



**MINISTÈRE
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ANNALES DU CONCOURS

Accès au corps des attachés
de la DGSE

Épreuve d'admissibilité :
anglais



Session 2025



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2^{ème} épreuve d'admissibilité

Anglais

Épreuve d'anglais constituée d'une série de quatre questions à réponse courte traitant de problématiques dans les domaines européen, international et économique, rédigées en langue anglaise et nécessitant une réponse rédigée en langue anglaise. Chaque question peut être accompagnée d'un ou plusieurs documents en rapport avec la question posée qui n'excèdent pas une page au total.



Durée : 2 heures - coefficient 3

**CONCOURS EXTERNE
POUR L'ACCÈS AU CORPS DES ATTACHÉS**

SESSION 2025

Epreuve d'admissibilité :

Anglais

Épreuve d'anglais constituée d'une série de quatre questions à réponses courtes traitant de problématiques dans les domaines européen, international et économique et nécessitant une réponse rédigée en langue anglaise. Chaque question peut être accompagnée d'un ou plusieurs documents, qui n'excèdent pas une page au total, en rapport avec la question posée.

Durée : 2 heures ; coefficient 3

Barème : chaque question est notée sur 5 points.

Vous répondrez en anglais à chacune des questions ci-dessous.

NDE - aucun document n'est fourni en appui de ces questions.

Questions :

1. Organizations that operate with a deeper sense of meaning than just generating profits are defined as « purpose-driven ». What does it mean in practice and why are they more attractive than others?
2. The last two years have seen startling advances in artificial intelligence. The potential positives are astonishing, but the risks are also colossal. What form of containment will be needed not only to manage AI but also to ensure that it becomes one of the most extraordinary inventions in human history?
3. How is climate change impacting on geopolitics? Beyond the measures that need to be taken to address the issue of global warming, what needs to be addressed to minimise or mitigate its consequences on geopolitics?
4. Is it fair to assume that intelligence agencies recognize that public perception matters, and that pop culture plays a significant role in shaping that perception?



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Copies ayant obtenu la meilleure note

Anglais

L'administration n'a volontairement pas corrigé les imperfections de fond et de forme dans les copies communiquées ci-après.



Année : 2025

Concours : Externe - Attaché

Épreuve : Anglais

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① In 2016, Fabrice Bonnyet, member of the Shift Project and sustainability Director of Bouygues, praised the notion of 'Corporate Sustainability' in corporate law, and more generally in the bodies of corporations. This idea of becoming virtuous, against and despite the original purpose of corporations to generate profits, seems at first contradictory with a business' financial goals. Yet, a corporation's social and environmental impact is increasingly scrutinised and considered by the population, i.e. its clients and partners. Therefore, the need to become 'purpose-driven' or at least to be aware of its social and environmental impact in the geographic sector in which it operates, is affecting even profit-driven companies today.

The most visible expression of this phenomenon is perhaps the recent evolution of the law, which has on ^{both} a national and international level adopted reforms to prevent companies and organisations from behave, as legal entities, against the common good. Hence from Spotify which has invested in Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage, to Carrefour which has implemented a Sustainability Strategy as soon as 2016, the need to be 'purpose-driven' is not solely dedicated to humanitarian or social organizations today. In order to become more attractive, ~~whether~~ for workers, partners or clients, even the profit-focused companies need to demonstrate a sense of purpose, or in legal words a sense of 'corporate responsibility'.

Yet, the term 'green-washing' has emerged to refer to policies of organisations willing to portray themselves as virtuous without changing their behaviours. In other words, it is difficult

to measure a 'purpose-driven' organisation, which can hide 'profit-driven' purposes. Another example - out of the sustainable development realm - is that of international organizations like the UN (United Nations). Although called peace-keepers, its contingents have sometimes been accused of crimes against the population it was called to protect, such as the UNWRA in Gaza.

To conclude, it is particularly difficult to measure the real impact of an organization on society. The ones dedicated to a common, higher goal are deemed to have more responsibility and therefore ~~are~~ are under more scrutiny of the public sphere. While the need for purpose has undoubtedly an impact and defines the actions of organizations, this concept needs to be defined with international standards in legal institutions.

