

CONCOURS EXTERNE DES 23 ET 24 FEVRIER 2015
POUR LE RECRUTEMENT DE CONTRÔLEURS DES DOUANES ET DROITS INDIRECTS
Branche du contrôle des opérations commerciales et d'administration générale

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Épreuve orale d'admission n° 2

Interrogation de langue étrangère consistant dans la traduction orale en français d'un texte écrit dans la langue étrangère choisie, suivie d'une conversation dans la même langue

(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

Kenya opens anti-poaching forensic laboratory

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has opened a forensic laboratory to boost the fight against poaching. The information gathered should help in prosecuting suspected poachers as cases can collapse because of weak evidence.

The laboratory will build up a DNA database which will link stolen ivory and meat to specific animals. Poaching has damaged the wildlife population in Kenya with fears that some species could be pushed into extinction.

The laboratory is the second of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa – the other being in South Africa – and KWS says it can be used by all countries in the east and central African region.

A team of 45 researchers at the \$1.7m (£1.2m) laboratory in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, will now be taking samples from wild animals in order to extract the DNA. This information can then be used to provide "water-tight evidence" in court, according to KWS spokesman Paul Udoto.

Mr Udoto says prosecutors have faced a problem proving that meat found with a suspected poacher is from a protected species. In the past suspects have been able to argue that it was goat or cattle meat. Now the evidence can be tested in court and compared with the information in the database to prove beyond doubt what animal it comes from.

KWS says that bushmeat hunting is endangering some wild animals including the sable and hirola antelopes.

DNA taken from smuggled ivory that has been discovered can be linked to an individual animal in a specific location. That information can secure a prosecution and help in intelligence gathering when trying to establish where poachers are operating, Mr Udoto says.

About 100 rhinoceros have been poached in Kenya in the last three years and KWS thinks that if no "urgent interventions are made" rhinos could disappear from Kenya altogether. It is hoped that more prosecutions will act as a deterrent to potential smugglers.

The illegal ivory trade has soared in recent years, and a kilogramme of ivory is now worth thousands of dollars. Much of the demand has been driven by a rapidly growing market in Asia.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa>, 8 May 2015

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How creating art helps us live healthier lives

You must be wondering how art is connected in living a healthier lifestyle. Creating art is a very effective way to stimulate the brain and improve your well being which in turn build you up a healthier life. Art helps in promoting emotional and physical well being by encouraging stimulation through artistic expression and by instilling a conscientious attitude towards health. We are capable of living a healthier life when we are stress free, when we are physically fit to perform our basic activities. There are so many different types of problems people face which stands against a healthier life, like addiction, depression, loneliness, feeling of being an introvert and many other such problems which affect a healthy life.

To clear our minds from the stress we face daily, art can work perfectly as a needed distraction. It can help you focus and enjoy at the same time. The nature of creating something evokes a sense of playfulness. Art has the capability to strengthen your attention span, which can be helpful in living a tension free work life or through your education. Art helps in building self esteem no matter what age the person is. Art helps you in seeing the world with a new perspective by giving you a chance to express your emotions through art, which you probably would not have been able to do in any other means. With proper guidance, art helps you in understanding certain aspects of yourself that you never knew existed, whether good or bad, you would be able to face the reality.

Art is also useful in treating addictions. It is effective in treating alcohol or drug addiction, sex addiction or any other addictions. By expressing yourself through art you will be able to overcome your problems by training yourself in a way to resolve conflicts in a better way, by helping you in manage your behavior. Art helps you in reducing stress, which in turn will help you in getting a hold on your addiction. It trains your mind to have a stronger will to control your urge. This change in you will automatically help you in having a better and a healthier life.

Art makes you more observant, stimulates your imagination and enhances your problem solving skills. In this competitive world, people work very hard, trying to place themselves in the top. But few just stay back, probably because they lack confidence or they are introverts since a long time or may be some other reason. Whatever it is, it's not going to help them in achieving things they wish to have. Art helps in treating depression and can help in building self confidence in one self.

Art always has its benefits and it's not going to cost you. It does keep you healthy. And if you doubt it, its time you experienced the magic of art.

