

## Concours e3a session 2014

### QCM Anglais facultatif MP – PC - PSI

#### Proposition de correction

#### QCM

##### Compréhension

1	D		7	C
2	C		8	D
3	C		9	A
4	B		10	B
5	C		11	D
6	C		12	A

##### Lexique

13	D		19	B
14	B		20	D
15	D		21	A
16	C		22	B
17	D		23	B
18	A		24	C

##### Compétence grammaticale

25	A		30	B		35	A
26	D		31	A		36	B
27	C		32	D		37	B
28	C		33	B		38	B
29	A		34	D		39	B

##### Remarques :

- 1) Un doute subsiste sur le point lexical n°13 : un équivalent de « the southern edge » serait logiquement « the southern part / region / border » ; « corner » s'emploie pour des directions intermédiaires (northwest ; southeast) et « point » pour des points extrêmes : « the southernmost point » ; placé devant ce choix bien étrange, nous proposons « point » et regrettons l'absence de « border » ...
- 2) On notera que le point n°33 (« A great many measures have been taken so far ») est identique au point de langue n° 27 de l'épreuve E3A de 2012 (facultative cette année-là), et au point n° 27 de l'épreuve CCP LV2 de... 2014 (« There are a great many approaches ») : la connaissance des petites manies des concepteurs de sujets est un atout irremplaçable dans la préparation d'un concours.

- 3) La question 36 (« Those areas are said to be touched by global warming ») ne laisse pas de surprendre : on insistera sur le fait que “to touch” est ici un faux-ami et que les verbes “to affect » et « to hit » sont bien préférables dans un tel contexte.

## Synthèse

Tableau de confrontation

<b>Students abusing drugs to improve performance</b>	<b>The competition drug</b>	<b>Students could be tested for performance-enhancing drugs</b>
Press article, by Catherine Armitage	Press article, by Roger Cohen	Press article, by Nick Collins
<i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> , March 2013	<i>The New York Times</i> , March 2013	<i>The Daily Telegraph</i> , November 2012
<p>a) About 8% of Australian university students (law and medical ones for the most part) are believed to use pharmaceutical stimulants of the Ritalin family to get better concentration and higher grades.</p> <p>b) Evidence of the effect, however, is not conclusive, as several factors come into play; it seems that improvement is more visible in average students than in high-achievers.</p> <p>c) Whether in Queensland or in New South Wales the situation is not deemed serious enough for measures to be taken.</p>	<p>Two parts:</p> <p>1) General outline:</p> <p>a) In Boston’s colleges the main hazard on campus is not binge-drinking but the increasing use of an amphetamine prescribed for ADHD among students.</p> <p>b) Getting a prescription for Adderall is easy as pie, which is all the more worrying as the drug, like cocaine, can lead to dependency, sleeplessness and depression.</p> <p>2) The testimony of an addicted student, Steven Roderick :</p> <p>a) Roderick witnessed the momentous effect of “Addie” when his grades soared from D’s and F’s to A’s.</p> <p>b) Today more than three years after getting hooked he discovers that the drug is no longer reliable.</p> <p>c) Roderick explains his addiction by blaming it on a culture for which the end justifies the means.</p>	<p>a) A new trend is spreading among Cambridge university students: the use of drugs prescribed for attention disorders in order to get an extra edge.</p> <p>b) As the use of cognitive enhancers has a proven effect on the grades obtained by the users (10% of UK students and 16% of US ones), a screening procedure is being considered.</p> <p>c) The use of such drugs by healthy people is similar to resorting to sophisticated technology in order to improve one’s work. Such human enhancement technologies may put pressure on non-users and therefore raise ethical and societal issues.</p>

## Synthèse

### **The drug that helps you get higher grades will let you down**

*The Daily Telegraph* revealed in November 2012 that performance-enhancing drugs were increasingly used at Cambridge University. In March 2013 both *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The New York Times* provided information on this novel, far from harmless trend. To what extent is this phenomenon part and parcel of our society?

As Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) became one of schoolchildren's major illnesses the pharmaceutical stimulants prescribed to combat it – *Ritalin*, *Adderall* among others – proved remarkably effective. The habit of using them to enhance focus and memory spread like wildfire through campuses among healthy students who wanted to improve their performance. About 10% of British students, 16% of US students and about 8% of their Australian peers are believed to misuse the so-called smart drugs whose potency is proven, especially in the US (doc 2) and among average students rather than high-achievers (doc 1). Significantly law and medical students are the main users. Quite understandably in such domains competition is harsh and students often have to take out a loan to pay for their studies. The stress of finding a job after college must be borne in mind, too; as the student implies in doc 2, we live in a culture “that constantly justifies the means to an end”. Although it is sometimes viewed as cheating, other students feel coerced to use the drugs as well (doc 3).

The questions raised by the misuse of cognitive enhancers are ethical, political and economic. The reason that could prompt authorities to detect students using performance-boosting drugs is inequality at exam time and the possible impact on working conditions as employees may be forced to use such drugs to remain competitive. The drugs can be likened to “human-enhancement” technologies (such as retinal implants or hypersensitive hearing aids) that may “benefit society”, as Prof. Richardson says (doc 3). Should any action be taken?

In Britain formal screening has not been set up as the matter has not “been discussed enough yet” (doc 3). In Australia, as no evidence of any improvement in academic performance has been found so far, no screening is considered. The drug is easy to come by and will be so as long as authorities do not deem it a problem (doc 1). Only in the US is the medical aspect considered: just like cocaine, *Adderall* can lead to dependency, sleeplessness and depression. Steven Roderick reveals that three years after taking the first pill and gradually increasing the dose, *Adderall* has become unreliable. The user feels all the more deceived since the drug had not been presented as a health hazard, and puts the blame on society.

(447 words)