

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2017

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

**ESP
222**

Explication de texte

"Republican Party Platform of 1964", July 13, 1964, in Peters, Gerhard, and Woolley, John T., *The American Presidency Project*.

Explication de faits de langue

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

For a Free People

Humanity is tormented once again by an age-old issue – is man to live in dignity and freedom under God or be enslaved – are men in government to serve, or are they to master, their fellow men?

5 It befalls us now to resolve this issue anew – perhaps this time for centuries to come. Nor can we evade the issue here at home. Even in this Constitutional Republic, for two centuries the beacon of liberty the world over, individual freedom retreats under the mounting assault of expanding centralized power. Fiscal and economic excesses, too long indulged, already have eroded and threatened the greatest experiment in self-
10 government mankind has known.

We Republicans claim no monopoly of love of freedom. But we challenge as unwise the course the Democrats have charted; we challenge as dangerous the steps they plan along the way; and we deplore as self-
15 defeating and harmful many of the moves already taken.

Dominant in their council are leaders whose words extol human liberty, but whose deeds have persistently delimited the scope of liberty and sapped its vitality. Year after year, in the name of benevolence, these leaders have sought the enlargement of Federal power. Year after year, in the guise of concern for others, they have lavishly expended the resources
20 of their fellow citizens. And year after year freedom, diversity and individual, local and state responsibility have given way to regimentation, conformity and subservience to central power.

We Republicans hold that a leadership so misguided weakens liberty
25 in America and the world. We hold that the glittering enticements so invitingly proffered the people, at their own expense, will inevitably bring disillusionment and true disappointment in place of promised happiness. Such leaders are Federal extremists – impulsive in the use of national power, improvident in the management of public funds, thoughtless as to
30 the long-term effects of their acts on individual freedom and creative, competitive enterprise. Men so recklessly disposed cannot be safely entrusted with authority over their fellow citizens.

To Republicans, liberty is still today man's most precious possession. For every citizen, and for the generations to come, we Republicans vow
35 that it shall be preserved.

In substantiation of this belief the Republican Party submits this platform. To the American people it is our solemn bond.

To Stay Free

40 The shape of the future is our paramount concern. Much of today's
moral decline and drift – much of the prevailing preoccupation with
physical and material comforts of life – much of today's crass political
appeals to the appetites of the citizenry – can be traced to a leadership
grown demagogic and materialistic through indifference to national ideals
45 rounded in devoutly held religious faith. The Republican Party seeks not to
renounce this heritage of faith and high purpose; rather, we are
determined to reaffirm and reapply it. So doing, these will be our guides:

1. Every person has the right to govern himself, to fix his own goals,
and to make his own way with a minimum of governmental interference.

2. **It is for government to foster and maintain an environment of**
50 **freedom** encouraging every individual to develop to the fullest his God-
given powers of mind, heart and body; and, beyond this, government
should undertake only needful things, rightly of public concern, which the
citizen cannot himself accomplish.

We Republicans hold that these two principles must regain their
55 primacy in our government's relations, not only with the American people,
but also with nations and peoples everywhere in the world.

3. Within our Republic the Federal Government should act only in areas
where it has Constitutional authority to act, and then only in respect to
proven needs where individuals and local or state governments will not or
60 cannot adequately perform. Great power, whether governmental or
private, political or economic, must be so checked, balanced and
restrained and, where necessary, so dispersed as to prevent it from
becoming a threat to freedom any place in the land.

4. It is a high mission of government to help assure equal opportunity
65 for all, affording every citizen an equal chance at the starting line but
never determining who is to win or lose. But government must also reflect
the nation's compassionate concern for those who are unable, through no
fault of their own, to provide adequately for themselves.

5. Government must be restrained in its demands upon and its use of
70 the resources of the people, remembering that it is not the creator but the
steward of the wealth it uses; that its goals must ever discipline its
means; and that service to all the people, never to selfish or partisan
ends, must be the abiding purpose of men entrusted with public power.