

**CONCOURS INTERNE DES 21 ET 22 MARS 2016
POUR LE RECRUTEMENT DE CONTROLEURS 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)

'Spam King' sentenced to two years in prison after sending 27m messages from hacked Facebook accounts

An American man who pleaded guilty to hacking into hundreds of thousands of Facebook accounts to send over 27 million unsolicited messages has been sentenced to two and a half years in prison.

Sanford Wallace, also known as the "Spam King", faces a fine of \$310,000 (£218,800) and the prison sentence after pleading guilty to US federal charges including fraud and criminal contempt. Arrested in Las Vegas in 2011, Wallace accessed around 500,000 Facebook accounts in 2008 and 2009 and used them to post unauthorised messages to friends' walls.

The posts appeared to come from a user's friend, but were spam messages designed to either encourage unsuspecting Facebook users to provide their personal information, or to visit websites that would pay Wallace for driving traffic. The personal information included their full name, email address and password. [...]

In 2009, Wallace was banned from using Facebook and fined £711 million after the social network brought a civil case against him. He admitted guilt to the criminal contempt charge for contravening the order.

Facebook welcomed Wallace's arrest in 2011. "We applaud the efforts of the US Attorney's Office and the FBI to bring spammers to justice," said Chris Sonderby, its lead security and investigation counsel. Nicknamed "Spamford", Wallace has a history of sending nuisance mail online. In the 1990s he was the head of a company called Cyber Promotions that sent around 30 million junk emails a day.

His conviction today isn't the first time that Wallace has been found guilty of fraudulent behaviour online. In 2006 he was fined \$4 million by the US Federal Trade Commission for posting intrusive and malicious pop-up ads across the internet.

Two years later, he was found guilty of sending of carrying out phishing attacks on social network MySpace and spamming members with unsolicited messages. Wallace and his business partner Walter Rines had to pay a fine of \$230 million.

By Cara McGoogan, 16 June 2016, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

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UK plans to strengthen defences against migrants arriving by sea

Government says UK Border Force and Royal Navy will work jointly to patrol territorial waters as fears of people smugglers using maritime routes are growing.

The government plans to increase collaboration between the UK Border Force and the Royal Navy in order to strengthen defences against migrants crossing illegally by sea into the UK, the Home Office has confirmed. The Border Force has just three vessels operating at any one time in the seas off Britain, but the government intends to enhance joint working between law enforcement agencies and the navy to increase patrolling in territorial waters as part of a long-held plan.

Last weekend 20 people, mostly Albanians, were rescued in the Channel off Kent after their inflatable boats ran into trouble, sparking fears people smugglers may be turning to tactics more often seen in the eastern Mediterranean to get migrants into the UK. [...]

However, a Ministry of Defence spokeswoman strongly denied a report in the Sunday Times that it had already been asked to help defend the Channel and that navy planners are considering supplying offshore raiding craft manned by Royal Marines and a River class patrol ship. "There is currently no request for military support in the English Channel," she said. [...]

Any decision to use military craft to counteract illegal migration by boat would almost certainly have to be taken at ministerial level and would mark a significant change in the UK's approach to patrolling maritime migrant movements, which is currently handled exclusively by the civilian Border Force using a combination of cutter ships, radar, onshore assets and aerial surveillance to detect and stop small craft attempting clandestine entry. Its boats do not patrol routinely, but are deployed on intelligence-led operations. In April, the home secretary, Theresa May, announced a cut in the Border Force's budget. [...]

The Guardian, June the 5th 2016

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Ecstasy in comeback as new generation discovers dance drug

Annual survey of drug use finds MDMA is back in the mainstream due to “creative and aggressive marketing” and rise in purity

Ecstasy is making a comeback as the drug of choice for young people in the UK and across Europe – and it is much stronger than before, the EU’s drug agency has warned.

