

EPREUVE D'ANGLAIS

I METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH TO DOCUMENTS

IDENTIFYING THE DOCUMENT

TYPE/ORIGIN

This document is	an article from	a newspaper a magazine a weekly...
	a passage an extract an excerpt a scene	from a novel a short story a diary a play

AUTHOR

It was written by...

DATE OF PUBLICATION

It was published in + *month, season or year* (in May, in Autumn, in 2005)
on + *day* (on Tuesday, on May 21st)

LAYOUT

The layout of the page stresses/suggests the idea that...

TOPIC

- The text is about/deals with/focuses on... a current issue/an environmental issue.
It... tackles the problem/raises the question/issue of...
- The article is based upon the idea that...
- The document focuses on... It conveys the impression that...
- The author/writer of the article raises a key/topical/social/burning issue...

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESENTATION

STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT

- This article falls into 3 parts...; at the beginning/at the end...
- The 1st part introduces the topic/subject...
- The 2nd part emphasizes/puts forward the idea...

ORGANISING THE PRESENTATION

- To begin with...; first, I'll talk about...
- Secondly..., then..., next...
- Thirdly...
- Lastly..., finally..., to conclude..., to sum up...

STATING YOUR VIEWS

COMPARING, CONTRASTING

- On the one hand..., on the other (hand)...; on the contrary...; whereas...

EXPRESSING CONCESSION

- However...; and yet,...; even though/if...; in spite of/despite the fact that...

EXPRESSING AIM, CAUSE, CONSEQUENCE

- In order to..., so as to..., with a view to/in view of...
- Because of..., owing to..., thanks to..., as..., since...
- So..., consequently..., therefore..., as a result...

DEVELOPING YOUR IDEAS

- Besides..., furthermore..., moreover..., in addition...;

GIVING THE AUTHOR'S POINT OF VIEW

- He explains that..., he points out that..., he refers to..., he denounces..., he condemns..., he blames (someone) for (doing something)..., he supports/backes...
- The author's point of view is biased, unbiased, ambiguous, critical about..., prejudiced,... straightforward...

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

- Judging from the title, we/one could/may/might think that...
- The author must be ironic here...
- It may be worth mentioning that...

REPHRASING

- In other words..., to put it differently...

USING GAP-FILLERS

- Um..., er..., I mean..., well..., right...,
- How shall I put it?...,
- Sorry, I can't think of the word..., I'll try to rephrase it..., It's on the tip of my tongue...,

GIVING YOUR OPINION

- I (do) think/I believe..., I feel that..., in my opinion..., from my point of view..., as far as I'm concerned..., for my part..., I'm (quite) convinced that...,
- I have no particular views on that subject...,
- I (entirely) agree with..., I (totally/partially) disagree with...,
- I side with...; I don't share the opinion of...; I have a different view on the problem/issue...

II. WORKING ON YOUR PRONUNCIATION

This requires regular and steady work over a long period. It is essential to:

- Be familiar with the phonetic alphabet
- Consult a bilingual dictionary regularly in order to check the pronunciation of a word you are not sure of as regards sounds and stress (see bibliography)

FREQUENT ERRORS COMMITTED BY FRENCH SPEAKERS:

CONSONANT SOUNDS

You should pay particular attention to the pronunciation of the following sounds, as they might cause misunderstanding:

[ð]	[d]	[z]
then	den	zen
breathe	breed	breeze

French speakers might also find it difficult to pronounce [ð] than; [v] van

[ð]	[t]	[s]
thin	tin	sin
fourth	fought	force

■ Don't forget to pronounce:

The letter "h" at the beginning of words: hotel, hamster, hamburger
EXCEPT: hour, honour, heir and associated words (hourly, honest, honourable, heirloom, heiress...)

Try this!: *A hungry hedgehog had a hamburger an hour before his dinner...*

The final "s" which can be pronounced in 3 different ways

[z]	[s]	[ɪz]
after a vowel sound or a voiced consonant*	after an unvoiced consonant**	after the sounds [s], [ʃ], [z], [tʃ]
plays	cats	roses
bags	works	patches

* [b, g, v, d, ʒ, ð, dʒ]; ** [p, k, f, t, θ]

■ Be careful with the pronunciation of the letter "r", quite different from the French "r". Remember that a final "r" is not pronounced in British English (ex: doctor ['dɒktə], door [dɔː],...), unless it is followed by a vowel sound (ex: the door is open => [ðə'dɔːrɪz'əʊpən]).

