

TEST D'ENTREE EN SECTION INTERNATIONALE
AMERICAINE
LYCEE ANDRE ARGOUGES, GRENOBLE– SESSION 2017.

PART I: Reading comprehension

(The abridged incipit (beginning) of *1984* by George Orwell, published in 1949)

When there is no specific number of words indicated, you should give a short answer.

- 1- Read the text a first time then say briefly what your first impression was (about 30 words).

Read the text again and answer the following questions.

- 2- Focus on the main character.
- a- What type of job does he seem to have?
 - b- Focus on his attitude and deduce his feelings. Quote the text to justify.
- 3- Focus on the description of the ministries.
- a- Pick out the words referring to architecture. What do you think of the way the buildings are described? What effect does that produce on the reader? (about 30 words)
 - b- “War is peace, Freedom is slavery, Ignorance is strength”: comment on the structure and the meaning of these slogans. How did you react when you first read them (50 words).
 - c- List the different Ministries and their respective roles. How do you feel about their names and the reality they refer to?
 - d- Imagine the complete name of Minipax . What could this ministry deal with?
- 4- The political regime
- a- What do you think “Newspeak” is? Can you give examples? Guess what its objective is?
 - b- Find the technological device used by this regime. What is its use?
 - c- “He had set his features into the expression of quiet optimism which it was advisable to wear when facing the telescreen”. Explain this sentence. (about 40 words)
- 5- Resistance
- a- What different means does Winston find to resist the regime?
 - b- Why is this dangerous?
- 6- What political regime does this remind you of? Justify.

Help: (1) grimy : dirty; (2) frowzy : smelling bad because there is no fresh air.

PART II: Writing assignment – choose **ONE** subject. Write about 250 words.

A- “To mark the paper was the decisive act. In small clumsy letters he wrote: *April 4th, 1984*”: write the first page in Winston’s diary.

or

B- Imagine you are a child in this society. What would your life be like?

Big Brother is Watching You *The story takes place in a fictional country, Oceania.*

Winston kept his back turned to the telescreen. It was safer; though, as he well knew, even a back can be revealing. A kilometer away the Ministry of Truth, his place of work, towered vast and white above the grimy (1) landscape. (...)

The Ministry of Truth - Minitrue, in Newspeak - was startlingly different from any other object in sight. It was an enormous pyramidal structure of glittering white concrete, soaring up, terrace after terrace, three hundred meters into the air. From where Winston stood it was just possible to read, picked out on its white face in elegant lettering, the three slogans of the Party:

WAR IS PEACE

FREEDOM IS SLAVERY

IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH.

(...) Scattered about London there were just three other buildings of similar appearance and size.(...) : the Ministry of Truth, which concerned itself with news, entertainment, education, and the fine arts; the Ministry of Love, which maintained law and order; and the Ministry of Plenty, which was responsible for economic affairs. Their names, in Newspeak: Minitrue, Minipax, Miniluv, and Miniplenty. (...)

Winston turned round abruptly. He had set his features into the expression of quiet optimism which it was advisable to wear when facing the telescreen. (...)

For some reason the telescreen in the living room was in an unusual position. Instead of being placed, as was normal, in the end wall, where it could command the whole room, it was in the longer wall, opposite the window. To one side of it there was a shallow alcove in which Winston was now sitting and which, when the flats were built, had probably been intended to hold bookshelves. By sitting in the alcove, and keeping well back, Winston was able to remain outside the range of the telescreen, so far as sight went. He could be heard, of course, but so long as he stayed in his present position he could not be seen. It was partly the unusual geography of the room that had suggested to him the thing that he was now about to do.

But it had also been suggested by the book that he had just taken out of the drawer. (...) He had seen it lying in the window of a frowzy (2) little junk shop in a slummy quarter of the town (...) and had been stricken immediately by an overwhelming desire to possess it. (...) He had carried it guiltily home in his brief case. Even with nothing written in it, it was a compromising possession.

The thing that he was about to do was to open a diary. This was not illegal (nothing was illegal, since there were no longer any laws), but if detected it was reasonably certain that it would be punished by death, or at least a forced-labor camp. (...) To mark the paper was the decisive act. In small clumsy letters he wrote:

April 4th, 1984