

**Agrégation interne d'anglais**

**Session 2019**

**Épreuve ESP**

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

**ESP**

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### **Explication de texte**

MELVILLE, Herman. *The Confidence-Man: His Masquerade* (1857). New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2006. 166-167.

### **Explication de faits de langue**

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

5 A shade passed over the cosmopolitan. After a few minutes' down-  
cast musing, he lifted his eyes and said: "I have long thought, my dear  
Charlie, that the spirit in which wine is regarded by too many in these days  
is one of the most painful examples of want of confidence. Look at these  
10 glasses. He who could mistrust poison in this wine would mistrust  
consumption in Hebe's cheek. While, as for suspicions against the dealers  
in wine and sellers of it, those who cherish such suspicions can have but  
limited trust in the human heart. Each human heart they must think to be  
much like each bottle of port, not such port as this, but such port as they  
15 hold to. Strange traducers, who see good faith in nothing, however sacred.  
Not medicines, not the wine in sacraments, has escaped them. The doctor  
with his phial, and the priest with his chalice, they deem equally the  
unconscious dispensers of bogus cordials to the dying."

"Dreadful!"

15 "Dreadful indeed," said the cosmopolitan solemnly. "These distrusters  
stab at the very soul of confidence. If this wine," impressively holding up  
his full glass, "if this wine with its bright promise be not true, how shall man  
be, whose promise can be no brighter? But if wine be false, while men are  
true, whither shall fly convivial geniality? To think of sincerely-genial souls  
20 drinking each other's health at unawares in perfidious and murderous  
drugs!"

"Horrible!"

25 "Much too much so to be true, Charlie. Let us forget it. Come, you are  
my entertainer on this occasion, and yet you don't pledge me. I have been  
waiting for it."

"Pardon, pardon," half confusedly and half ostentatiously lifting his  
glass. "I pledge you, Frank, with my whole heart, believe me," taking a  
draught too decorous to be large, but which, small though it was, was  
followed by a slight involuntary wryness to the mouth.

30 "And I return you the pledge, Charlie, heart-warm as it came to me,  
and honest as this wine I drink it in," reciprocated the cosmopolitan with  
princely kindness in his gesture, taking a generous swallow, concluding in  
a smack, which, though audible, was not so much so as to be displeasing.

35 "Talking of alleged spuriousness of wines," said he, tranquilly setting  
down his glass, and then sloping back his head and with friendly fixedness  
eying the wine, "perhaps the strangest part of those allegings is, that there  
is, as claimed, a kind of man who, while convinced that on this continent  
most wines are shams, yet still drinks away at them; accounting wine so  
fine a thing, that even the sham article is better than none at all. And if the  
40 temperance people urge that, by this course, he will sooner or later be  
undermined in health, he answers, 'And do you think I don't know that? But  
health without cheer I hold a bore; and cheer, even of the spurious sort,  
has its price, which I am willing to pay.'"