Try this: *Round and round the rugged rock, the ragged rascal ran...*

■ Note that "ch" is pronounced [tʃ] as in "choose" and not [ʃ] as in "shoes"

Try this!: *Fish and chips...*

Go to the following links to listen to the sounds and practise your pronunciation:

http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/englishfile/englishfile1/z_pronunciation/pronunciation03/
http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/englishfile/englishfile1/z_pronunciation/pronunciation04/

VOWEL SOUNDS

Be sure to make the difference between short and long vowel sounds: live/leave, book/school...

Make a special effort to pronounce diphthongs: go, brown, change, pear, poor.

http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/englishfile/englishfile1/z_pronunciation/pronunciation01/
http://www.oup.com/elt/global/products/englishfile/englishfile1/z_pronunciation/pronunciation02/

STRESS AND RHYTHM

The main characteristics of spoken English are stress, rhythm and intonation. The "music" of English depends on the mixture of stressed ("strong") and unstressed ("weak") syllables in a sentence as well as the rising and falling intonation.

You should **always** bear this in mind when speaking:

■ by stressing...:

- The stressed syllable in a word
- the content words in a sentence –those which carry meaning– such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs)
- the words carrying new information

■ by shortening unstressed syllables

■ by remembering that...

- Closed questions (yes/no questions) usually have a rising intonation: Do you like travelling?
- open questions (wh-questions) usually have a falling intonation: What's your telephone number?



READING STRATEGIES: STEP BY STEP ANALYSIS OF THE DOCUMENT

You might be given a text accompanied by an illustration. You must take advantage of all the peripheral information to help you understand the text. Here is an example of how to proceed.

Free land for families tempts new pioneers to the prairies

Dying Kansas towns seek settlers to halt decline.

Tom Leonard reports

(...) A century after the first settlers were drawn to the Great Plains by the offer of free land and a new life, a new generation of pioneers is being lured back by the same promises. Desperate to reverse decades of decline and depopulation that are simply blowing some names off the map, dozens of small towns across the prairie states of Kansas, North and South Dakota have resorted to desperate measures to ensure they do not go the same way.

(...) Move to Ellsworth under the "Welcome Home Plan" and you can have free land on which to build, home loan assistance, free utility installation and 12 months free membership of the local golf club. The town will also help with the down payment on a new house, the size of the donation rising with the number of children you are bringing to the local school. Applicants must be American citizens or have a US bank account. (...)

Ellsworth county, which sits at the centre of the central state in the US, has problems shared by rural areas around the world, fewer people working on the land and a brain drain of college leavers who never return. The county's population has shrunk from a high of 15,000 to 6,000. (...)

So far, 17 families, many in the last few months, have taken advantage of the home incentive scheme, coming from as far away as California and Las Vegas. The Juarez family arrived a few weeks ago from Vallejo, California, and are Ellsworth's first Hispanic settlers. (...) Most (families) are attracted by the clean air, relaxed lifestyle, good schools, almost non-existent crime and the town's Christian values.

(...) "We need people who can come here and be part of the community," Ms Hoffhines said. "It will suit urban dwellers wanting to get away. But if they expect to have a sushi bar, a Starbucks and a movieplex it will never happen. It takes a pioneering spirit, you have to be willing to move out of your comfort zone."

(...) Ellsworth's weak points include the lack of anonymity, a lack of highly paid jobs and the obvious potential for boredom. The main excitement around here is when a tornado hits town, but Ellsworth hasn't seen one in living memory.

Abridged from *The Daily Telegraph* July 26, 2005

The image shows a newspaper clipping with several labels pointing to specific parts of the page:

- Newspaper:** Points to the top left corner where the newspaper's name and website are visible.
- Date:** Points to the top right corner where the date is printed.
- Headline:** Points to the main title of the article, "Free land for families tempts new pioneers to the prairies".
- Subtitle:** Points to the text below the headline: "Dying Kansas towns seek settlers to halt decline. Tom Leonard reports".
- Journalist:** Points to the name "Tom Leonard" in the subtitle.
- Pictures:** Points to a large photograph of a family (a man, a woman, and a child) standing in front of a house.
- Caption:** Points to the text below the photograph, which describes the family and their move to Ellsworth.

