

1. VERSION JOURNALISTIQUE (20 points)

Levez un tout dernier verre

La Grande-Bretagne peut-elle encore être la Grande-Bretagne sans ses pubs ?

Les Britanniques craignent que l'une des institutions les plus chères à leur cœur ne soit en train d'agoniser. Chaque jour, cinq pubs ferment leur porte et laissent un vide pour les gens qui les fréquentaient autrefois. Pour la première fois en près d'un millénaire, plus de la moitié des villages en Grande-Bretagne sont au régime sec. Le pub a toujours été un forum citoyen pour la population, son point de ralliement et son refuge contre les temps difficiles. Aujourd'hui la flambée du prix de la bière a réduit la consommation à son niveau le plus bas depuis la Grande dépression. Un élément essentiel du caractère national est en train de disparaître, peut-être à jamais. « Les pubs ne sont pas seulement spécifiques à la Grande-Bretagne, » déclare Neil Williams de la British Beer & Pubs Association (la Confédération britannique des brasseries et des pubs). « Ils jouent un rôle absolument essentiel dans la vie socio-culturelle de la nation. »

L'idée que le pub (l'abréviation de 'public house') soit à la fois sanctuaire et lieu de rencontre est profondément enraciné dans l'esprit des Britanniques. Les pubs qui survivent encore dans les campagnes continuent à constituer le point de convergence de la population locale. « Un village sans pub, c'est épouvantable, » affirme Graham Rose en sirotant une pinte de bière sous les poutres en chêne du pub local qu'il fréquente depuis des décennies. « Ce que j'aime vraiment, c'est que c'est le seul endroit où on peut rencontrer des gens de tous horizons. » Le village où il habite dans l'Oxfordshire a vu disparaître deux de ses trois pubs au cours des 15 dernières années.

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2. THEME (20 points)

- 1) If the directors had not taken the necessary decisions, the firm would not have survived the crisis.
- 2) Most Spanish people think that their purchasing power has been tumbling since the switchover to the euro.
- 3) He confided in me his intention of leaving the bank as soon as he had found a post abroad.
- 4) This certainly is the first time I've seen you up and dressed before everyone else.
- 5) We only have ourselves to blame. We shouldn't have invested in that tax heaven.
- 6) What reassures drivers is that the price of oil fell last month.
- 7) Salaries have increased only by 1% which has not allowed households to increase their consumption.
- 8) Building wind turbines offshore is all the more difficult as (the) salt damages the machinery.
- 9) From now on, she will have to take account of all the advice her superiors will give her.
- 10) It's high time the competent authorities decided to knock down those ugly blocks, isn't it ?

3. ESSAY (20 points)

How would you define happiness ?

Defining happiness is difficult because it is personal but the Americans made it an « unalienable right » in their Declaration of Independence which means happiness is essential and inherent to human nature. What makes people happy and is happiness attainable ? (41)

People often equate happiness with wealth. Wealth helps because it means you can access basic needs and more. But once these needs are fulfilled, more money does not necessarily lead to more happiness. Indeed, rich people can suffer from depression although they own beautiful homes and cars, travel a lot and stay in lavish hotels. This means that happiness lies elsewhere. Various factors contribute to happiness : good relations with your family, where you live -is it a democracy or not, is it polluted or pristine- whether your job satisfies you or not. Ultimately, being in good health is essential to happiness. (102)

But even when people have everything they wish for, not all are happy because happiness is what you make of it and can be ephemeral : fleeting moments that you need to spot and live fully. Then, to be happy you need to have something to hope for and the longer you wait for it the happier you will be. Finally if you fix yourself inaccessible goals you will be unhappy. Today people compare their lives to other people's on social networks and feel depressed because they cannot do the same fancy things as their friends do. They live their life by proxy instead of defining their own goals to be happy. (112)

Being happy means being satisfied with one's life and to do that one needs to set oneself achievable goals. (19) (275)