<http://www.articlesbase.com>, 17 April 2015



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Home solar panels

Would you like to reduce your expenses at home, particularly electric bills? Well, it would be a nice idea for you to invest in home solar panels. Decades ago, this has been introduced, but only few took their way into it. Not until economic crisis, people already deemed that home solar panels could be truly a great help to make their expenses a bit lesser than what they are used to.

Keep in mind, the thermal energy comes out for free and the sun is the only way to have it. So, why not make your own way to use it and help yourself minimize your expenses? Actually, various solar panels could be used in order to achieve home solar panels. Moreover, when the solar panels have the contact in the solar energy, it could now produce electrical energy. Using solar energy could get mixers, hot water tanks, and heaters to work. As a result, you could find radical reduction into your monthly bill for electricity.

On the other hand, the economical do-it-yourself kits are always available and only involve a reasonable small investment. Such kit is capable of assembling the kit on its own and significantly reduces the investment. Panel repair is facilitated once you kept some essential tools at hand. Usually, these kits supply the entire items needed for the installation. These kits have all of the small items like poles, screws, bolts, solder gun, plywood, meters and the complete manual.

Installing home solar panels could surely reduce 90% of electric expenses. You will certainly notice the change right after the week you have installed it.

Besides there has been a lot of buzz lately about solar film, also called flexible or foldable, solar panels. This is an emerging technology and could completely revolutionize renewable energy. They are much cheaper and easier to manufacture than the standard solar crystalline panels we're used to seeing. Flexible solar is leading the way to cheap energy from the sun. Costs for this technology are dropping quickly and with the investment in research and development, these costs will continue to fall.

The biggest advantages currently with thin film solar is its numerous application options. Unlike traditional panels, flexible panels can be applied to a wide variety of surfaces. In addition to the traditional roof mounted design, these cells are being molded to cars, backpacks, clothing, and even windows. Some companies are even integrating the cells into things like roof tiles, so your house will have solar in it, not just on it.

Many large companies such as Shell and Honda are throwing all their research muscle behind thin solar film. This means that the technology will improve greatly over time, and some of the advancements are already coming to market.

<http://www.articlecity.com>, May 2015

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A Colossal Quake

Recovery efforts continue after a massive earthquake rocks Nepal

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has caused destruction to buildings and homes in Nepal. The ground shook on Saturday in the South Asian country of Nepal when the region was hit by a massive earthquake. The quake registered 7.8 on the Richter scale, a 10-point system developed to measure the magnitude, or force, of earthquakes. It was the largest earthquake to strike Nepal since 1934.

While the epicenter of the earthquake was located 50 miles northwest of Nepal's capital city, Kathmandu, it was Kathmandu that suffered significant damage. In much of the countryside, it was worse. The earthquake caused buildings to collapse and triggered an avalanche on Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain. It was strong enough to be felt all across parts of India, Bangladesh, China's region of Tibet, and Pakistan.

"There are people who are not getting food and shelter," said Uday Prasad Timalsina, a top official in Nepal. "I've had reports of villages where 70 percent of the houses have been destroyed." So far, more than 4,000 people are known to have lost their lives. About 7,180 people were injured by the quake, police said.

More than a dozen countries and many charity groups are sending aid to Nepal to assist in the recovery. Teams from the United States, China, India, and other countries have traveled to Nepal to help the government with search-and-rescue efforts.

"We have 90 percent of the army out there working on search and rescue," said Jagdish Pokhrel, the Nepalese army spokesman. "We are focusing our efforts on that, on saving lives.

However, many of the affected villages are not easy to reach, as landslides have blocked roads. Another problem is aftershocks. Aftershocks are smaller earthquakes that happen after a larger earthquake. They can often cause additional damage. Nepal's rescue coordinator Lila Mani Poudyal says aftershocks are delaying rescue crews. "There have been nearly 100 earthquakes and aftershocks, which is making rescue work difficult," he said. "Even the rescuers are scared and running because of them."

Aftershocks have also been a concern for Nepali citizens. Many have refused to return to their homes. Afraid that buildings might collapse, many people are sleeping in tents outside.

In a country crippled by this natural disaster, Poudyal is calling for more help from the international community. "We are appealing for tents, dry goods, blankets, mattresses, and 80 different medicines that the health department is seeking that we desperately need now," he said.