GUESSING AHEAD

NAME OF PAPER

Daily Telegraph (British quality paper), so: reliable information.

DATE

July 26, 2005 (recent information).

WHO? WHERE? WHAT ABOUT? WHAT FOR?

Who?	Where?	What about?	What for?
Families	America, the USA	Free land	Tempt new pioneers
New pioneers	Kansas	Prairies	Halt decline of
Settlers	Ellsworth	Need for people	dying towns
Madecadel Juarez	Geneseo		New life
Maribel			Become part of the
Gabriella			community

HEADLINE

Key-words: free land, families, tempts, new pioneers, prairies

BIG PHOTO AND ITS CAPTION

Factual description: In the foreground we can see a family of 3 and the American flag in the background. The couple and their daughter are smiling, looking in the same direction. They seem happy and confident. They look as if they form a close family with the father as the symbol of protection.

Interpretation: We can associate the family in the photo with one of the "families" in the headline. They remind us of the typical American pioneer family going West and looking for a bright future. The caption gives the names of the family, which sound Hispanic. We may suppose they come from South or Central America, Puerto Rico, Mexico,... The flag floating high in the sky suggests that it has a role to play in the family's happiness. It is the symbol of the American Dream, the land of opportunity (the land of plenty, Cornucopia) for immigrants, the place where everything is possible.

SUBTITLE, MAP AND OTHER PHOTO

They provide us with geographical information: Ellsworth, mentioned in the caption, is in the middle of Kansas, right in the middle of rural America. We can deduce from the subtitle that Ellsworth must be one of the "dying Kansas towns" as is Geneseo, which looks like a ghost town, in the other photo. Therefore, these towns cannot be very dynamic; the local government must be trying to attract (or "tempt") new families who have "a pioneering spirit" as mentioned in the quotation. We can guess how the families, who might be penniless and jobless, are being attracted by offers of free land.

FIRST READING OF THE TEXT: CHECKING YOUR GUESSES

This family is not a new immigrant family from South or Central America, they come from California. The general plan is to repopulate small dying towns with people who already live and work in America. Transparent and known words: pioneers, prairies, tempts, halt, decline, depopulation, desperate measures, offer, plan, advantage, non-existent crime, attracted...

SECOND READING OF THE TEXT: STRATEGIES

Main idea developed in each paragraph from time-markers and key-words

§1 :

link past/present

- before (a century after...)/now (a new generation of pioneers...);
- were.../is being
- decline, depopulation, small towns, desperate measures

The first paragraph introduces the situation through a comparison between past and present pioneers. Due to the depopulation of small towns in rural America, the local authorities have taken desperate measures in order to attract new settlers.

§2

Key-words: *plan, free, assistance, donation, help, citizens...*

The second paragraph describes the plan, insisting on the financial help provided by the authorities and the necessary conditions.

§3	Minimal sentence: <i>Ellsworth county... has problems.</i> Key-words and phrases (develop the problems): <i>centre, central, rural, fewer people, brain drain, college leavers, population has shrunk...</i>
§4	key-words: <i>taken advantage, incentive scheme, attracted, clean air, relaxed lifestyle...</i> which show the reasons why people come to Ellsworth
§5	key-words: <i>people...part of the community, urban dwellers, get away, pioneering spirit, out of your comfort zone...</i> Profile of the new pioneers
§6	key-words: <i>weak points, lack of...(x2), boredom.</i> Disadvantages of living in Ellsworth
CONCLUSION	Journalist's point of view: <i>ironical comment, nothing ever happens in Ellsworth</i>

THIRD READING OF THE TEXT: SOLVING VOCABULARY PROBLEMS

Seek settlers (see "first settlers" further in text), lured back, dwellers,

INFERRING WORDS

- *Seek settlers*: identify the grammatical category => *seek*: verb; *settlers*: noun derived from the verb *settle*. A solution to the decline of the ghost towns; families are attracted to the Great Plains to start a new life; to be associated with *pioneers* (title)
- *lured back*: *back to the Great Plains*; repetition of similar promises made to the pioneers; those promises are not kept, as shown at the end of the text (*weak points, lack of..., boredom*); to be associated with "*tempt*" (semi-transparent = attract)
- *dwellers*: noun associated with *urban* (adjective) and with *people*, so = people who live in towns.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESENTATION**IDENTIFY THE DOCUMENT**

This document is an article from the Daily Telegraph (a British quality paper) published on July 26th, 2005. Along with the article there are some illustrations which help to understand what the article is about.