④ The French TV show "Bureau des légendes" issued in 2014, is said to have had as much impact on the DGSE's applications as the 2002 terrorist attacks. If an element of pop culture can have such a positive effect on the interest of potential recruits in an intelligence agency, the latter have little choice but to look for a way to respond to this interest and in turn show interest in the mechanics of pop culture.

The secrecy surrounding intelligence agencies could itself be seen as an adaptation to public perception. This mystery surrounding intelligence today certainly fuels the interest of the society in their activities. From Johnny English to James Bond, each year is the scene of a new pop culture monument that offers a window on intelligence. The evolution of art reciprocates this phenomenon, and TV shows including on public platforms like Netflix and Youtube, apply this rule as well (for instance Black Dove in 2024 and Slow Horses in 2023). The intelligence agencies also adapt to this technological evolution, being increasingly interested in public platforms abroad where pop culture and intelligence can both be gathered (RUtube or VKontact in Russia for example).

However, whether this impetus provided by pop culture

is seized to improve fidelisation - perhaps the deepest issue facing intelligence agencies today - is still unsure. Indeed, even with the romance surrounding intelligence agencies' activities thanks to pop culture today, ~~more than~~ they are facing a 50% turn-over in its ranks. In short, pop culture attracts, but perhaps does not help in creating a link amongst recruits with the organization they are joining. The risk of creating a biased image of what it is on the inside represents a threat for intelligence agencies if they want to create a lasting link with their recruits.

Hence the historic knowledge of the work of an intelligence agency must remain at the forefront of its recruitment strategy, instead of building its foundations on a romanticized idea of intelligence.

② In 2016, during the NATO Brussels Summit, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization adopted a Compendium of Best Practices for Defence in climate change. Not long ago, defence and climate seemed like two contradictory and incompatible terms. This swift change and adaptation of armed forces to the biggest issue of our times points to a collective awareness on the international scene.

This evolution is particularly visible in international law. While states like Bolivia engaged in their Constitution a 'Right of Mother Nature' as soon as 2016, the foundations of this new concept still has to be defined in the international legal order. Indeed, in 2019 President Bolsonaro addressed the fires destroying Amazonia as sufficient enough to trigger an intervention on the Brazilian national territory. This declaration is nothing less than the adaptation of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) applied to environmental disasters instead of humanitarian ones.

Following the concept of the Just War theory, academics have argued that Russian's actions in Ukraine amounted to crimes against the environment. This notion, if a war crime is indeed characterized, could in a new ^{evolving} legal order justify environmental interventions where the humanity's environmental heritage is threatened.

While climate change is increasingly present in diplomatic discussions, as a primary concern of our times, the legal bases it needs to truly be recognized in geopolitics is still lacking. Most NATO members have recognized global warming as a "threat multiplier" in their respective defence strategies, yet the failure of the 2024 COP26 and COP16 is indicative of a lack of international understanding of the threat it represents.

② In the beginning of the year 2025, during the second week of January, the UK has announced that it will not implement any legal framework to control AI (Artificial Intelligence). This approach aims at not setting any precedent in order to encourage innovation in this emerging field. In contrast, the EU is betting on putting legal constraints in order to protect fundamental rights and follow competition law.

While the UK's approach could prove positive to its Research and Development sector, and in the long term to create innovation that will stimulate its Industrial Defence and Technology Base (IDTB), it represents considerable risks for its human rights. Indeed, allowing AI companies to operate without constraints could lead to data protection breaches, and reveal in hindsight structural problems when the law will not be aligned to practices anymore.

The EU's approach on the other hand represents great risks of giving to Member States great legal constraints that their competitors will not have to follow. At a time where the EU needs to rebuild its technological and industrial base, and to create a greater "open-market" faced with the threat of more protective policies from their allies (the UK and the United States primarily) this decision can be debated.

