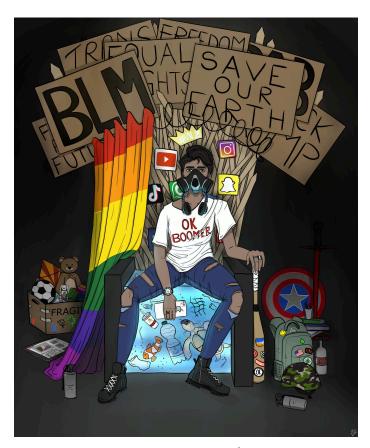
# **GENERATION Z**

- ☐ Faire une fiche de vocabulaire et culturelle sur la thématique
  - ☐ Pratiquer le thème et la version
- ☐ Choisir 3 documents du dossier, formuler une problématique, rédiger une introduction et une synthèse



GEN Z, Vanessa Groch (2020)

# A voir/lire au sujet de la génération Z:

Movies: Eighth Grade, Bo Burnham (2018), Bodies, Bodies, Bodies, Alina Reijn (2022),

Bottoms, Emma Seligman (2023)

Series: Euphoria

Books: Heartstopper, Alice Oseman, (2016)

## **Document A** - What are Gen Z's qualities?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7Qrn-IxPyE&t=41s

- 1. Watch the video and pick out as many words as you can.
- 2. Try to pair some words (opposites? Synonyms?)
- 3. Discuss one of the definitions of Gen Z, do you agree with it? Why? Why not?
- 4. As a part of Gen Z, how would you describe your generation? How is it different from previous generations?

#### **GENERATION MATCHING EXERCISE**

**Instructions:** Match each generation (Column A) with its correct birth years (Column B) and key characteristics (Column C). Write a small paragraph on each generation using the elements given.

A. Generations	B. Birth years	C. Key characteristics
A. Baby Boomers	1. 1997-2012	I. Smartphone natives, TikTok generation, climate conscious
B. Generation X	2. 1965-1980	II. Digital natives, social
C. Millennials	3. 1946-1964	media pioneers, student debt crisis
D. Generation Z	4. 1981-1996	III. Latchkey kids, MTV generation, work-life balance
		IV. Post-WWII optimism, civil rights era, television generation

#### Toolbox:

Dedicated to helping the world: se préoccuper du monde Be more socially aware: être plus conscient socialement

Slay: modern slang used on social media to say someone did

something impressively well.

Impulse buying: achats impulsifs

Something quite vanilla: quelque chose d'assez banal

To be stereotyped as: être stéréotypé comme

To be prone to: être enclin To be big on: être passioné par

To step into the world: entrer dans le monde

# <u>Document B</u> - Gen Z and the sustainability paradox: Why ideals and shopping habits don't always align

The Conversation, Melise Panetta, June 4, 2025

As the summer shopping season kicks off, all eyes are on Gen Z - those born between 1997 and 2012 and whose purchasing power wields (= deals successfully with) significant influence over market trends.

Often lauded (=praised) as the "sustainability generation," a closer look reveals a complex internal struggle: despite their strong desire for eco-conscious living, many Gen Z consumers find themselves drawn to the allure of fast, affordable, trend-driven consumption.

This discrepancy between belief and action, known as the "attitude-behaviour gap," is a defining characteristic of Gen Z consumerism. While it's not unique to Gen Z, it's particularly pronounced due to their vocal environmentalism and their immersion in a hyper-consumerist digital world.

There's no denying Gen Z's pronounced environmental awareness compared to other generations.

Raised in the era of climate crisis and corporate responsibility, they gravitate toward brands that reflect their values. Over 75 per cent say sustainability matters more than brand name, and 81 per cent are willing to pay more for eco-friendly products.

This isn't merely performative — Gen Z actively integrates sustainability into their lives. They're more likely than any other generation to research a brand's ethics and environmental impact before buying, often using social media to guide decisions.

More than 70 per cent discover sustainable products via platforms like Instagram and TikTok, fuelling social movements like Who Made My Clothes and supporting businesses like LastObject, a company that uses digital crowdfunding to engage environmentally conscious consumers.

<u>They're also behind the rise of the second-hand market, which is expected to hit US\$329</u> billion globally by 2029. With 40 per cent of Gen Z — the highest rate of any age group — shopping resale, platforms like Depop and ThredUp have seen explosive growth.