SUM UP THE TOPIC

It deals with a plan to attract new settlers to dying towns in the Middle West.

MAIN IDEAS

- Reasons for decline of small towns in rural America
- Description of the plan to deal with this decline
- Advantages and drawbacks
- Journalist's point of view

GIVE YOUR OPINION

What do you think of this plan? Would you adhere to this plan if you were given the chance?

- I personally prefer living in a town with sushi bars and cinemas rather than... because...
- I'd rather not leave my village..., my friends,...
- I'd feel quite anxious/excited/... at the idea of escaping from an urban environment/city life

BRANCH OUT/QUESTIONS THAT THE JURY MIGHT ASK YOU

- Comparison with rural areas in France and other developed countries
- Personal experience of living in a totally new environment
- Your ideal place to live in
- Is it true that in France small rural towns offer a better quality lifestyle (non-existent crime, cleaner air, relaxed lifestyle...) than urban areas?
- What about English people coming to settle in France? What are their motivations?

DOCUMENTS WITH GUIDELINES

DOCUMENT N° 1

Violence blamed on teenage mums

Study claims that immature young parents with poor discipline techniques are creating aggressive children.

Mark Townsend

Sunday October 16, 2005 *The Observer*

Britain's high rate of teenage pregnancies is a principal factor in the cause of violent crime, according to a controversial report by a leading criminologist.

Speaking before the launch of one of the largest ever studies into violence, its author George Hosking said that parents under 16 were contributing to 'a cycle' of aggression that meant people were 25 times more likely to be a victim of violence than 50 years ago. His comments were denounced by many as demonising young parents.

Hosking referred to evidence that a person's propensity to violence is determined by the age of three. He said that teenage parents can lack 'emotional maturity' and misjudged attempts at discipline could lead to their children developing violent tendencies. A strong, healthy relationship between parents and babies is vital to reducing aggression, he said.

'More and more children are being born to younger parents who have no reference to draw on in how to handle a baby,' said Hosking, a clinical criminologist and chief executive of the Wave Trust, a charity dedicated to tackling the root causes of violence and which this week will unveil its nine-year study into the issue.

He added: 'Lower emotional maturity, lower emotional reserves and experience or maturity that people can draw on as parents play a role. People treated particularly badly under the age of three were more likely to go on and abuse as adults. Early intervention is required to stop a cycle of violence from developing.'

Despite government attempts to tackle teenage pregnancies, Britain still has one of the highest rates in Europe. Latest figures reveal that the rate of under-16-year-old pregnancies in England and Wales has increased.

Although Hosking said he wanted to avoid being seen as critical of parents, his views will be interpreted by some as yet another attack on teenage mothers and fathers. Catherine Evans of the Brook Centre said: 'There is a real risk of demonising teenage parents who are doing their very best for their children. They need support rather than being undermined or criticised.'

However Norman Wells, director of Family and Youth Concern, a research group that looks into the causes of family breakdown, said: 'It certainly could be a factor. It shows the importance of addressing the high rates of out-of-wedlock teenage pregnancies that we have in this country.'

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION

- Identify the document: Article from *The Observer*, a quality Sunday paper, dated October 16th, 2005. ■ Topic: a controversial study which holds teenage mothers responsible for children's violence.

MAIN IDEAS

- G. Hosking, a criminologist, declares that "the high rate of teenage pregnancies is a principal factor in the cause of violent crime".
- Why? :
 - Britain's rate of teenage pregnancies (one of the highest in Europe) is on the rise;
 - Teenage parents are not emotionally mature. Barely children themselves, they find it difficult to cope with the difficulties of parenthood as they have no experience and no frame of reference;
 - Lack of discipline or bad treatment before the age of three could lead children to violence.

