

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2017

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

**ESP
212**

Explication de texte

Thatcher, Margaret, Leader's speech, Conservative Party Conference, Blackpool, October 10, 1975.

Explication de faits de langue

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

Whatever could I say about Britain that is half as damaging as what this Labour Government have done to our country? Let's look at the record. It is the Labour Government that have caused prices to rise at a record rate of 26 per cent a year. They told us that the Social Contract would solve everything. But now everyone can see that the so-called contract was a fraud—a fraud for which the people of this country have had to pay a very high price. It is the Labour Government whose policies are forcing unemployment higher than it need have been—thousands more men and women ***are losing*** their jobs every day. There are going to be men and women many of them youngsters straight out of school—who will be without a job this winter because Socialist Ministers spent last year attacking us, instead of attacking inflation.

And it's the Labour Government that have brought the level of production below that of the 3-day week in 1974. We've really got a 3-day week now,—only it takes five days to do it. It's the Labour Government that have brought us record peace-time taxation. They've got the usual Socialist disease—they've run out of other people's money. And it's the Labour Government that have pushed public spending to record levels. And how've they done it? By borrowing, and borrowing and borrowing. Never in the field of human credit has so much been owed...

But serious as the economic challenge is, the political and moral challenge is just as grave, perhaps more so. Economic problems never start with economics. They have deeper roots—in human nature and in politics. They don't finish at economics either. Labour's failure to cope, to look at the nation's problems from the point of view of the whole nation, not just one section of it, has led to loss of confidence and a sense of helplessness. With it goes a feeling that Parliament, which ought to be in charge, is not in charge—that the actions and the decisions are taken elsewhere.

And it goes deeper than that. There are voices that seem anxious not to overcome our economic difficulties, but to exploit them, to destroy the free enterprise society and put a Marxist system in its place. Today those voices form a sizeable chorus in the Parliamentary Labour Party. A chorus which, aided and abetted by many Constituency Labour Parties, seems to be growing in numbers. Anyone who says this openly is promptly accused of seeing Reds Under the Bed. But look who's seeing them now! On his own admission, Mr Wilson has at last discovered that his own Party is infiltrated by extreme left-wingers—or to use his own words it is infested with them. When even Mr Wilson gets scared about their success in capturing key positions in the Labour Party, shouldn't the rest of us be? And shouldn't the rest of us ask him "Where have you been while all this has been going on, and what are you doing about it?" The answer is nothing.

45 I sometimes think the Labour Party is like a pub where the mild is
running out. If someone doesn't do something soon, all that's left will be
bitter. And all that's bitter will be Left.

Whenever I visit Communist countries, their politicians never hesitate
to boast about their achievements. They know them all by heart and reel
off the facts and figures, claiming that this is the rich harvest of the
50 Communist system. Yet they are not prosperous as we in the West are
prosperous, and they are not ***free as we in the West are free.***

Our capitalist system produces a far higher standard of prosperity
and happiness because it believes in incentive and opportunity, and
because it is founded on human dignity and freedom. Even the Russians
55 have to go to a capitalist country, America, to buy enough wheat to feed
their people. And that after more than 50 years of a State controlled
economy. Yet they boast incessantly while we, who have so much more to
boast about, forever criticise and decry. Isn't it time we spoke up for our
way of life? After all, no Western nation has to build a wall round itself to
60 keep its people in.

So let us have no truck with those who say the free enterprise system
has failed. What we face today is not a crisis of capitalism, but of
Socialism. No country can flourish if its economic and social life is
dominated by nationalisation and state control.