

ANGLAIS

 LANGUE ÉTRANGÈRE

SÉRIE **2**

COMPRÉHENSION ET PRODUCTION ÉCRITES

Durée de l'épreuve : 70 minutes

Moyens auxiliaires autorisés : Dictionnaire bilingue traditionnel

Numéro de candidat-e

Profil

B

E

Nom

Prénom

Date de l'examen

	Points obtenus	/ points maximum
Partie compréhension écrite		/ 25
Partie production écrite		/ 25
Total		/ 50

SIGNATURES DES EXPERTS

Délai de libération : Cette série d'examen ne doit pas être utilisée comme exercice avant le **1^{er} janvier 2020.**

COMPRÉHENSION ÉCRITE

Part 1

The Insecurity of Freelance Life

The decline of the conventional job has been announced in recent years. It seems clear that in the future people will work for different employers in a variety of roles during their lifetime, with a much more flexible schedule than now. But should this change be a cause for concern or is it a chance for workers to be freed from the routine of office life?

The answer really depends on the type of work people do. At the top end there are independent consultants with six-figure salaries who get tax advantages from their self-employed status. At the bottom we find cleaners on the minimum wage working for an agency. Some people will be on contracts where they are unsure of their income from week to week. Others, often people connected to work via websites and IT technology, will earn more money when working as freelancers.

The best placed are skilled professionals and artisans whose work is in demand from a wide range of customers. The problem is that many people are dependent on one single client, which makes them vulnerable if the client changes his mind. A contract can usually be ended with a month's notice. Moreover, even if the money is good, there may not be any paid holiday, sick pay or pension.

Some figures show that although the number of self-employed traders has increased since 2008 their profits have fallen by 23% over the same period. These ten years have been worse for self-employed Britons than for conventionally employed people, whose earnings fell by 6%.

In her book about the end of the job and the future of work, Sarah Kessler tells the stories of several workers. Among them, there is Curtis Larson, a computer programmer, who prospered because of his skills. But many other workers talk about the low pay, the poor benefits and the stress that is linked to their situation. According to Ms Kessler, it is easier than ever to get work done without hiring someone as an employee. However, this growing group of non-traditional workers has no access to labour protection provided by law to employees. Some workers have tried to organise their colleagues into the equivalent of trade unions but this is difficult as the employees do not gather in a single place.

The most vulnerable employees are temporary workers used by employers to hold down wages. They are usually under 25 and less likely to have health insurance than those in regular employment. 55% of them would prefer a permanent job. It is difficult for them to save money in order to buy a house or even to get married. Alternative employment may be trendy, but it may not be that great for ordinary workers.

Read the text “The Insecurity of Freelance Life”.

For questions 1 to 7, choose one letter A, B or C. There is only one correct answer.

1. In the future, people will probably work

- A. in one specific company only.
- B. fixed hours.
- C. in a more freelance way.

2. When they work independently, skilled consultants

- A. have some financial advantages.
- B. pay more tax.
- C. do not earn as much as when they were employed.

3. An important problem faced by freelancers is that

- A. the range of clients is often too limited.
- B. they have too many different customers.
- C. the demand is too high.

4. In recent years, in Britain

- A. employed people have earned 6% more than freelancers.
- B. the number of self-employed traders has fallen by 23%.
- C. there has been a drop in profits for freelancers and employed people.

5. The stories of workers told in Ms Kessler’s book mostly show freelance life as

- A. difficult.
- B. prosperous.
- C. less stressful.

6. At the end of paragraph 5, we learn that

- A. there are now trade unions for self-employed people.
- B. it is not easy for freelancers to organise themselves in order to get benefits.
- C. it is getting more problematic to have a job done by a freelancer.

7. According to the text, the workers who are most at risk are

- A. people who earn a low salary in a regular job.
- B. young people who do not have a regular job.
- C. older people who do not have any health insurance.

Part 2

Read the texts 1-6. Match each text with the adequate heading A-H. There are two extra headings you do not need to use.

Headings:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| A Pictures speak louder than words | B Health at a cost |
| C Too much butter is bad for you | D Late retirement |
| E Exporting dairy products | F Urban chaos |
| G Looking after grandchildren | H Back to school |

For each text, write a letter in the grid below:

TEXTS	Text 1	Text 2	Text 3	Text 4	Text 5	Text 6
HEADINGS						

Text 1

You aren't the only one going back to school in September. At that period in Thailand, over-60s pile into buses in the province of Ayutthaya – heading for class. Traditionally, ageing Thais lived at home with their families and were cared for by their children. Now, with an increase in their number and more and more young people leaving the countryside to work in cities, parents and grandparents are increasingly being left alone. Senior citizens alleviate their loneliness by going to school to learn a variety of subjects such as English or traditional dancing with their peers.

Text 2

"Sugar is my weakness and I love fizzy drinks", says Kate, 17. Well, Kate may want to have to think twice next time she buys a Coke or a Sprite. A can of Coke now costs about eight pence more than it did just months ago. How come? A sugar tax on soft drinks came into force in the UK in April 2018. Britain joined countries like France and Mexico with similar taxes to tackle obesity, tooth decay and other health issues caused by too many sugar-laden drinks.