- Propositions:
 - to take measures to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancies;
 - early intervention in cases of violent children;
- Criticism:
 - Some educationalists disagree;
 - risk of demonising young parents;
 - they should be helped instead of being blamed.

PERSONAL OPINION AND BRANCHING OUT

- Teenage pregnancies as well as youngsters' violence are a social issue nowadays.
- Measures should be taken to deal with this problem (sex education in schools) and advice provided (Brook Centre, Family planning)...
 - Problem of broken families who don't always provide enough support for their teenagers.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- Do we have the same problems in our country?
- What do you think of detecting violent children at an early age?
- How could schools and teachers be part of a scheme to deal with that?

LISTENING

- Reading of §1. 
- Listen to what a British speaker thinks about the document and how she interacts with another speaker. 

DOCUMENT N° 2

No more Sundays

From The Sunday Times

Britain says goodbye to Sunday as the quiet day of the week, and hello to bars, clubs, restaurants and theatres ...

Sunday is becoming the new Saturday as theatres open, cinemas report record crowds, and clubs and bars heave.

The Sabbath long ago threw off its church robes in Britain. It has now put on its party dress, as Sunday loses any remaining claim to be set aside as a day of rest. Just as the morning lie-in has given away to DIY and gardening, evensong and a quiet night in with the family have been replaced by trips to restaurants, concerts and nightclubs.

Even theatres, which once saw Sunday as their "dark" night, are increasingly opening their doors to take advantage of visitors who find it too much of a rush to go from work to a performance during the week.

According to the UK Film Council, 18% of cinema visits now take place on a Sunday, close to the 21% figure for Saturdays. Nightclubs across Britain last week reported a 30% average rise in numbers attending on Sundays during the past year, with numbers in some venues now rivalling or over-taking Saturday night.

Social commentators point to the growing number of twenty something singles with much higher disposable incomes as one of the prime reasons Sunday has become cool.

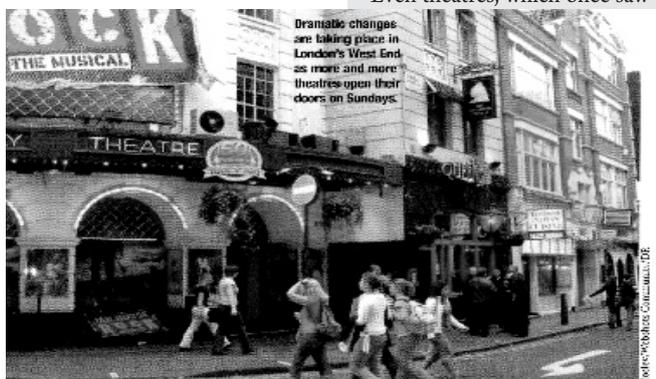
In London, Saturday evening's night owls can today view Edward Hopper's painting Nighthawks at Tate Modern, take a cruise on the Thames dancing to house music on the Whistlebump summer boat party or attend the first Sunday night opening at the Theatre

Royal, Haymarket.

Last week nightclubs contacted in Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle reported an average increase of about one-third in the number of Sunday customers.

However, the trend for going out on Sundays is now having an impact on the workplace. A report by

Dramatic changes are taking place in London's West End as more and more theatres open their doors on Sundays



Dramatic changes are taking place in London's West End as more and more theatres open their doors on Sundays.

the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and Axa, the insurance company, has found that firms are losing millions of pounds as staff take unwarranted “long weekends” by calling in sick on Monday after a hard night’s partying.

© Nina Goswami

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION

Identify the document: an article from Today in English, originally published in The Sunday Times dated 6th October 2004.

Topic: a social issue about changes in people’s habits; the article is based on a contrast between past and present; on Sundays it is now possible for people to go out; venues are open whereas everything used to be closed in the past.

MAIN IDEAS

In the past

Sunday used to be the rest day in the Puritan tradition of the Sabbath; people would have a lie-in in the morning and have a quiet evening with the family; activities were prohibited; Sundays were traditionally devoted to church and family gatherings.

A quiet day has given way to...

