and he hates to fake things. As it so happened, fortunately, during these terrible times, we caught a couple of moments when Harry grabbed his hand.

"Frost Discusses Royal Family", *CNN King*, 22/09/1997, COCA

Excerpt 12

In the view of the rabbis, Vashti was not only a licentious person who behaved inappropriately but also a vicious creature that beat her Jewish handmaidens, stripped them naked, and forced them to work on the Sabbath. Whether or not this villainous portrait is as unjustified as modern feminism's defense of Vashti, painting her in this light allows us to see her punishment as merited, an example of "measure for measure". As she had wickedly abused Jewish women, so she was subjected to similar treatment.

"The Problem with Purim", *Commentary*, Feb 2010, COCA

Excerpt 13

"So you are going to sort him out, are you? Begin with thanking me for him; look at him as a person as important to me as you are." I did so. I started to thank God for this colleague of mine and his gifts and commitment. As you will have guessed, my attitude towards him changed, so that when the frank speaking happened that day it was in the context of love and acceptance of him as a person.

George Carey, *I Believe*, 1991

Excerpt 14

He held it at shoulder height before him. "And you see what decadent state it is in. Fleuraye has worked upon it so as to make it a poison thing. This you can observe in its colors, the nauseous tints and tinges of corruption."

Fred Chappell, *Thief of Shadows*, May/June 2010

Excerpt 15

There was so much rubbish and broken glass littered about anyway that it would have been difficult for anyone to climb out without making a lot of noise.

W. B. Herbert, *Railway Ghosts and Phantoms*, 1992

Excerpt 16

According to Pepys' Diary, he was educated at Westminster School, and became a scholar of Christ Church, Oxford, in 1652. Pepys met him in 1665. He was not as good a poet, nor as good a clerk as Hoccleve, and was discharged from his job as unfit for office on 8 March 1667.

Ruth Pryor et al., *Sounds from the Bell Jar: Ten Psychotic Authors*, 1990

Excerpt 17

But you know, interestingly enough, when you think about Iran today it's not the same country that it was 10 or 15 years ago and it's not as important today as it was 10 or 15 years ago. They have an 1,800-mile border with the Soviet Union. Who cares? The Soviet Union is no longer a threat to the oil fields or the Middle East, so that Iran – as strategic as it is – is not so important.

"Should the U.S. Proceed With SDI?", *CNN King*, 20/06/1991, COCA

Excerpt 18

KUDRIAVTSEVA: It's going to appear very soon, I hope. And I have translated Joyce Carol Oates and William Styron (ph) and many other not so important writers. But I like American literature and I work with it all the time. O'BRIEN: It's a great pleasure having you here with us. KUDRIAVTSEVA: Thank you very much. O'BRIEN: All right. KUDRIAVTSEVA Thank you so much.

"'Gone With the Wind' Translated Into Russian", *CNN SunMorn*, 25/03/2001, COCA

Excerpt 19

EXERCISE J Now work out the following by forming an equation and solving it as shown in the last example. It will not do to simply write down the answers. 1. John is x years old while his father is three times as old.

I. S. Ferguson, *Living Mathematics for the Caribbean. Book 1*, 1988

Excerpt 20

By the time we reached Tony it was obvious we would never find a crossing point. He was hugely amused by it, the more so as we paced up and down in exasperation.

Richard Sale & Tony Oliver, *Arctic Odyssey: Travelling Arctic Europe*, 1991