April 27, 2015, By Zachary Humenik with AP reporting

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The little-known creation myth of Manny Pacquiao

Not everything you think you know about the star boxer is actually true

When TIME profiled Manny Pacquiao in 2009, the boxer—who will take on Floyd Mayweather Jr. in a much-hyped Saturday night bout—was already an international star. His face was all over American media, and his name was known among boxing fans everywhere. But nowhere was he more loved than in his homeland, the Philippines.

In the Philippines, TIME's Howard Chua-Eoan and Ishaan Tharoor explained, Pacquiao was “a demigod.” And his divinity was only increasing. But, it turned out, not every element of the popular version of his backstory was actually true. For example, as Pacquiao himself told it, he left his hometown for economic reasons, not to find boxing success.

Pacquiao has a myth of origin equal to that of any Greek or Roman hero. Abandoned by his father and brought up by a tough-as-nails mother, the poor boy who loves to box is rejected by a local squad but then journeys many islands away, to the country's metropolis, Manila, to make it big. Then he leaves the Philippines to make it even bigger, conquering the world again and again to bring back riches to share with his family and friends. Now, in his hometown of General Santos City on the island of Mindanao, he and his family own commercial buildings, a convenience store, cafés and a souvenir shop that sells everything from DVDs of his fights to T-shirts to bobblehead dolls. In Manila, his children attend one of the most exclusive and expensive private schools. He is generous to a fault, spending thousands of dollars a day feeding and entertaining guests. For his last fight, he distributed \$800,000 in tickets to friends.

A movie has been made of his life. But Pacquiao says the full details of that life couldn't possibly fit into just one film. There are things to clear up. For one, he did not leave ramshackle General Santos City, a camp of tin and thatch, to pursue boxing, even though he did love the sport. He left home at 14 because his mother Dionisia, who did odd jobs and factory work and hawked vegetables by roadsides, wasn't really making enough to feed her six children. He had to go off and earn money elsewhere, doing anything to relieve the burden on his mother—even if she wanted him by her side. As it was, he was often absent from school because the family needed him to help sell snacks and trinkets on the potholed lanes where nearly naked children with matted hair still chase rusting bicycle wheels for fun(...)

Lily Rothman, May 2, 2015 - From the TIME Magazine vault

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U.S. Ranks Worst Developed Country for Maternal Health But there's plenty of room for improvement

A woman in the United States faces a one in 1,800 risk of maternal death, according to an annual report by the charity Save the Children, the worst of any developed country in the world. What's more, they're more than 10 times as likely to die from a cause related to pregnancy as those in Belarus, Poland and Austria.

The State of the World's Mothers 2015 report, a global index that ranks the best and worst places to be a mother based on the latest available data on indicators like political status, economics, education, children's well-being and maternal health, ranks the U.S. at No. 33 of 179 surveyed countries—down two spots from last year.

The U.S. ranked No. 42 on children's well-being, No. 61 on maternal health and No. 89 for political status—or the participation of women in national government. Among the other statistics, the report finds that an American child under the age of 5 is nearly just as likely to die (6.9 per 1,000 live births) as one in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Slovakia or Macedonia.

Of the 25 capital cities of wealthy countries surveyed, the report finds Washington, D.C., had the highest rate of infant mortality (7.9 deaths per 1,000 live births as of 2012). In comparison, cities like Stockholm and Oslo had rates below 2.0. Washington's rate fell in 2013, to 6.6, but a number of major American cities have had rates much higher. In 2011, Detroit's rate was reported at 12.4, and in Cleveland, it was 14.1.

Prematurity was considered a major factor in the Detroit rate, but others included insufficient prenatal care, a dearth of education and poverty. Save the Children found race to be a factor, too. The national average for deaths per live births in the U.S. is 6.1 per 1,000, but the report finds it's much higher for unwed, poor and young black mothers. As one example, a black mom in San Francisco is six times more likely than a white one to lose her baby before its first birthday.

The overall top 10 included Norway, Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, the Netherlands, Spain, Germany, Australia and Belgium. The bottom 10 were Haiti and Sierra Leone (tied), Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Niger, Mali, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia.

Eliana Dockterman, May 5, 2015 - From the TIME Magazine vault

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S.H.: The man who spent over seven years in jail for a murder he did not commit

"I used to get really angry. But now, I say to people I feel more angry than I did then," says S.H., who spent more than seven years in jail for a murder he didn't commit. A teenager when he was sentenced to life in 2005 for a gang-related murder in north London, Mr H. always protested his innocence. "I look back on my time in prison and realize I was just living day to day," he tells me. "Only now can I see how much I missed."