The 2016 European Drug Report says there are clear indications that ecstasy – the common name of MDMA – is returning to popularity with both established drug users and a new generation, but this time powders and tablets are likely to contain much higher doses than in previous years.

The rapidly expanding electronic dance music industry is now worth £4.5bn a year, promoting events such as the Belgian festival Tomorrowland, which in 2014 attracted almost 360,000 people over two weekends. This growth has introduced MDMA to a new generation of young people who were not even born in the drug’s heyday during the 1990s house, rave and techno scenes.

The EU drug experts also point to “creative and sometimes aggressive marketing” tactics, including the use of logos such as Superman and UPS, and the production of MDMA tablets specifically for individual events, typically music festivals. Dutch police reported more than 170 tablet designs in circulation in 2014.

Ecstasy use had been falling since its mid-2000s peak, but the Lisbon-based European monitoring centre for drugs and drug addiction (EMCDDA) said the latest survey data suggested 2.1 million people aged 15-34 had used ecstasy in the last year, 300,000 higher than the estimate in 2015.

The EU report suggests this ecstasy comeback follows a period when they were replaced by newly emerging legal highs such as piperazines and cathinones, because many tablets sold as ecstasy contained little or no MDMA due to a shortage of key ingredients or precursor chemicals. The tide seems to have turned again in favour of much more potent forms of ecstasy as the shortage of precursors has ended.

Nine out of 12 countries report higher estimates of the drug’s use in the last year. The UK reported the second highest level of use, with 3.5% of young adults saying they had taken it in the last 12 months. The highest usage was in the Netherlands, where 5.5% of young adults said they had taken it in the last year.

The Guardian, May 31st

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What would happen if we just gave people money?

Daniel Straub remembers the night he got hooked on basic income. He had invited Götz Werner, a billionaire owner of a German drugstore chain, to give an independent talk in Zurich, where Straub was working as a project manager for a think tank. He had read an article about the radical proposal to unconditionally guarantee citizens an income and spent a few years casually researching the idea. Straub had heard Werner was a good speaker on the topic, and that night in 2009 he was indeed excellent at connecting with the audience, a sold-out house of 200. "It was a very intense evening; people were paying attention," Straub recalled.

Werner posed a pair of simple questions to the crowd: What do you really want to do with your life? Are you doing what you really want to do? Whatever the answers, he suggested basic income was the means to achieve those goals. The idea is as simple as it is radical: Rather than concern itself with managing myriad social welfare and unemployment insurance programs, the government would instead regularly cut a no-strings-attached check to each citizen. No conditions. No questions. Everyone, rich or poor, employed or out of work would get the same amount of money. This arrangement would provide a path toward a new way of living: If people no longer had to worry about making ends meet, they could pursue the lives they want to live. [...]

After Werner's talk, Straub quit his job at the think tank and began to campaign for a basic income full time. He and a few hundred volunteers gathered 126,000 signatures over two years to force a referendum, now slated for June 5, to amend the Swiss Constitution to guarantee a basic income to all citizens. (The suggested amount is 2,500 Swiss francs per month, or about \$1,700 after adjusting for the cost of living.)

Switzerland is one of the world's richest countries, and compared to the United States, it offers far more generous health care and education to its citizens. But supporters of the referendum think the government can provide even more security. [...]

Interest in basic income is spreading across the world. Finland and the Netherlands are developing plans to study the idea. Canada will likely see an experiment in Ontario, if not on a national level. In France, several members of Parliament have supported running an experiment, and the finance minister is open to it.

By Andrew Flowers - 25 april 2016, <http://fivethirtyeight.com/>

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Fish eat plastic like teens eat fast food, researchers say

Young fish become hooked on eating plastic in the seas in the same way that teenagers prefer unhealthy fast food, Swedish researchers have said. Their study, reported in *Science*, found exposure to high concentrations of polystyrene makes perch larvae favour the particles over more natural foods. As a result of exposure to plastic, the young perch are smaller, slower and more susceptible to predators. The researchers called for plastic micro-beads to be banned in cosmetics.