AI reveals the need to find a balance between economic growth, ~~and~~ technology development and a legal structure respectful of its citizens' rights along with competition law.

Année : 2025

Concours : concours externe d'accès
au corps des attachés

Épreuve : anglais



Consignes :

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Question 1

Purpose-driven organizations, and more precisely purpose-driven corporations, may seem more attractive than their counterparts which are solely driven by the pursuit of profit. Employees, or potential new hires, may be more willing to work for an organization which defends a cause which is close to their heart. Consumers may also prefer to spend their money on products or services produced by a company which upholds values they identify with.

However, there is a wide array of purpose-driven organizations, and not all of them may be attractive. French corporate law has recently introduced the possibility for French corporations to become "société à mission". Many French corporations have adopted such a corporate purpose, from EDF to Pernod Ricard. It would appear that the behavior of those companies has not changed in any meaningful way since they have become purpose-driven.

One could argue that, in a capitalist society, the primary goal of a corporation is to earn a profit without breaking any law. The distinction between a purpose-driven corporation, and one which only pursues profit-making, could therefore rely on how far each one is ready to go to make money.

There are corporations which do not advertise

any specific purpose, other than earning a profit, but which fund a variety of charities.

Being purpose-driven is not in itself a bad thing for an organization, however one should be cautious when thinking this makes them more attractive.

Question 2

The advances in artificial intelligence over the last few years have been breathtaking. From an obscure area of scientific research, artificial intelligence and its applications have reached many aspects of everyday life.

Artificial intelligence has the potential to profoundly change society as we know it.

For this change to be positive, several safeguards would need to be put in place. Language learning models are becoming ever more accurate. As a result, it is becoming increasingly difficult to identify AI-generated content. This is a major threat, in particular to democracies where freedom of speech is upheld, as it has the potential to greatly facilitate disinformation and the spreading of fake news.

Artificial intelligence also represents a challenge to privacy. Language learning models are fed enormous amounts of data, some of which may be private. This enables artificial intelligence users to create content based on this private data.

Finally, an often overlooked aspect of artificial intelligence is its environmental footprint. Language learning models are powered by servers and processors which require an ever-increasing amount of electricity. In a world where carbon emissions are already soaring, where the transition to cleaner energies is not going as fast as it should, adding a new, large, source of energy consumption could prove to be the nail in the coffin of any ambition to combat climate change.

Question 3

Climate change has a direct impact on geopolitics. Climate change, for example, leads to desertification in some parts of the world. This in turn leads to migration, as the inhabitants of affected areas move in search of fresh water. Conflicts in the Sahel, in Mali or Burkina Faso for instance, can be partly attributed to conflicts between herders and farmers for the control of wells.

In Sudan, the Darfur War, which saw its most violent period between 2003 and 2006, was also in part caused by the arrival in the region of herders who were fleeing a severe drought in the north of the country.

Climate change will, and already does, lead to migration, which may cause geopolitical instability.

Countries towards which these migrants are likely to go should prepare for this phenomenon, to mitigate it.

International aid should be focused on ensuring the countries most affected by climate change still have access to the resources which enable their population to live there.

There are, however, instances where it becomes impossible for local populations to remain in their home countries. This will be the case of many Pacific Ocean island-nations, which will be entirely engulfed by the rising sea level. In 2023, to prepare for this scenario, Australia announced it would grant "climate refugee" status to the citizens of Tuvalu.

Question 4

It is definitely fair to assume that intelligence agencies recognize that public perception matters, and that popular culture plays a significant role in shaping that perception.

Intelligence agencies, in most cases, have a very limited ability to advertise the role they play in ensuring a country's safety. Because of the covert nature of some of their activities, their failures will be much better known than their victories, which will remain secret. French public opinion is still reeling from the Rainbow Warrior fire in 1985, which was in equal part a strategic failure and a public relations catastrophe.

Although they have not altered the United States' alliances, Edward Snowden's revelations in 2013 regarding the National Security Agency's (NSA) massive data collection activities have sown doubt in the public's mind as to the extent to which intelligence agencies infringe on individual rights.

