# CB 1 – ECG2 – novembre 2025 ANGLAIS **LVA** (4 heures)

Veuillez laisser suffisamment de marge à <u>gauche</u>, et <u>en haut de la première page</u>, pour les commentaires.

Prière de <u>comptabiliser</u> les mots dans la Question 1 et la Question 2. Tout recours à toute aide extérieure est formellement interdit et entraînera la note de 0/20.

# Ce sujet comporte les 5 documents suivants:

- **Document 1 :** *Trump Says Americans 'Won't Have to Vote Anymore' If He Wins*, The Atlantic, July 2024
- Document 2: Has Trump succeeded in normalizing American autocracy? The Guardian, August 2025
- Document 3: French-language article from Canadian daily Le Devoir, September 2025
- **Document 4**: Survey PRRI (Public Religion Research Institute), February-March 2025
- Document 5: Image cartoon by David Horsey, the Seattle Times,, January 2022

#### I - COMPREHENSION: RESUME ANALYTIQUE COMPARATIF

Répondre dans la langue cible a la question posée en **350 mots** (+ ou - 10%) en identifiant et en comparant les informations pertinentes dans les documents 1 et 2, sans commentaire personnel ni paraphrase.

# According to document 1 and document 2, can Donald Trump be regarded as an autocrat?

# II. EXPRESSION PERSONNELLE: ESSAI ARGUMENTE

Répondre en anglais à la question posée en **500 mots** (+ ou - 10%), en réagissant au contenu du dossier, sans paraphraser celui-ci, tout en développant votre opinion personnelle. Vous devez illustrer votre argumentation avec des exemples culturels, civilisationnels et/ou historiques du monde anglophone.

# Based on the documents and on your own knowledge, do you believe American democracy is in danger?

# III. TRADUCTION DU FRANÇAIS EN ANGLAIS (THEME)

Traduire en anglais uniquement la partie du texte en français indiquée en **gras** et entre **crochets** [....]

Traduire du français à l'anglais du début "Les attaques du régime" jusqu'à " un principe américain."

#### Document 1:

# Trump Says Americans 'Won't Have to Vote Anymore' If He Wins

He's telegraphing his authoritarian intentions in plain sight.

By Brian Klaas, The Atlantic, July 27, 2024

Yesterday, former President Donald Trump told a group of supporters that they won't have to vote again if they elect him to the presidency. Trump's remarks represent an extraordinary departure from democratic norms in the United States—rarely, if ever, has a major party's presidential candidate directly stated his aim to make elections meaningless, a notorious hallmark of autocracy.

Trump's remarks last night are just the latest in his long record of expressing authoritarian ideas and admiration for strongmen in several undemocratic regimes—including Russia's Vladimir Putin, the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte, and North Korea's Kim Jong Un. Since launching his first presidential campaign in 2015 by painting an entire group of immigrants as rapists, Trump has taken just about every page from the authoritarian playbook. He lies constantly. He calls the press "the enemy of the people," a phrase so incendiary that Joseph Stalin's successor removed it from Soviet propaganda.

Throughout his first term, Trump engaged in despot-style nepotism and cronyism<sup>1</sup>, hiring his unqualified daughter and son-in-law to oversee crucial briefs in government while elevating his son's wedding planner to a top role in federal housing. And, like all authoritarians, he saw himself as the sole embodiment of the state—which is why he referred to the military brass as "my generals," used his office to personally enrich himself, and attempted to orchestrate an egregious<sup>2</sup> quid pro quo<sup>3</sup>, trying to trade missiles for political dirt on his former opponent.

It was in the dying days of his presidency, though, that Trump's authoritarian instincts were most clearly unmasked. Continuing on his long history of inciting political violence, Trump inspired a mob to attack the United States Capitol in the hope of overturning the election that he lost. With a fake-elector scheme, a phone call pressuring Georgia's top election official to "find" additional votes, and his continuing refusal to accept election results, the former president has made it obvious that he cares about unrestrained power and self-interest, not democracy and national interest.

