

Entraînement Concours – The Commonwealth

Vous répondrez à chaque question EN ANGLAIS, chaque réponse devant être longue de 220 mots + ou – 10%. Vous prendrez soin d'indiquer le nombre de mots à la fin de chaque réponse.

Question 1 – Compréhension (10 points)

What do these articles reveal about the current relations between the UK and its former colonies?

Who are the Windrush generation? - I NEWS - June 22, 2023

Today is National Windrush Day 2023 and it marks 75 years since the *HMT Empire Windrush* docked in Tilbury, Essex, on 22 June 1948, carrying passengers from the Caribbean to fill labour shortages in the UK. [...] The Windrush generation is the term given to describe the people who arrived in the UK from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1973 to fill UK labour shortages after the Second World War. The name “Windrush” comes from the name *HMT Empire Windrush* – the ship which brought one of the first large groups of Caribbean people to the UK in 1948. *HMT Empire Windrush* became a symbol of a wider mass-migration movement and its 492 passengers, and others who subsequently arrived in the UK from Caribbean countries between 1948 and 1971, became known as the Windrush generation.

As the Caribbean was at the time a part of the British [Empire], people who arrived were automatically British subjects and were free to permanently live and work in the UK. Many had served in the British armed forces in the Second World War. After arriving in the UK, many of them took up jobs in the newly established NHS and became nurses, manual workers, drivers and cleaners. Many others found work with British Rail and public transport.

The Windrush scandal began to surface after it came to light that hundreds of Commonwealth citizens, many of whom were from the Windrush generation, had been wrongly detained, deported and denied legal rights. The 1971 Immigration Act gave Commonwealth citizens living in the UK indefinite leave to remain – the permanent right to live and work in the UK. This included the Windrush generation.

However, in April 2018, it emerged that the UK Home Office had kept no records of those granted permission to stay, and had not issued the paperwork they needed to confirm their status. It had also destroyed landing cards belonging to Windrush migrants, in 2010. Those affected by the scandal were unable to prove they were in the country legally and were prevented from accessing healthcare, work and housing and many of them were threatened with deportation. A review found that at least 83 people who had arrived before 1973 had been wrongly deported.

In 2012, new legislation was passed making it impossible for undocumented immigrants to live in the UK. Suddenly, thousands of people who had been living in the UK for decades, were forced to try and prove they were in the UK legally. The scandal provoked widespread fury at the Home Office over the mistreatment of people who were legally allowed to live in the UK.

When the Windrush generation arrived in the UK, many children travelled on their parents' passports. In 2012, when Theresa May was Home Secretary, new “Hostile Environment”

legislation was passed, which tasked the NHS, landlords, employers, banks and many others with enforcing immigration controls. The new law meant children of Windrush immigrants found they could not prove they had lived in the UK before 1973. This meant they were deemed illegal immigrants. Many cases emerged in 2018 of Windrush children, now adults who had been living in the UK for several decades, facing the threat of deportation.

The Government eventually apologised and admitted the Windrush scandal was both “foreseeable and avoidable”. They set up a task force to grant citizenship, as well as a compensation scheme. The Windrush compensation scheme was established in April 2019 and around 15,000 people were thought to be eligible. However, the scheme itself has been criticised for processing delays, low offers, and unfair rejections. Payments are still being made, but critics say they are not happening quickly enough.

Pour Charles III, «il ne peut pas y avoir d’excuse» aux abus coloniaux au Kenya - LE DEVOIR – 31/10/2023

Le roi Charles III a affirmé à Nairobi qu’il ne pouvait « pas y avoir d’excuse » aux atrocités de la colonisation britannique commises contre les Kényans, sans toutefois demander pardon comme le lui réclamaient certains. « Des actes de violence odieux et injustifiables ont été commis à l’encontre de Kényans alors qu’ils menaient [...] une lutte douloureuse pour l’indépendance et la souveraineté. Et pour cela, il ne peut pas y avoir d’excuse », a affirmé le souverain britannique lors d’un dîner d’État mardi avec le président kényan, William Ruto. [...]

De son côté, M. Ruto a déclaré que la réaction de la puissance coloniale aux mouvements d’autodétermination au Kenya avait été « d’une cruauté monstrueuse », jusqu’aux « pires excès de l’impunité coloniale ». [...] L’un des épisodes les plus meurtriers est la révolte des Mau Mau, dont la répression par le pouvoir colonial britannique a fait plus de 10 000 morts entre 1952 et 1960. De nombreuses organisations kényanes d’anciens combattants et de défense des droits humains attendaient davantage de la part des autorités britanniques, qui ont pour l’instant simplement exprimé en 2013 des « regrets sincères » pour les violences coloniales au Kenya.

Charles III s’était auparavant rendu symboliquement sur les lieux de la proclamation de l’indépendance du Kenya, au premier jour de sa visite dans ce pays d’Afrique de l’Est, où se sont multipliées les demandes d’excuses. Cette visite de quatre jours, à quelques semaines du 60^e anniversaire de l’indépendance de cette ancienne colonie, est la première de Charles III en tant que roi dans un pays du Commonwealth. Après des visites en Allemagne puis en France marquant une volonté de rapprochement avec ses alliés européens, ce déplacement marque une orientation royale vers le Commonwealth. Le souverain entame au Kenya une « mission pour sauver le Commonwealth », a estimé le quotidien britannique *Daily Mail*. Ce vestige de l’empire britannique qui regroupe 56 pays est fragilisé par des critiques de plus en plus vives sur le passé colonial du Royaume-Uni.

[nombre total de mots : 940 – article en français : 35%]

Question 2 – Essai (10 points) :

a. Do you think that forcing institutions to apologize for past measures is an efficient solution to reach more equality?