In the present

Busier Sundays, everything is open (theatres, bars, art galleries, museums...), people are more active, they do DIY (Do It Yourself) activities, they go out. There has been a significant increase in social activities, one of the reasons being the growing number of young single people with higher incomes (salaries).

Consequences: impact on the workplace; many people are going out on Sunday evenings and reporting sick on Monday mornings

PERSONAL OPINION AND BRANCHING OUT

This document shows the evolution of society regarding religious values; we must admit that nowadays leisure activities tend to take precedence over a more contemplative and restful week end.

My favourite activities on Sundays are...; on Sundays I’d rather... than...; when I was a child my parents used to...

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- What’s a perfect Sunday for you?
- Would you say that the situation is similar in France? What is open on Sundays?
- What are the advantages and drawbacks? Do you agree that shopping centres should be open on Sundays?

LISTENING

- Reading of §1. 
- Listen to what a British speaker thinks about the document and how she interacts with another speaker. 

Onestopenglish.com 2004 Koreans succeed in cloning human embryos

Stem cell breakthrough brings hope of cures for genetic diseases, but raises alarm

South Korean and American scientists have cloned human embryos and successfully extracted stem cells from one of them. The research opens the way for once undreamed-of treatments for long-term diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. It also reignites the debate about human cloning. The team used 242 eggs from 16 women to clone 30 blastocysts - the tiny ball of cells that become an embryo. Stem cells are the agents that turn a single fertilised egg into up to 10 trillion cells in just nine month's gestation.

Scientists around the world have cloned sheep, mice, rats, rabbits, horses, and even a mule. But despite dramatic yet unsupported claims from European fertility clinics, primates and humans were thought to be almost impossible to clone.

The Korean and US scientists sucked the original DNA out of the egg, and substituted it with chromosomes from an adult cell. Then they "tricked" the egg into thinking it had been fertilised. "Nobody has cloned a human here," said Donald Kennedy, a biologist and editor in chief of Science.

Dr Kennedy hoped that it might prompt American politicians to think again about the ban on using government money for such research. It could offer the possibility that people with degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's could be given tissue transplants with their own genetic "signature".

But the White House responded to the news of the breakthrough with a reminder that President George Bush is opposed to stem cell research. "The age of human cloning has apparently arrived: today cloned blastocysts for research, tomorrow cloned blastocysts for baby-making," said Leon Kass, chairman of the president's council on bioethics. Last week's announcement was the culmination of years of research into the potential benefits of therapeutic cloning. But for those benefits to be realised, researchers must now work out how to turn the cells into replacement human tissue needed to treat disease.

In the long term, some scientists believe it could be possible to grow entire organs. Linda Kelly of the Parkinson's Disease Society in the UK said: "This announcement is clearly a milestone in medical research." But the pressure group Human Genetics Alert warned that researchers had given a big boost to those who want to make cloned babies. Such fears arise because the initial steps in therapeutic cloning and reproductive cloning are identical.

The Guardian Weekly 20-4-02, page 3

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESENTATION

The point of view of a non-specialist.

INTRODUCTION

Identify the document: on-line article from the Guardian Weekly, written on 20th April 2002 and taken from website onestopenglish.com.

Topic: the ethical debate about scientific research on cloning: therapeutic and reproductive cloning.

MAIN IDEAS

- Breakthrough by South Korean and American scientists in cloning human embryos enabling them to extract stem cells from one of them.
 - Hope of treating serious, long-term diseases like diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's,
 - but at the same time fear over cloning human embryos for non-therapeutic reasons.
- Revolutionary methods...;
 - In cloning (previously unheard of). Scientists managed to substitute the original DNA from an egg with chromosomes from an adult cell, then make the egg react as if it had been fertilised, thus multiplying the cells;
 - In hoping to cure degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's. If they manage

to work out how to obtain replacement of human tissue from the cells, people with such diseases could be given tissue transplants with their own genetic characteristics.

- Conclusion: a controversial issue leading to debate.
 - *Against*: American government refuses to subsidise stem cell research for ethical reasons, fearing baby-cloning. Pressure group Human Genetics Alert also fears this research will encourage baby-cloning: initial steps in therapeutic and reproductive cloning are identical.
 - *For*: biologist involved in the research because of importance of breakthrough.