Gen Z's consumer behaviour is also influencing the spending habits of older generations. According to the World Economic Forum, increased spending on sustainable brands by groups like Generation X is being driven, in part, by Gen Z's values, behaviours and expectations.

Gen Z's push for sustainable consumption is shifting the market and everyone in it.

*§*2 ......

Fast fashion, frictionless e-commerce and the constant churn of social media trends have created **a marketplace where** sustainable intentions are easily sidelined.

Viral phenomena like Shein hauls — <u>videos where</u> social media influencers flaunt dozens of ultra-cheap outfits — spotlight the contradiction.

In the first 19 weeks of 2025 alone, Shein's app amassed over 54 million downloads, a <u>staggering number that</u> underscores how affordability and instant gratification often win out over sustainability. Built on rapid production and ultra-low prices, Shein's model encourages frequent, high-volume purchases — the antithesis of the "buy less, buy better" <u>ethos that underpins</u> sustainable consumption.

And this pattern extends far beyond fashion. The wider consumer landscape rewards speed and low cost at every turn. Gen Z came of age with one-click ordering and next-day delivery — conveniences that are now baseline expectations for shoppers. These days, nearly half of Gen Z consumers prioritize fast shipping, despite its high environmental cost.

Meanwhile, the social media platforms where they discover new eco-conscious brands are the same ones pushing relentless trend cycles that encourage over-consumption, from gadgets to clothing and lifestyle products.

Sustainability often comes with a steep price tag, one many young Gen Z consumers simply can't afford. Brands like Patagonia or Allbirds are aspirational, but in the context of the cost-of-living crisis, fast-fashion giants like Zara, H&M and TJX Companies offer more budget-friendly options.

*§*3 ......

The disconnect between Gen Z's values and their consumption patterns isn't about hypocrisy. Rather, it's about navigating <u>a system where</u> sustainable choices are harder, more expensive and often less visible.

Gen Z's struggle shows that living sustainably in a world designed for speed, savings and social validation is an uphill battle — even for the generation most determined to make a difference.

Bridging this gap demands action on several fronts. For businesses, it means innovating to make sustainable options **more affordable and accessible**. Transparency in supply chain practices and clear communication about environmental impact are also key to building trust with consumers.

For Gen Z themselves, transparency about the true cost of consumption is vital. Fostering critical thinking about marketing messages and the impact of social media trends can empower them to make choices that more consistently align with their values.

As the summer unfolds and consumer spending rises, the choices made by Gen Z will be a significant indicator of our collective path towards a more sustainable economy. Their ideals are a powerful force for change, but translating those ideals into consistent action remains the critical challenge.

- 1. Read the introduction and highlight the most important elements.
- 2. Recap in your own words + try to find 3 examples of this "attitude-behaviour gap
- 3. Read the article and match each title to the correct paragraph:
  - -Navigating the 'attitude-behaviour' gap
  - The rise of the eco-conscious Gen Z consumer
  - When values clash with spending habits
- 4. According to the text, in what ways does Gen Z demonstrate its commitment to sustainability in its consumer habits? (Tip for students: Focus on examples and figures mentioned in §1.)
- 5. What factors explain the "attitude-behaviour gap" between Gen Z's environmental values and their actual shopping behaviour?

  (Tip: Consider both economic and social media influences described in §2.)
- 6. Translate: "Meanwhile, the social media platforms where they discover new eco-conscious brands are the same ones pushing relentless trend cycles that encourage over-consumption, from gadgets to clothing and lifestyle products."
- 7. In your opinion, who bears the greater responsibility for closing the gap between sustainable ideals and real consumption patterns companies or consumers? Justify your answer with references to §3.

# Curiosity didn't kill the cat 🐱

The "attitude-behaviour gap" is also called "The value-action gap". It is the discrepancy between the stated values of an individual or organisation and their actions. More generally, it is the difference between what people say and what people do

# Language:

Observez les énoncés soulignés dans le texte, qu'ont-ils en commun ?

# 1. What are relative pronouns?

Relative pronouns introduce a **relative clause**, which gives extra information about a noun. They connect two ideas in one sentence.

Pronoun	Refers to	Used for	Example
who	people	subject	Gen Z consumers <b>who</b> care about sustainability are reshaping the market.
whom	people	object (formal)	The influencers <b>whom</b> Gen Z follows often promote fast fashion.
which	things or ideas	subject or object	The second-hand market, <b>which</b> is growing fast, attracts many Gen Z shoppers.
that	people or things	subject or object (neutral)	They prefer brands <b>that</b> reflect their values.
whose	possession	_	Consumers <b>whose</b> values are eco-conscious try to shop sustainably.
where	places	_	Social media is the place <b>where</b> Gen Z discovers new eco-friendly brands.
when	time	_	During the summer season, <b>when</b> shopping peaks, Gen Z's habits are observed.