Text 3

The percentage of working women in Britain over the age of 70 has doubled within the past four years. These figures are not a response to financial difficulties. The decline of strength-based manufacturing jobs in favour of skills-based service jobs along with the rise in the percentage of unmarried women and declining fertility are factors that keep women at work. It also means that women have better health, better wealth and are contributing to Britain's economic growth.

Text 4

Did you know that there are now 1,851 emojis? English, generally thought of as the “world language”, is only used by one in five people on Earth. Evidence suggests that over 90 per cent of the world's internet users use emojis on social media and 80 per cent of all adults regularly use emojis in messages. That cry-laughing emoji is famous from Seattle to Saigon.

Text 5

Fifty years ago, China was known as the kingdom of bikes. Economic prosperity made people buy more cars and bike-riders were becoming out of fashion. Now the bike is coming back again, but while many cities around the world have bike share systems with specific bike parking areas, in Beijing the bikes are scattered around the streets. You unlock them with a mobile app and can leave them anywhere you want at the end of your journey. The result is that thousands of bikes litter the city.

Text 6

If you did your shopping in France in August 2018, you would have noticed that there was a shortage of butter in all the supermarkets. As they negotiate prices with the big industrial producers only once a year in February and because the price rose dramatically, the producers chose to sell their butter abroad. The French were not amused in front of the empty shelves, as they eat 8 kilos of butter per head per year, more than any other nation!

Total 2 :

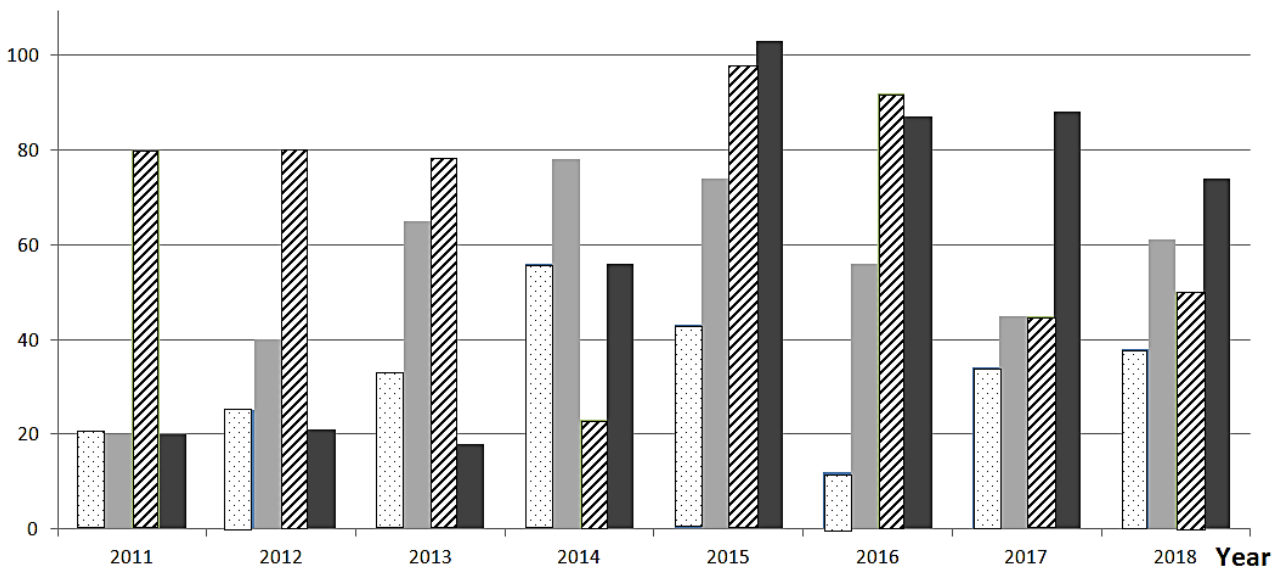
 / 6

Part 3

Look at the following bar chart showing different economic indicators. Which year does each sentence (1-5) describe? For each sentence, write one year in the space provided.



Million dollars



- | | |
|--|-------------|
| | Year |
| 1. That year was the highest ever as far as the Gross Domestic Product was concerned. | _____ |
| 2. Analysts expected a fall in imports and it happened. However, all the other indicators increased. | _____ |
| 3. Compared to the previous year, Consumer Spending went up by 100% whereas exports and imports levelled off. | _____ |
| 4. Due to favourable foreign exchange rates during this year, imports reached a peak, as well as exports. | _____ |
| 5. That year, imports remained steady for the third successive year. The trend was about the same for exports. However, both the Gross Domestic Product and Consumer Spending rose again as they had done in previous years. | _____ |

Total 3 : / 5

Total partie "Compréhension écrite" : / 25

Part 2

Situation:

You are the Purchasing Manager of *Starlight*, a cosmetics retail store. Your company ordered perfumes and lipsticks from *Beauty Line*, a cosmetics supplier, four weeks ago. The goods arrived this morning but there was a problem with the delivery.

Task:

Write a letter of complaint to Ms Laure Reale, Sales Manager of your cosmetics supplier:

- acknowledging the delivery;
- explaining two problems in detail;
- complaining about the late delivery;
- mentioning what you want *Beauty Line* to do about these problems.

Make sure you address all four points correctly.

Start and finish your letter in an appropriate way.

Write 80 to 100 words.