PERSONAL OPINION

Difficult to take a firm stance over this problem.

- Is it fair to prevent the possibility of a better quality of life for people suffering from terrible debilitating diseases, all because there is a danger of using scientific knowledge to bad effect?
- Scientists should be allowed to do research for therapeutic reasons, but research should be closely monitored.
- On the other hand, I entirely disapprove of cloning babies.

BRANCHING OUT

- Progress in medical research over the last century:
 - People are living much longer;
 - Back-shot: diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's are becoming more common.
 - In the past the majority of people would die before developing them.
- Important issues for the future:
 - Necessary to find ways of alleviating the symptoms of these diseases in order to improve the quality of life of the patients.
 - At the same time society has to deal with the economic problems resulting from the increase in the number of "senior citizens". More and more places are required in homes (expensive), and retirement pensions do not last for ever.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

- Why do you think that cloning babies is morally unacceptable/dangerous?
 - Eliminate element of chance in nature.
 - Eliminate certain characteristics judged inferior/undesirable.
 - We don't know if a cloned person would live as long and as healthily as a non-cloned.
 - Could be used to wield power and tyranny.
- Do you think that cloning will be accepted one day?

LISTENING

- Reading of § 4. 
- Listen to what a native specialist thinks of the document. 

DOCUMENT N° 4

“England is not exactly like I pictured it”

“But they don’t have cars like we do, do they?” said my mother, her voice echoing on the phone.

I said, “What are you talking about, Mom, of course the British have cars. Haven’t you heard of Rolls Royce?”

“And what about the toilets?” she wanted to know. “Mrs Lovell at the church said they’ve still got out-houses, even in the city.”

“Mom, Mrs Lovell at the church was in England during the war, for Pete’s sake. She spent most of her time in a tube station.”

“What about food?” asked my mother, “Should I bring some with me? Mrs Lovell says it’s hard to get fresh fruit.”

“Mom, you’re coming to London, not trekking through Katmandu.”

Americans come to Britain because it is still, for many of us, the motherland. Britain gave us our language; many of our ideas of literature and culture; our founding fathers and our first presidents; and mercifully few of our ideas on cooking. Americans come to Britain because their grandparents came from Glasgow, or their great-grandparents were starved out of Ireland, or their mother’s mother was born in Chiswick. They come here because they recognise place names and they can read the menus. Because everything is both foreign and familiar.

Americans love England because it is so quaint and charming; so old. Coming from a country where anything older than 100 years is ancient, they can’t get over the fact that Britain’s past is so visible, so close at hand. You walk through London, for instance, and every alley holds secrets. Every church and every row of shops and houses tells a story. It is not like that in America. America does not build on, it builds over. There are no medieval ruins in New Jersey. There are no 700-year-old castles in Nebraska.

Most of the Americans I know who live permanently in London left home for a single, clear, uncluttered reason: they wanted to get away from Florida or Pennsylvania or Texas or Minnesota. Most of them have chosen to stay for an equally clear and simple reason: it isn’t America.

Dyan Sheldon, *A Woman’s Eye View of Britain Today*, 1990

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION

Identify the document: a passage from a book called *A Woman’s Eye View of Britain Today*, written by Dyan Sheldon in 1990.

Topic: stereotypes of Britain from an American point of view

STRUCTURE OF THE PASSAGE AND MAIN IDEAS

- *Part 1:* a phone conversation between the narrator (1st person) and her mother about the latter’s apprehension regarding her imminent trip to Britain, apprehension which is due to her many prejudices against the country. The mother imagines that England is very backward (without cars or toilets or fresh fruit), so her daughter tries to persuade her that her view of England is backward and does not correspond to reality.
- *Part 2:* the narrator explains why Americans love Britain.
 - Britain is still the motherland;
 - Americans are familiar with the language and culture and yet they do not feel at home (“everything is both foreign and familiar”);
 - They are attracted and fascinated by the historical past of Britain as the USA is a young country and lacks the weight of history.
- *Part 3:* some American expatriates have emigrated out of lack of interest in their own country.

TONE OF THE TEXT

- Both humoristic and serious. At the same time we see an old-fashioned view of Britain and a genuine effort to explain the links between America and Britain.

