

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2017

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

**ESP
211**

Explication de texte

Callaghan, James, Leader's speech, Labour Party Conference, Blackpool, 1978.

Explication de faits de langue

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

We shall shortly embark on the last session of Parliament – this Parliament – and therefore it is a suitable moment to look back and see **where we came in**. In those dark and candlelit days of the last weeks of the Conservative Government, the question that was being posed was: 'Is Britain governable?' In our 1974 manifesto we gave the reply, and I quote: 'Labour does not go along with the prophets of doom. Give us your backing over the difficult two or three years ahead. We shall get back on the right course. We have confidence in the British people.' 'Give us two or three years,' we said, 'and we shall get back on the right course.' The people ***did***, and we have.

But why was there such gloom about Britain's prospects at home and abroad in those days? I give you the answer in two words – runaway inflation. Week after week, month after month, prices zoomed up, wages chased after them. Indeed, wages, you may recall, were indexed in order that they should keep up with the cost of living. Both wages and prices still went on going up, and the Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer printed pound notes by the trunkful in order to keep pace with the increase in wages that was being paid out, and in order to keep pace with the rising prices. Inflation threatened to submerge not only our personal standards and our family living standards – it threatened our very institutions. And at the end, nobody was a penny piece better off. Most people were worse off.

So we rejected it – we rejected the pessimism that underlay that approach. We entered into arrangements with the trade unions before the Labour Government was elected which gave us a firm foundation on which to build. We did not under-rate in that manifesto the significance, or the difficulty, or the magnitude of the job that we had to do. Indeed, let me remind you what the opening words of the election manifesto were:

'Britain faces its most dangerous crisis since the war.' The words were sombre, they were true. And that, Madam Chairman and fellow delegates, is the pit from which we have escaped and to which we do not intend to return.

Today nobody denies that the Labour Government and the people, working together in partnership, have confounded the pessimists. There is no room for complacency – we could slip back into an inflationary situation, and, Madam Chairman, it is the Government's responsibility to prevent that – and I call on everybody, we need support from everyone as we do so.

The ultimate test of a Labour Government is how far it fulfils the needs of those who put their trust in it. As long as there is a family without a home, as long as there is a man or woman without a job, as long as there is a patient waiting for a hospital bed, or someone who

suffers from discrimination because of his colour or because of his race, or because of his creed, then our Government has work to do. It is in that
45 spirit of challenge that I invite you to look forward to the next five years
of Labour Government. This Conference comes at one of the most crucial
moments in Labour's history. Not for the first time, a Labour Government
has cleared up the chaos left by the Tories. The difference this time is that
50 we have also been able to begin the process of improving the condition of
our people. The importance of securing another term of office for the
Labour Government is that for once we will not have to waste the first
three years clearing up behind the Tories. So now it is for the Cabinet and
the National Executive Committee to prepare a decisive and relevant
programme to put to the people. Work has been going on for some
55 months on this in joint subcommittees between the two bodies. And last
Friday the National Executive Committee agreed at my suggestion that
this work should be intensified so that we will be ready with a full
programme. Our purpose as a party will be to present a bold, creative,
socialist challenge to all those forces that perpetuate injustice, class
60 division, racial bigotry and poverty, and so injure the true freedom of the
individual to develop his qualities to the full.