# 1. Defining vs. Non-defining Relative Clauses

Type	Function	Punctuation	Example
Defining clause	Gives <i>essential</i> information (no commas)	×	The brands that pollute the most lose credibility.
Non-defining clause	Adds <i>extra</i> information (with commas)	V	Patagonia, which is known for its ethics, is admired by Gen Z.

# Tip:

- If you remove a **defining** clause, the meaning changes.
- If you remove a **non-defining** clause, the main idea stays the same.
- 2. Omitting the Pronoun

When the relative pronoun is the **object**, it can often be **left out** in informal English.

The products they buy online.

(= The products that they buy online.)

#### 3. Correct those common Mistakes

- Neople which → V
- $\bigcirc$  The company **its** values are clear  $\rightarrow$   $\boxed{\checkmark}$
- $\bigcirc$  The place **that** I was born  $\rightarrow$   $\boxed{\checkmark}$

#### 5. Exercise

Fill in with who, which, that, whose, where:

- 1. Gen Z prefers brands \_\_\_\_\_ share their environmental values.
- 2. The fast-fashion model, \_\_\_\_\_ encourages overconsumption, is criticised by activists.
- 3. They use platforms \_\_\_\_\_ they can buy second-hand clothes.
- 4. Consumers \_\_\_\_\_ income is limited often struggle to afford sustainable options.

# Exercice – Traduisez les phrases suivantes en anglais :

- 1 Les consommateurs **qui** affirment vouloir protéger la planète achètent parfois des produits issus de la fast fashion.
- 2 Les entreprises **dont** la stratégie repose sur la transparence attirent davantage la génération Z.
- 3 Les applications **que** les jeunes utilisent pour revendre leurs vêtements encouragent une économie plus circulaire.
- 4 Les influenceurs **avec qui** les marques collaborent jouent un rôle clé dans la promotion de la durabilité.
- 5 Les périodes de soldes sont des moments **où** les valeurs écologiques sont souvent mises de côté.

# <u>Document C</u> - 'It's out of order': Gen Z speak up for cancel culture and 'young illiberal progressives'

The Guardian Robert Booth, November 1, 2022

Generation Z has a bad case of the "yips", according to a new label being applied to a swathe of 13- to 24-year-olds.

Close to half of those surveyed from that age range, branded young illiberal progressives (yips), think some people deserve to be "cancelled", compared with a third of over-25s, and more than a quarter say they have "very little tolerance for people with beliefs I disagree with", new research by Channel 4 shows.

Yet at the same time, the study found they are significantly more progressive than older generations on issues such as gender and multiculturalism.

Generation Z, about 7 million strong, is the youngest generation charted in detail by researchers, with the so-called Generation Alpha mostly still at primary school. Their experience has been shaped in recent years by school and university being thrown into disarray by Covid and by the rise of social media, which has been ubiquitous since their adolescence or earlier.

Attempts to understand them are gathering pace as they head into adulthood and become more powerful consumers and start to vote. Separate research earlier this year found 60% of 18- to 24-year-olds agree that having a strong leader who does not have to bother with parliament or elections is a good way to run the country, more than double the number in 2017.

The paradox between tolerance and the urge to "cancel" may be "mystifying", said Alex Mahon, the chief executive of Channel 4, as she unveiled the broadcaster's analysis of "the most misjudged group of people in our recent history". But, she said, it was likely to be "a completely rational response to the online world we have".

"Young people could be said to be less liberal because they are less tolerant of the views of others than their parents and grandparents – surely a novelty," she said.

When asked about the findings, Holly Valler, 18, told the Guardian: "Cancel culture has become something where you use it for everything. We just cancel people for the sake of wanting [to set] a trend going and to have some drama."

"I am seeing people cancelled for things they did when they were 15 years old," said Ruben Otakoya, 19. "It's out of order."

Georgia, 22, added: "People my age have been subconsciously pushed into a box where they think that the only way to share their opinion is by convincing other people that their opinion is

the only correct way ... They are confident ... because now you can Google something and have facts that back up your opinion ... I don't necessarily blame our generation for being illiberal. I almost blame the environment that we're in that has caused us to be so confirmed in our thoughts."