PERSONAL OPINION AND BRANCHING OUT

- Stereotypes in general
- French stereotypes about Britain/America

QUESTIONS

- Do you understand the reference to the “tube station in the war”? (The Londoners took refuge in the tube stations during the Blitz)
- To what extent do stereotypes give a fair reflection of national characteristics?
- As a future schoolteacher, how would you help children to be open-minded and tolerant towards other cultures?

LISTENING

- Reading of the dialogue. 
- Listen to what a native Canadian speaker thinks about the document and her interaction with other speakers. 

DOCUMENT N° 5

Summerhill School

The most frequent remark that visitors make is that they cannot tell who is staff and who is pupil. It is true: the feeling of unity is that strong when children are approved of. There is no deference to a teacher as a teacher. Staff and pupils have the same food and have to obey the same community laws. The children would resent any special privileges given to the staff.

When I used to give the staff a talk on psychology every week, there was a muttering that it wasn't fair. I changed the plan and made the talks open to everyone over twelve. Every Tuesday night, my room is filled with eager youngsters who not only listen but give their opinions freely. Among the subjects the children have asked me to talk about have been these: The Inferiority Complex, The Psychology of Stealing, the Psychology of the Gangster, The Psychology of Humour, Why Did Man Become a Moralist?, Masturbation, Crowd Psychology. It is obvious that such children will go out into life with a broad clear knowledge of themselves and others.

The most frequent question asked by Summerhill visitors is, 'Won't the child turn round and blame the school for not making him learn arithmetic or music?' The answer is that young Freddy Beethoven and young Tommy Einstein will refuse to be kept away from their respective spheres.

The function of the child is to live his own life –not the life that his anxious parents think he should live, nor a life according to the purpose of the educator who thinks he knows what is best. All this interference and guidance on the part of adults only produces a generation of robots.

You cannot make children learn music or anything else without to some degree converting them into will-less adults. You fashion them into accepters of the status quo –a good thing for a society that needs obedient sitters at dreary desks, standers in shops, mechanical catchers of the 8:30 suburban train – a society, in short, that is carried on the shabby shoulders of the scared little man – the scared-to-death conformist.

Summerhill, A.S. Neill, Pelican Books, p26-27, 1962

GUIDELINES FOR THE PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION

- The passage is an extract from a book by A.S. Neill, published in 1962.
- It is about a school named Summerhill; it reports on the type of education given to children in Summerhill; the author of the book, A.S. Neill, describes some of the specificities of the school and shares some of his views on children's learning; 1st-person narrative.

MAIN IDEAS

Teaching and learning in Summerhill are very different from what is usually experienced by the staff and pupils in more traditional types of schools. A visitor to the school might be struck by the following observations:

- Teachers and pupils consider themselves as peers; the relationship between them is not based on hierarchy and privileges;
- There is a strong feeling of unity, everyone following the same rules and obeying the same laws, either as a teacher or as a pupil;
- Children do not feel excluded; they participate in open talks on psychology and various other topics and consequently, learn a lot about themselves and others;
- Children should not be forced into learning by educators; on the contrary, they should be given the chance to decide freely on what they want to discover or know about;
- Too much guidance on the part of adults produces robots and conformists

PERSONAL OPINION AND BRANCHING OUT

Even though learning at Summerhill School might sound brilliant for all the trust it places in children's capacity to decide for themselves, we might question some of its principles or methods and discuss a few points:

- If children were not forced to go to lessons, would they ever attend classes at all?
- If children were given too much freedom, would adults not run the risk of fashioning ignorant pupils?
- Personal experience:
 - When I was a child at school, I used to be a rebel.../be very obedient.../abide by the school rules very willingly,...;
 - As a child, I would have learned better if I had been educated in a more informal environment/in a stricter school.../if I had had stricter guidance.../if I had been able to make my own choices,...

QUESTIONS

- As a future schoolteacher, what educational values do you believe in?
- What are the main qualities required to be a good teacher?
- What are the main difficulties in being a good teacher?
- What is your idea of a successful education?

LISTENING

- Reading of the dialogue. 
- Listen to what a native speaker thinks about the documents. 

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Une leçon par jour sur les grands faits d'actualité conçue par un anglophone
<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com>

Pour développer des connaissances en langue
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