Three years ago, the then 24-year-old emerged from the Royal Courts of Justice where, moments earlier, Lady Justice Hallett had announced that he could leave, a free man. "It was just overwhelming. I was in shock. I was scared," he admits.

Mr H. was 17 when he was convicted of the murder of a trainee chef who died after being stabbed. (...) He is speaking ahead of a critical High Court test case this week in which he – together with another notorious miscarriage case, V.N. – will challenge a new law introduced last year to cut compensation for almost all justice miscarriage victims.(...)

Lady Justice Hallett described the killing of a trainee chef as "yet another tragic example of gang violence". No forensic evidence linked Mr H. to the crowded murder scene. A Thames Valley Police investigation quizzed 37 witnesses. Nobody saw him. Under cross-examination, the main witness who placed him at the fight told the court she was "just looking for someone to blame on the spot, really". The evidence that exonerated Mr H. was on his mobile phone. Photos revealed he was in a pub with his dad that night.(...)

Mr H. hasn't spoken publicly since his release in May 2012. Three years later, how does he feel? "It's up and down," he says. He has a girlfriend, Renee. The couple, who have an 11-month old baby, Thierry, have known each other since childhood, but only got together after his release. "It is like a whole new life to me." He hasn't worked since his release, other than brief stints on a building site and in Marks & Spencer.(...)

Baby Thierry takes his name from Thierry Henry – H. is a keen Arsenal fan – but is also a tribute to his own father, Terry, who took his own life in 2010 as a result of the stress caused by his son's predicament. H. has still to come to terms with that and has yet to visit his father's grave.

This week's legal challenge is about more than "compensation". "Money cannot make up for what happened. It is more about recognizing the harm done," H. says. Renee agrees. "There has to be some recognition of what happened. Everyone just shrugged their shoulders and said, 'Well, you're out now. You should just be happy.' "

<http://www.independent.co.uk>, 09 May 2015



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Defiant Greece rehires public staff despite bailout talks

Greece is rehiring thousands of public sector workers, including cleaning ladies, despite sustained pressure from its international creditors.

Greek MPs passed a law to give back jobs to some 4,000 workers who were laid off under severe austerity cuts. It comes as Athens seeks a deal on more financial aid ahead of a meeting of eurozone finance ministers on Monday.

Greece is running out of money as it has to pay €750m (\$845m; £555m) to the International Monetary Fund on 12 May. International creditors have demanded cuts in spending, including plans to trim the civil service and privatisation of state assets, in order for Greece to continue receiving loans. On Thursday, the Greek parliament adopted a bill to rehire school guards, cleaning ladies and civil servants who lost their jobs or were earmarked for dismissal under the austerity programme.

Last year, 32 cleaning ladies sacked by the Greek finance ministry came to the European Parliament in Strasbourg in France to plead their case. The insistence of the cleaners – who were replaced by cheaper workers – made them famous all over Greece.

Thursday's bill in the Greek parliament does not violate the terms of a massive bailout by the EU and IMF, which allows Athens to hire one public employee for every five who leave. (...)

Euclid Tsakalotos, the Greek minister leading the talks with creditors, told the BBC it was time for the EU and IMF to show they supported Athens in its desire to do things a little differently. "We have said from the beginning that we have red lines and we need to have the flexibility that our partners said would be available to us."

The talks with the IMF and EU are expected to continue over the weekend. EU officials say a deal is unlikely before Greece has to make the IMF payment on Tuesday, the BBC's Europe correspondent Chris Morris says.

Eurozone officials say no further loans will be released until further economic reforms have been agreed. For a radical left-wing government – which was elected on a promise of ending austerity – that is proving a difficult pill to swallow, our correspondent adds. (...)

Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis insisted the country would meet Tuesday's deadline. He also rejected the view that his country had been reckless with bailout money, saying that 91% of the bailout funds his country had received so far had been spent on repaying banks, particularly northern European banks such as Germany's – rather than helping Greece's economy. And he again stressed that Greece had no intention of leaving the euro. Greece met its deadline on Wednesday for a repayment for €200m.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe>, 7 May 2015