The study of more than 1,500 people also revealed a generational gulf between how stressed Gen Z is about social media and the risks perceived by older people. It found Instagram, TikTok and other channels were not even in the top five stated sources of stress. Those were concerns held by generations for centuries: the cost of living, a lack of affordable housing, uncertainty about the future, pressure to be successful and worries about their appearance.

Well over half (58%) think older generations worry too much and exaggerate the effects of social media. Just over a third of Gen Z view social media as a source of stress, while more than half say the positives outweigh the negatives. A fifth have paused social media use to protect their mental health and one in nine have given it up permanently.

In a sign of continuing evolving norms, Amelia Sumner, 24, told the Guardian she was now worried about a young family member posting sexually suggestive videos to TikTok and Otakoya said he was concerned to see a young family member posting a twerking film.

The study also found high levels of "little picture" hope, with 60% optimistic about their futures and a similar number feeling empowered to influence that future, while only a third were optimistic about the future of the world.

Prof Bobby Duffy, the director of the Policy Institute at King's College London, questioned whether Gen Z would remain illiberal as it aged. "You do have greater certainty that your worldview is correct [when young]," he said. "And then it gets more complex and nuanced as you get older. So there's likely to be a lifecycle element to that."

He added: "It is a different environment that young people are living in, where the type of responses that you can get given through social media to sharing people's views, and then the reactions to that ... just provides a very different context.

"Whether this is a truly illiberal generation I think is unclear, but it is worth watching."

1. What does the term "cancel culture" mean in this article? Give an example from the text of how young people use it.

- 2. According to the Channel 4 research, what percentage of Generation Z thinks some people deserve to be "cancelled"? How does this compare to people over 25?
- 3. Georgia (22) says she doesn't blame her generation for being "illiberal." According to her, what has caused young people to think their opinion is "the only correct way"?
- 4. The article describes a "paradox" about Generation Z. Explain this contradiction: how can Gen Z be both progressive and illiberal at the same time?
- 5. What are the TOP sources of stress for Generation Z according to the study? Why might it be surprising that social media is NOT in the top five? What does this reveal about the difference between Gen Z's actual concerns and what older generations think they worry about?

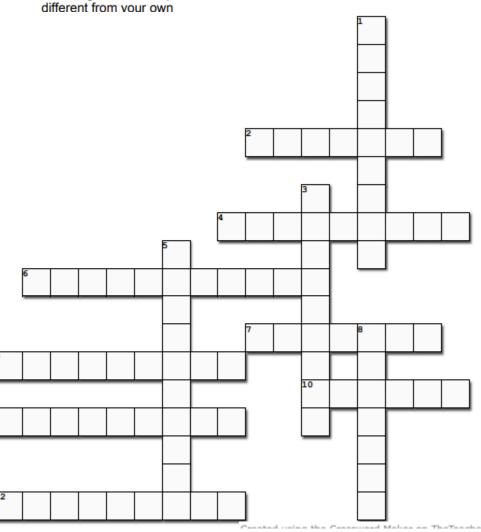
#### 6. Crosswords:

### Down

- 1. A person's overall perspective on life and the world
- 3. Willingness to accept beliefs or behaviors

### Across

- 2. A statement or situation that seems contradictory but may be true
- 4. Given power or authority; feeling confident to act
- 6. Supporting social reform and modern values
- Characterized by subtle differences or complexity
- 9. Not tolerant of different opinions or belief
- To publicly reject or boycott someone for offensive behavior
- 11. Hopeful and confident about the future
- 12. The power to affect or change somethin



#### 7. Translate into French:

Close to half of those surveyed from that age range, branded young illiberal progressives (yips), think some people deserve to be "cancelled", compared with a third of over-25s, and more than a quarter say they have "very little tolerance for people with beliefs I disagree with", new research by Channel 4 shows.

## <u>Language:</u>

#### **IF vs WHETHER**

- A. You can use \*\*both\*\* when introducing an indirect yes/no question or expressing doubt:
- \*\*I don't know if/whether she's coming to the party.\*\*
- \*\*Can you tell me if/whether the store is open?\*\*
- \*\*I wonder if/whether it will rain tomorrow.\*\*
  - B. When to use ONLY "whether"
- 1. **Before infinitives** (to + verb)
- $\times$  I can't decide \*\*if\*\* to go or stay.
- I can't decide \*\*whether\*\* to go or stay.
- X She's not sure \*\*if\*\* to accept the job offer.
- ✓ She's not sure \*\*whether\*\* to accept the job offer.

