AGREGATION EXTERNE D’ANGLAIS

ÉPREUVE HORS PROGRAMME

**Première partie** *(en anglais, durée maximale : 40 minutes)*

Vous procéderez à l’étude et à la mise en relation argumentée des trois documents du dossier proposé (A, B, C non hiérarchisés). Votre présentation ne dépassera pas 20 minutes et sera suivie d’un entretien de 20 minutes maximum.

**Deuxième partie** *(en français, durée maximale : 5 minutes)*

À l’issue de l’entretien de première partie, et à l’invitation du jury, vous vous appuierez sur l’un des trois documents du dossier pour proposer un projet d’exploitation pédagogique dans une situation d’enseignement que vous aurez préalablement définie. Cette partie ne donnera lieu à aucun échange avec le jury.
DOCUMENT A


I saw an aged Beggar in my walk,  
And he was seated by the highway side  
On a low structure of rude masonry  
Built at the foot of a huge hill, that they  
Who lead their horses down the steep rough road  
May thence remount at ease. The aged man  
Had placed his staff across the broad smooth stone  
That overlays the pile, and from a bag  
All white with flour the dole of village dames,  
He drew his scraps and fragments, one by one,  
And scanned them with a fixed and serious look  
Of idle computation. In the sun,  
Upon the second step of that small pile,  
Surrounded by those wild unpeopled hills,  
He sate, and eat his food in solitude;  
And ever, scattered from his palsied hand,  
That still attempting to prevent the waste,  
Was baffled still, the crumbs in little showers  
Fell on the ground, and the small mountain birds,  
Not venturing yet to peck their destined meal,  
Approached within the length of half his staff.

Him from my childhood have I known, and then  
He was so old, he seems not older now;  
He travels on, a solitary man,  
So helpless in appearance, that for him  
The sauntering horseman-traveller does not throw  
With careless hands his alms upon the ground,  
But stops, that he may safely lodge the coin  
Within the old Man’s hat; nor quits him so,  
But still when he has given his horse the rein  
Towards the aged Beggar turns a look,  
Sidelong and half-reverted. She who tends  
The toll-gate, when in summer at her door  
She turns her wheel, if on the road she sees  
The aged Beggar coming, quits her work,  
And lifts the latch for him that he may pass.  
The Post-boy when his rattling wheels o’ertake  
The aged Beggar, in the woody lane,  
Shouts to him from behind, and, if perchance  
The old Man does not change his course, the Boy  
Turns with less noisy wheels to the road-side,
And passes gently by, without a curse
Upon his lips, or anger at his heart.
He travels on, a solitary Man,
His age has no companion. On the ground
His eyes are turned, and, as he moves along,
They move along the ground; and evermore,
Instead of common and habitual sight
Of fields with rural works, of hill and dale,
And the blue sky, one little span of earth
Is all his prospect. Thus, from day to day,
Bowbent, his eyes for ever on the ground,
He plies his weary journey, seeing still,
And never knowing that he sees, some straw,
Some scattered leaf, or marks which, in one track,
The nails of cart or chariot wheel have left
Impressed on the white road, in the same line,
At distance still the same. Poor Traveller!
His staff trails with him, scarcely do his feet
Disturb the summer dust, he is so still
In look and motion that the cottage curs,
Ere he have passed the door, will turn away
Weary of barking at him. Boys and girls,
The vacant and the busy, maids and youths,
And urchins newly breeched all pass him by:
Him even the slow-paced wagon leaves behind.

But deem not this man useless.—Statesman! Ye
Who are so restless in your wisdom, ye
Who have a broom still ready in your hands
To rid the world of nuisances; ye proud,
Heart-swoln, while in your pride ye contemplate
Your talents, power, and wisdom, deem him not
A burthen of the earth. 'Tis Nature's law
That none, the meanest of created things,
Of forms created the most vile and brute,
The dullest or most noxious, should exist
Divorced from good, a spirit and pulse of good,
A life and soul to every mode of being
Inseparably linked. While thus he creeps
From door to door, the Villagers in him
Behold a record which together binds
Past deeds and offices of charity
Else unremembered, and so keeps alive
The kindly mood in hearts which lapse of years,
And that half-wisdom half-experience gives
Make slow to feel, and by sure steps resign
To selfishness and cold oblivious cares.
LORD BEAUMONT OF WHITLEY rose to call attention to the serious extent of poverty which exists in Britain; and to move for Papers. The noble Lord said: My Lords, in rising to draw your Lordships’ attention to the extent of poverty still existing in Britain to-day, I am aware, not least by the number of your Lordships who have put their names down to speak in this debate, of the wide knowledge of and concern for this subject displayed by Members of this House. Nevertheless, I think it is true that the extent of poverty is not understood by large sections of the public as much as it might, and indeed as much as it should, be.