Since being ousted from the presidency by voters, Trump has pledged to be a dictator "on day one," backing a series of formal policy proposals that could make that closer to reality. He's floated the idea of executing America's top general. He's proposed executing shoplifters without a trial, a violation of due process<sup>4</sup> seen only in the most brutal authoritarian regimes. And now Trump says voting will become obsolete if he wins. How many more ways can he tell us that he's an existential threat to American democracy?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> **Cronyism** = the practice of unfairly giving the best jobs to your friends when you are in a position of power.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Egregious : odieux, choquant, scandaleux

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> **Quid pro quo** : contrepartie, marchandage

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> **Due process** : application de la loi selon les procédures prévues

It would perhaps be more comforting if Trump's anti-democracy machinations were hidden, covert, subtle. Instead, because he's conveying his authoritarian intent in blunt language in front of rolling TV cameras, it's impossible not to conclude that at least some of his base is formed by what political scientists call "authoritarian voters" citizens who care about getting their way even if it means destroying democracyin the process.

More dystopian still, Trump's acolytes are co-opting the language of autocracy and are using it to describe fully democratic processes while ignoring or excusing Trump's authoritarian ambitions. Republicans have begun talking about the "coup" against President Joe Biden, even though his decision to not seek reelection according to the formal rules of his own political party is a typical—and relatively common—waythat unpopular incumbents behave in democratic states. Meanwhile, many Republicans insist that the insurrection on January 6 was a "normal tourist visit" and balk at<sup>5</sup> the notion that a president launching a coordinated conspiracy, pressuring election officials to find additional votes, and inciting a violent mob to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power are textbook attempts at a so-called auto-coup. (608 words)

## Document 2:

Has Trump succeeded in normalising American autocracy? Andrew Roth, The Guardian, Sun 31 Aug 2025

Some activists and observers have sounded the alarm: authoritarianism of the kind that Americans are used to condemning abroad has become increasingly normal in the United States. Don Moynihan, a political scientist and professor at the University of Michigan, wrote this week that "today, America is a competitive authoritarian system, with a rapidly increasing emphasis on the authoritarian part."

The checklist to consolidate power, he wrote, includes efforts to control the government bureaucracy, the military, internal security, the legal system, civil society, higher education, the media and elections. The pursuit of those aims had been "systematic", he wrote.

Abdelrahman ElGendy has watched this process with a feeling of grim recognition. ElGendy spent six years in prison in his native Egypt on political charges, but fled to the US in order to work on a memoir he is set to release next year.

In April, however, he packed his things and left the US following the detention of the Columbia graduate Mahmoud Khalil. ElGendy's lawyers warned him that he could face a similar fate after his personal details were posted on a website used to target opponents of Israel's war in Gaza.

Since then, he has watched from abroad as the situation has worsened. "I haven't second-guessed<sup>6</sup> leaving the US. In fact I feel very grateful that I made the choice that I did before things got even worse," he said. "I left Egypt to escape political persecution ... The reason I left the US is because I started to recognize those same patterns forming around me. And since leaving it's only gone downhill."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> **To balk at** : rechigner à

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> To second-guess : regretter, remettre en question

When Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Ice) began carrying out large-scale raids and he was identified online as a potential target, he said he found himself once again waiting to be taken away at any moment.

From Russia to Turkey, and Hungary to El Salvador, activists, observers and political scientists have watched the quick consolidation of power by the Trump administration as it has followed a familiar pattern of autocratic rollout.

Washington has found common cause with some of the world's harshest authoritarian regimes such Russia and El Salvador. This week, the US deported nearly 50 Russians, according to activists, including some who probably requested political asylum in the United States. Hundreds of migrants and even citizens have been deported to prisons in El Salvador.

"Sometimes I almost feel it's like 'I told you so," said Noah Bullock, the chief executive of Cristosal, a leading human rights group in El Salvador which was forced to leave the country last month after 25 years of documenting abuses of power.

"With the Ice crackdown and the creation of this massive law enforcement agency that only obeys the president – there are no good historical references where that works out well."

"One of the things that I see happening that hits me really close is when these security or police forces begin to look at the whole population as enemies," he added, comparing it to El Salvador where they had been "trained to see the population as a threat".

The winner-take-all dynamics of the Trump administration, which has claimed a historic mandate despite winning among the thinnest majorities in a generation, have made this a particularly fraught moment.

Along with the federal takeover of police forces, the other commonly cited danger is the Republican gerrymandering<sup>7</sup> effort in Texas and resulting fightback in California, as well as other efforts to diminish voter turnout ahead of the 2026 midterm and 2028 presidential elections.

