

Agrégation interne d'anglais
Session 2018
Épreuve ESP
Explication d'un texte extrait du programme

ESP
121

Explication de texte

Defoe, Daniel, *Roxana. The Fortunate Mistress* (1724). Oxford: Oxford World's Classics, OUP, 2008, pp. 202 – 203.

Explication de faits de langue

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

This, however, shews us with what faint Excuses, and with what Trifles we pretend to satisfie ourselves, and suppress the Attempts of Conscience in the Pursuit of agreeable Crime, and in the possessing those Pleasures which we are loth to part with.

5 But this Objection wou'd now serve no longer; for my Lord had, in some sort, broke his Engagements (*I won't call it Honour again*) with me, and had so far slighted me, as fairly to justifie my entire quitting of him now; and so, as the Objection was fully answer'd, the Question remain'd still unanswer'd, *Why am I a whore now?* Nor indeed, had I any-thing to
10 say for myself, *even to myself*; I cou'd not without blushing, as wicked as I was, answer, that I lov'd it for the sake of the Vice, and that I delighted in being a Whore, *as such*; I say, I cou'd not say this, even to myself, *and all alone*, nor indeed, wou'd it have been true; I was never able in Justice, and with Truth, to say I was so wicked as that; but as Necessity first
15 debauch'd me, and Poverty made me a Whore at the Beginning; so excess of Avarice for getting Money, and excess of Vanity, continued me in the Crime, not being able to resist the Flatteries of Great Persons; being call'd the Finest Woman in *France*; being caress'd by a Prince; and afterwards I had Pride enough to expect, and Folly enough to believe, tho' indeed,
20 without ground, by a Great Monarch. These were my Baits, these the Chains by which the Devil held me bound; and by which I was indeed, too fast held for any Reasoning that I was then Mistress of, to deliver me from.

But this was all over now; Avarice cou'd have no Pretence; I was out
25 of the reach of all that Fate could be suppos'd to do to reduce me; now I was so far from Poor, or the Danger of it, that I had fifty Thousand Pounds in my Pocket at least; nay, I had the Income of fifty Thousand Pounds; for I had 2500 *l.* a Year coming in, upon very good Land-Security, besides 3 or 4000 *l.* in Money, which I kept by me for ordinary Occasions, and
30 besides Jewels and Plate, and Goods, which were worth near 5000 *l.* more; these put together, when I ruminated on it all in my Thoughts, as you may be sure I did often, added Weight still to the Question, as above, and it sounded continually in my Head, what's next? *What am I a Whore for now?*

35 It is true, this was, as I say, seldom out of my Thoughts, but yet it made no Impressions upon me of that Kind which might be expected from a Reflection of so important a Nature, and which had so much of Substance and Seriousness in it.