Concerns have been growing about the amount of plastic in the seas in recent years. A study that came out last year estimated that about 8 million tonnes of plastic waste enters the oceans annually.

When exposed to UV radiation, chemical degradation and the movement of the waves, this plastic breaks down into tiny pieces. Those smaller than 5mm are referred to as micro-plastics. The term also covers plastic micro-beads from personal care products. [...]

Most surprising for the research team was the way that plastic changed food preferences.

"They all had access to zooplankton and yet they decided to just eat plastic in that treatment. It seems to be a chemical or physical cue that the plastic has, that triggers a feeding response in fish," Dr Lonnstedt told BBC News. "They are basically fooled into thinking it's a high-energy resource that they need to eat a lot of. I think of it as unhealthy fast food for teenagers, and they are just stuffing themselves."

In the study, the researchers link the decline of species such as perch and pike, observed in the Baltic Sea over the past two decades, to increased deaths at the juvenile stage. They argue that if plastics are impacting young fish across species, it could have "profound effects" on ecosystems.

"Your intuition would say it is not good for a fish to eat plastic, but scientifically you want to prove it, you want to be able to show what the impacts plastic are having, and that has been very hard to determine until now, and that's why this is such a big paper."

The US has banned the use of plastic micro-beads in cosmetic and personal care products and there is growing pressure in the UK and Europe to do the same. "It's body care products, it's not just toothpaste and scrubbers; some mascara and some lipsticks have plastic in them too," said Dr Lonnstedt. "It's a silent threat that we haven't really thought about before. We need to ban the products that have micro-beads in them."

By Matt McGrath, 2 June 2016, bbc.com

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A very british beverage : why us Brits just love a cuppa

Tea has changed the way we work and relax, and even our history. Why do we drink so much of it? A new book reveals all.

Britain enjoys an intimate love affair with tea – just look at the facts. On average we each drink 3½ cups of tea a day, or 130,000 tonnes in a year, 96 per cent of which are from tea bags. As a nation we drink 165 million cups per day or 62 billion cups per year; 70 per cent of the population (over the age of 10) drank tea yesterday; over 25 per cent of all the milk consumed in the UK goes in your cups of tea. [...]

How did it all start? Once upon a time, when the emperor Shen Nung was travelling to a far-flung province, he and his entourage stopped for a break, the world's very first tea break as it turned out. Shen Nung, a scientist, knew how important it was to boil all drinking water; accordingly, the servants began to boil the water as they sat in a grove of camellia sinensis trees. The place was central China, the date was 2737BC, around the same time as the Egyptians started work on the pyramids of Giza.

That day, however, was to be very special : a gentle breeze blew some leaves from the camellia sinensis into the emperor's cauldron of water; Shen Nung then took a sip of what was to be the world's first cup of tea. He liked it, it caught on, took the name "tea" and has become one of the most celebrated and serendipitous discoveries the world has known.

But it was not just the trajectory of the breeze-blown leaves that was fortuitous ; Shen Nung happened to be a noted herbalist. A bit of a workaholic, he personally tested thousands of medicinal herbs, some of which were poisonous.

He went on to use his newly discovered tea as an antidote to 70 or so toxic herbs. [...]

And what of the humble tea bag? In 1908, New York tea merchant Thomas Sullivan hit on the idea of sending samples of tea out in small silk bags. Some recipients believed that these worked like his metal infusers and so immersed the bags into the pot, rather than emptying out the contents, as intended. Result: the tea bag.

The story of our intimate relationship with tea is in effect the social history of Britain.[...]

So put the kettle on, put your feet up and have that nice cup of tea. As the Chinese proverb goes : "A day without tea is a day without joy."