Some activists insist it is not too late to turn back. Stacey Abrams, the former Georgia gubernatorial candidate, and Kim Lane Scheppele, a professor of sociology and international affairs at Princeton University, wrote this week that "We Can Stop the Rise of American Autocracy".

Citing Hungary and Venezuela as examples, they wrote that "we cannot be lulled<sup>8</sup> into believing that this is like anything we've seen before and can therefore be solved by simply waiting for the midterm elections. The antidote to Trump's American breed of autocracy is understanding the severity of the threat at hand."

But others see the trend toward authoritarianism as merely an acceleration of the direction of US politics even before Trump.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> **Gerrymandering**: charcutage électoral (= découpage des circonscriptions électorales de sorte qu'elles soient plus favorables à son propre camp et donc défavorables à l'autre camp).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> To lull: bercer, endormir qqn (ici, de façon trompeuse)

- "That assumes that the United States was a functioning healthy democracy that slipped ... and that's just not the case in my opinion," said ElGendy.
- "When a democracy is designed with this capacity for authoritarianism you're never more than one election away from its reappearance. That's not an accident, that's a design flaw." (746 words)

# Document 3:

[Les attaques du régime de Donald Trump contre l'opposition politique se sont intensifiées cette semaine aux États-Unis, guidées désormais par la mémoire de l'influenceur conservateur Charlie Kirk, assassiné la semaine dernière en Utah. Cette suite des événements était logique dans un pays placé depuis janvier dernier sur la pente glissante de l'autoritarisme par le populiste et sa reprise brutale du pouvoir à Washington. Mais elle inquiète aussi dans ses propres rangs, où quelques voix appellent à la retenue en pointant du doigt une tentative risquée de réduire la liberté d'expression à un droit qui n'est dévolu qu'à un seul camp politique — celui au pouvoir —, alors qu'il est bel et bien protégé — pour tous — par le premier amendement de la Constitution américaine.

« Pendant une vingtaine d'années, nous avons défendu la liberté de religion et d'expression, ce que certains jugeaient inapproprié », a déclaré mardi le président de la Chambre des représentants, Mike Johnson, républicain de Louisiane et fidèle allié de Donald Trump. « Écoutez : aux États-Unis, il est très important de ne pas censurer ni de réduire au silence les opinions défavorables, c'est un principe conservateur et, bien sûr, un principe américain.]

Jeudi, depuis Londres, où il a été reçu en grande pompe par le roi Charles III dans le cadre d'une seconde visite d'État au Royaume-Uni, Donald Trump a poursuivi sa marche de plus en plus rapide sur la route de la criminalisation de l'opposition politique aux États-Unis en annonçant aux « nombreux patriotes américains » sur son réseau social Truth qu'il allait désigner le mouvement antifasciste d'extrême gauche « Antifa » comme « organisation terroriste majeure ».

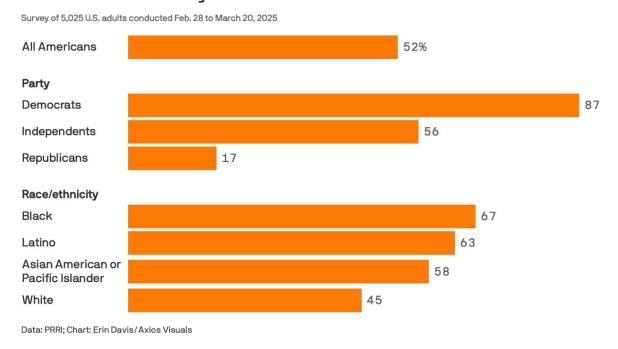
La mécanique visant à inscrire ce mouvement sur une liste d'organisations terroristes reste nébuleuse, l'antifa ne représentant pas un groupe organisé, avec un chef officiel et un siège de pouvoir, mais plutôt un mouvement social diffus reposant sur des courants idéologiques penchant à gauche (et souvent dans l'extrême). Et qui ne se confondent pas forcément avec le programme politique du Parti démocrate.

Dans les dictatures et les régimes autoritaires, l'argument du « terrorisme » est souvent utilisé comme une arme de destruction massive pour éradiquer la dissidence et faire taire les figures œuvrant au sein de la société civile et des partis d'opposition.

(374 mots). Le Devoir, 18 septembre 2025

## Document 4:

# Share who say they agree that President Trump is a "dangerous dictator whose power should be limited before he destroys American democracy"



# Document 5:



David Horsey, The Seattle Times, January 14, 2022