It is therefore a necessity for intelligence agencies to cultivate a positive image among the public. This is particularly the case in democracies, where intelligence agencies' budgets rely on the will of elected leaders. In authoritarian regimes, public perception is also important. However, in this case, intelligence agencies do not seek to gain popularity, but to project strength and ruthlessness.

Popular culture is a shrewd way for intelligence agencies to present themselves in a favorable light to the public. Novels, films or television series are fiction, but they can depict the activities of intelligence officers as being relatable, or even glamorous. This is important because this cultural content will shape the public's opinion. It is even more important because, to a large extent, it will influence intelligence agencies' ability to attract recruits.

Année : 2025

Concours : Concours externe pour
l'accès au corps des attachés

Épreuve : Anglais



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① With the surge of conflicts in the 21st century, the Red Cross organisation is now operating in almost every countries in the world, and has resort to local agencies such as the Red Crescent. This organisation is motivated by the protection of civilians in times of conflict.

Organisations that are purpose-driven include non governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), not for profits, but, also more broadly, organisations that are not looking ultimately to generate profits.

This wide variety of purpose-driven organisation highlights the need for today's organisations to take into account other factors than just economic ones.

What does it mean in practice to be a purpose-driven organisation and why are they more attractive than others?

Firstly, purpose-driven organisations' effectiveness is measured by qualitative results and not by standard economic tools. For instance, an organisation dedicated to the restoration of nature will measure its success by the superficies of restored land or forest, rather than by the amount of money spent. It allows for more flexibility when assessing the organisation's success, as different parameters are taken into account. This also raises the question of the organisation's fundings. If it does not look to generate profits, a purpose-driven organisation thus must find a secure source of fundings. It may look into subsidiaries by government, regional fundings or even look for billionaires' support. A secure source of fundings allows to overcome the economic realities of an organisation.

Secondly, this type of organisations can be attractive as people reflect on the impacts of capitalism. Indeed, while inequalities between countries have shrank over the last century, inequalities between the wealthiest and the poorest have increased. A purpose-driven organisations is attractive when its ultimate goal is the well being of others, whether through art, food, health or sports and the promotion of alternative activities. It is why more and more ^{people} chose to dedicate their time to charity and local organisations, when they can not afford to change jobs for a more meaningful one.

In light of the above, purpose-driven organisations can offer an alternative way of working or living. It leads to more cohesion and more happiness in societies. However, they rely on external source of fundings most of the time, which is a singularity in a capitalist system.

②) The invention of Chat GPT in 2023 acted as a breakthrough in artificial intelligence (AI). AI is not new; for instance Alan Turing's machine used to decypher codes during WWII was one of the first AI machine. However, the invention of Chat GPT is revolutionary, as its imbanterity and potential is far more superior. Indeed, students are now using Chat GPT to produce their homeworks, to the point where AI is now used to tell when AI was used.

It raises important ethical stakes, along with sovereign ones. As a matter of fact, AI is mainly developed in the United States, and not in Europe.

Thus, what must be done in terms of regulating artificial intelligence to avoid opening the Pandora box?

At the international level, AI must be regulated to ensure ethical use. While Donald Trump's election opens the door to unregulated social media, measures must be taken to regulate AI. For instance, warnings should be displayed when a content was produced with AI. Furthermore, as AI learns from humans, it also learns their behaviour and their opinion. It can thus ^{contribute} to the polarisation of debates or the sharing of biased ideas. More regulations must be implemented to prevent this.

Furthermore, the potential of AI will only increase with time. Indeed, the progress in quantum physics will allow for more efficiency in the exchange of data, in its processing and its sharing. Super computers are already being invented, and a "super AI" will follow closely. Regulation must thus be implemented quickly.

At the European level, measures are already being taken. The European Union adopted an Act on Artificial Intelligence, to better regulate AI and ensure a positive invention. The European Union should also develop its own AI, to ensure that it becomes one of the most extraordinary inventions in human history. It is only by creating different AIs, that can learn from each other or propose an alternative approach, that AI can be beneficial. Monopolies in invention and in markets are rarely beneficial, and a monopoly in AI will not be.