By Paul Chrystal, <http://www.express.co.uk>

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Coral bleaching spreads to Maldives, devastating spectacular reefs

The longest global coral bleaching event in history is now devastating reefs in the crystal clear waters of the Maldives, with images released exclusively to the Guardian powerfully illustrating the extent of the damage there. Photographed by the XL Catlin Seaview Survey, the images captured the event in May as it moved beyond the now devastated Great Barrier Reef and into waters further west.

“The bleaching we just witnessed in the Maldives was truly haunting,” said Richard Vevers, founder of the Ocean Agency. “It’s rare to see reefs bleach quite so spectacularly. These were healthy reefs in crystal clear water at the height of an intense bleaching event. The flesh of the corals had turned clear and we were seeing the skeletons of the animals glowing white for as far as the eye could see – it was a beautiful, yet deeply disturbing sight.” The Maldives is series of coral atolls, built from the remains of coral. The livelihoods of people there depend on the reefs through tourism, fisheries and as a wave-break that helps prevent inundation on low-lying islands.

The photographs were part of an ongoing project, in partnership with Google, the University of Queensland and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency to capture the global bleaching event as it moves around the world. “We’ve been following this third global bleaching event since the start nearly two years ago and just when you think you’ve seen the saddest sight you’ll ever see, you see something even worse,” Vevers said.

The event started in mid 2014 in the Pacific Ocean around Hawaii, which then got hit again in 2015. In early 2016 it spread to the Great Barrier Reef where 93% of its nearly 3,000 reefs were hit by bleaching. Western Australia’s reefs in the Indian Ocean have also experienced severe bleaching. When NOAA declared the event was a global bleaching event in October 2015, Mark Eakin, NOAA’s Coral Reef Watch coordinator, said it could last well into 2016. [...]

The bleaching event started with an El Niño that appeared to be developing in Pacific Ocean, in 2014, warming the waters there, but which failed to eventuate. It was then combined with a large patch of unusually warm water, nicknamed “the blob”, that lurked around the Pacific, as well as an extreme El Niño that eventually did develop in 2015. [...]

Michael Slezak, Wednesday 1 June 2016, The Guardian

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Edinburgh Military Tattoo 'more popular than One Direction'

It already draws in some of the biggest sell-out crowds at the Edinburgh Festival each summer. But now the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo has proven it's a hit more than 11,000 miles away - after making history as the biggest crowd puller of any show staged in New Zealand's capital city Wellington. More than 82,000 tickets have already been sold for the four day event, exceeding the previous record of 78,000 tickets sold when the Tattoo was in Wellington 16 years ago. The Tattoo's producer, Brigadier David Allfrey, told the local press in New Zealand that the show had also sold more tickets for five performances in Australia's Etihad Stadium in Melbourne than any other act - beating boyband One Direction who had held the previous record. Brigadier Allfrey, said: "We've sold more tickets in Melbourne than U2 or AC/DC or Barbara Streisand or One Direction...isn't that just mental. "It's great rock'n'roll credibility isn't it?" More than 45,000 out-of-town visitors are expected in Wellington over the next four days for the Edinburgh Tattoo. The long-standing Scottish show, which is expected to bring in more than £7 million to the local economy, comes complete with its own castle and 1,300 performers. The performances include the traditional Celtic massed pipes and drums, military bands, Highland dancers as well as cultural and military performers from around the world including New Zealand. Brigadier Allfrey said: "It was started by the Lord Provost in the late 40s in Edinburgh to inspire and entertain the people of Edinburgh after the privations of the second world war and that's what we're still doing today - inspiring and entertaining." Accommodation in Wellington and surrounding areas is said to be stretched due to the show's popularity. Last year organisers of the Tattoo said they were preparing to take the event on tour every two years to help raise its global profile and bring new international acts back to Edinburgh. [...] More than 14 million people have attended the Tattoo since it was first held at Edinburgh Castle esplanade and all 217,000 tickets for the event have been sold out for the last 17 years in a row.

By Claire Mckim,
18 february 2016, www.edinburghnews.com