It is unfortunately true that, in spite of growing efforts of a number of passionately devoted individuals, largely connected with the voluntary societies of one kind or another—and here one must mention the Child Poverty Action Group, Shelter, Disablement Income Group and others of this kind—a large portion of the British public does not really believe that there is any serious poverty left in Britain. This is partly because they do not want to know. That is a very human reaction, because people do not like to know about the seamier side of life if they can help it. But I cannot help thinking that to a certain extent, politicians are to blame. Because people are reluctant to know, there is the more need for politicians, whose business it is, to highlight these problems. One of the tragedies of the poor to-day is that, partly because of the comparative success of the trade union movement in this country, there is really no longer any great interest or Party which identifies itself entirely with the poor. To put it bluntly, my Lords, we are reaching a situation where there are not very many votes in poverty, and this is a tragedy.

In saying this, I am not discounting or failing to recognise the large number of individuals, of all Parties, who have interested themselves in this field and who are dedicated to the eradication of poverty. I think one would here want to pay a special tribute to the Labour academics such as Professors Abel-Smith, Titmuss and Townsend, without whom our knowledge and concern for the poor in this country would be much less than it is, and also the individuals concerned both in this House and the other House, of both Parties. To name them would be invidious and there would, I am glad to say, be too many. But I feel that although one could name them, they stand out against a general background of apathy in this country.

It is not my business to-day to go into the details in the field of poverty. I hope that the speakers who follow, with their great fund of individual experience and expertise, will be able to bring the microscope to bear on a number of individual situations. For we must not forget in this debate, when we may be handling large statistics, that each statistic is a case of human deprivation and human misery. It is my business to-day, I think, merely to set the scene for the debate and possibly, if your Lordships will bear with me, to produce one or two broad solutions to the problems. To start with, there is the definition of “poverty”. To a certain extent, poverty must always be a relative concept. Neither our country nor any section of it can begin to compare, in terms of lack of goods and services,
with some of the developing countries; and the levels of poverty, the levels at which poverty begins, will always be rising in the developed countries, and we hope also in the developing countries.

There is nevertheless a sense in which poverty can be considered to be absolute, and you are poor in this absolute sense if you have not enough money, if you cannot afford to clothe yourself properly, to feed yourself properly, to warm yourself properly and to house yourself properly. About the numbers who really fall into this category there will always be dispute, but in our consideration of poverty we must bear in mind more people than actually fall strictly into this category. For instance, some people do not nourish their family as well as they might because they spend their money unwisely. “Unwisely”, however, is a term we should do well not to use too freely in this context. The family which skimps on the right kind of food in order to have a television set is no doubt behaving unwisely, but it is hardly for us who do not have to live in the mind and soul destroying conditions of poverty to say categorically that these people should deny themselves a few things that make their lives bearable and which enable them to escape from the life they lead for a few hours.

There used to be a saying that to get drunk was the quickest way to escape from Manchester on a Saturday night. If I may take this as an analogy, at the risk of offending Mancunians who may be here, it may be the only way to escape from Manchester on a Saturday night if you do not have the money for the public transport, and to escape from Manchester on a Saturday night may be a psychological necessity as important as some of the physical necessities we are talking about. Equally, it is not for us to blame the people who do not plan wisely ahead. Anyone who has come into contact with serious poverty knows that on the whole a lot of these people do not plan ahead because hope has disappeared, because to-morrow will be as foul as to-day, and the day after will probably be fouler, and they do not even want to think about it. In the words of Martin Luther King: “It is a cruel jest to say to the bootless, ‘You must lift yourselves up by your own bootlaces.’” [...]


James Mahoney. Illustration for the 1871 Household Edition of Charles Dickens’s *Adventures of Oliver Twist*. Wood engraving, 10.6 x 13.6 cm.