To conclude, while it is still time to adopt a robust regulation on AI internationally, the European Union should act quickly to develop its own AI and prevent the world from opening the Pandora box.

③ On the first day of his second presidency, Donald Trump withdrew by presidential decree the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change, for a second ^{time}. This conveys two messages: First, the United States does not believe in climate ^{change} and its impact on geopolitics. Second, the United States will continue business as usual, while other countries follow the Paris Agreement.

Climate change thus impacts geopolitics. Sea level rising leads to climate refugees seeking asylum in other countries, fires can destroy crops and threaten global food security, while floods may kill.

We may thus wonder, what are the impacts of climate change on geopolitics and what can be done to minimise or mitigate them?

Climate change is strongly impacting geopolitics, while international initiatives are taken to mitigate climate change. Climate change negotiations are now at the heart of geopolitics. While COP21, held in Paris in 2015, was broadly considered a success, COP28 and COP29, held in UAE and Azerbaijan were less successful.

COP28 concluded with an only declaration promoting an "cutting of the fossil fuels" while COP29 concluded with a \$300 billion funds for developing countries. Countries whose economies rely on fossil fuel aim to prevent green transition and are not willing to take the necessary measures to slow down their oil production. Climate change is thus deeply intertwined with geopolitics and realpolitik, and more measures must be taken to minimise or address climate change.

Indeed, climate change is disproportionately affecting developing countries. 10% of the wealthiest on Earth are responsible for half of the world's CO₂ emissions. Developing countries emit less CO₂, but they are strongly impacted.

Thus, the international forum must better take into account developing countries. For instance, the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) are voicing their concerns on sea level rising, as they are directly threatened by it.

Another way of taking their interests into account is to place agencies' headquarters in developing countries, such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya.

In light of the above, the aftermaths of climate change on geopolitics should not be ignored. Countries are affected disproportionately compared to their production of CO₂, and all are not in favour of green transitioning. It can only worsen with time.

④ The fictional character of James Bond is today the most famous "secret agent" in the world. While it is far from being representative of intelligence agencies, it singularly contributed to the popularity of the MI-6, the British intelligence agency.

Pop culture often represents agents and their role in intelligence gathering and analysis. Pop culture can take ~~liberty~~ some liberty with the reality or stick with true facts. Because of the wide range of public it targets, it can have a strong influence on the public's opinion of intelligence agencies. However, when it becomes fiction, it can be an issue.

Should intelligence agencies take into account pop culture and its impacts on the public opinion?

Année : 2025

Concours : Concours externe du corps
des attachés

Épreuve : Anglais



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Intelligence agencies do recognise that the public's opinion matters, and take measures to be better represented in pop culture. Since intelligence agencies' role is to protect States and their population, whether on national territory or abroad, it is important to be well considered by civilians. It can lead to more efficiency, better access to data and better protection. It is why intelligence agencies take measure to be better represented in pop culture. For instance, the French Intelligence agency (the DGSE) collaborated with Eric Rochant, the director of the TV show "Le Bureau des légendes". The TV-show encountered such success, in France and abroad, that the DGSE saw an important increase in applications for jobs. It is why it can be beneficial for intelligence agencies to be represented in pop culture.

However, one should bear in mind that intelligence agencies must process sensitive data, including during war or in sensitive contexts, and as such they should be protected from the public's opinion. Thus, while intelligence agencies recognise that public perception matters, it should only be on declassified data, or not sensitive information. Furthermore, pop culture can undermine the credibility of agencies. While it is part of the freedom of speech, the American intelligence agency (the CIA) suffered from movies on its actions during the "big war on terrorism". It is why the public perception should not be ignored, while protecting it from sensitive data and operations.

To conclude, public perception should be taken into account, and is, by intelligence agencies. It is part of the freedom of speech, and more broadly an important aspect of pop culture. However, intelligence

have access to classified and sensitive data, that should be carefully dealt with.

