

Agrégation interne d'anglais

Session 2019

Épreuve ESP

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

ESP

114

Explication de texte

WEBSTER, John. *The Duchess of Malfi* (1613-14). Act 1, scene 1, ll. 284-346. New York, London: W. W. Norton Critical Editions, 2015. 21-24.

Explication de faits de langue

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

[*Enter* CARDINAL, DUCHESS, and CARIOLA.]
 CARDINAL [*To the* DUCHESS] We are to part from you, and your
 own discretion
 Must now be your director. 285
 FERDINAND You are a widow:
 You know already what man is; and therefore
 Let not youth, high promotion, eloquence—
 CARDINAL No, nor anything without the addition, honor,
 Sway your high blood.
 FERDINAND Marry? They are the most luxurious
 Will wed twice.
 CARDINAL Oh, fie!
 FERDINAND Their livers are more spotted 290
 Than Laban's sheep.
 DUCHESS Diamonds are of most value,
 They say, that have passed through most jewelers' hands.
 FERDINAND Whores, by that rule, are precious.
 DUCHESS Will you hear me?
 I'll never marry.
 CARDINAL So most widows say;
 But commonly that motion lasts no longer 295
 Than the turning of an hourglass—the funeral sermon
 And it end both together.
 FERDINAND Now hear me:
 You live in a rank pasture here, i'th'court.
 There is a kind of honeydew that's deadly;
 'Twill poison your fame. Look to't. Be not cunning, 300
 For they whose faces do belie their hearts
 Are witches ere they arrive at twenty years—
 Ay, and give the devil suck.
 DUCHESS This is terrible good counsel.
 FERDINAND Hypocrisy is woven of a fine small thread,
 Subtler than Vulcan's engine; yet, believe't 305
 Your darkest actions—nay, your privat'st thoughts—
 Will come to light.
 CARDINAL You may flatter yourself
 And take your own choice, privately be married
 Under the eaves of night.
 FERDINAND Think't the best voyage
 That e'er you made, like the irregular crab, 310
 Which, though't goes backward, thinks that it goes right
 Because it goes its own way. But observe:
 Such weddings may more properly be said
 To be executed than celebrated.
 CARDINAL The marriage night
 Is the entrance into some prison.
 FERDINAND And those joys, 315

Those lustful pleasures, are like heavy sleeps
Which do forerun man's mischief.

CARDINAL Fare you well.

Wisdom begins at the end—remember it. [Exit.]

DUCHESS I think this speech between you both was studied,
It came so roundly off.

FERDINAND You are my sister. 320

[*Showing his dagger.*] This was my father's poniard. Do you
see?

I'd be loath to see't look rusty, 'cause 'twas his.

I would have you to give o'er these chargeable revels:

A visor and a mask are whispering-rooms

That were ne'er built for goodness. Fare ye well— 325

And women like that part which, like the lamprey,
Hath ne'er a bone in't.

DUCHESS Fie, sir!

FERDINAND Nay,

I mean the tongue—variety of courtship:

What cannot a neat knave with a smooth tale

Make a woman believe? Farewell, lusty widow. [Exit.] 330

DUCHESS Shall this move me? If all my royal kindred

Lay in my way unto this marriage,

I'd make them my low footsteps; and even now—

Even in this hate—as men in some great battles,

By apprehending danger, have achieved 335

Almost impossible actions—I have heard soldiers say so—

So I, through frights and threat'nings, will assay

This dangerous venture. Let old wives report

I winked and chose a husband.—Cariola,

To thy known secrecy I have given up 340

More than my life: my fame.

CARIOLA Both shall be safe;

For I'll conceal this secret from the world

As warily as those that trade in poison

Keep poison from their children.

DUCHESS Thy protestation

Is ingenious and hearty. I believe it. 345

Is Antonio come?