## 2. After prepositions

- $\times$  The debate is about \*\*if\*\* we should cancel the event.
- ▼ The debate is about \*\*whether\*\* we should cancel the event.
- X They argued about \*\*if\*\* Gen Z is too illiberal.
- ☑ They argued about \*\*whether\*\* Gen Z is too illiberal.

## 3. With "or not" directly following

- $\times$  Tell me \*\*if or not\*\* you're interested.
- ▼ Tell me \*\*whether or not\*\* you're interested.
- \*\*Note:\*\* Both are correct when "or not" comes later:
- I don't know \*\*if\*\* she's coming \*\*or not\*\*. V
- I don't know \*\*whether\*\* she's coming \*\*or not\*\*. 🗸

4.	As	a	sub	ect	of	the	<b>sentenc</b> e

- ×\*If\*\* she agrees is not important.
- ✓ \*\*Whether\*\* she agrees is not important.
- × \*\*If\*\* we cancel the meeting depends on the weather.
- \*\*Whether\*\* we cancel the meeting depends on the weather.

# 5. In formal writing

In formal or academic writing, \*\*whether\*\* is preferred even when "if" would be grammatically correct.

EXERCISE: Choose IF or WHETHER (or both)
**Instructions:** Complete the sentences with "if" or "whether". Sometimes both are correct!
1. I'm not sure I should call him tonight.
2. The question is cancel culture helps or harms society.
3. Can you check the restaurant is still open?
4. We need to decide to attend the conference.
5 young people are truly illiberal is debatable.
6. I wonder she received my email or not.
7. They're discussing social media causes stress.
8. Please let me know you can join us for dinner.
9. The study focuses on Gen Z is optimistic about the future.
10. I can't decide to buy the blue one or the red one.
11 or not you agree, you should listen to their perspective.
12. The article explores tolerance is decreasing among young people.
13. She's uncertain to accept the job offer in Paris.

14. Do you know	the meeting has been cancelled?
15. We're debating	we should implement new policies.

# Curiosity didn't kill the cat 🐱 Cancel Culture

It is the phenomenon or practice of publicly rejecting, boycotting, or ending support for particular people or groups because of their socially or morally unacceptable views or actions. Cancel culture can ruin careers, but it can also make a public figure think twice before posting controversial comments. Examples can be found on both sides of the political spectrum (JK Rowling, Dr Seuss, Chris Harrison, Joe Rogan, Roseanne Barr, Colin Kaepernick, The Hate U Give, Don't Ask Don't Tell). Choose 3 of those examples and fill in the grid:

Name of the cancelled thing or person	Why was it cancelled?	By whom was it cancelled?	What were the consequences?

## <u>Document D</u> - 'Gen Z is more anxious, lonely and poorer than other generations'

The Financial Times, Ed Elson, March 14, 2025

"What's wrong with Gen Z?" This is the question I'm asked on every podcast or panel I've ever appeared on. Sometimes I laugh at the question. My day job is hosting Prof G Markets, a podcast where Professor Scott Galloway and I talk about money and finance — not Gen Z. But as a 25-year-old, I do have a front-row seat to our struggles.

I usually respond: "We are **the most anxious**, **depressed**, **and lonely generation in history**. Also, on an inflation-adjusted basis, we are the poorest."

This statement never fails to shock people. You'd think I'd murdered a small poodle on stage. I soften my tone and explain: diagnosable anxiety and depression have doubled since the iPhone's introduction. Loneliness is surging — 12% of Americans now report having no close friends, up from 3% in 1990. And financially? We're the first American generation projected to earn less at 30 than our parents did at the same age.

All of this information is out there, we need only Google it. Yet, in a world where media fixates on distractions (say, a collegiate swimmer's gender identity), the real issues fade into the background.

That's why I appreciate this invitation to play FT Edit editor for the day. In addition to keeping me informed, FT Edit helps me to distinguish signal from noise (=distinguer l'essentiel de l'accessoire) — especially when it comes to generational trends. I've chosen eight articles that have enhanced my understanding of the issues afflicting my generation.

Anjli Raval explores why Gen Z workers are rejecting management roles. The explanation is simple: young people see low ROI(= Return on Investment) in climbing the corporate ladder. Who can blame them? When strangers on Instagram claim to make millions on "FartCoin" and "SpankChain", a "senior associate" title loses its appeal.

Global vineyard values are plummeting as young people increasingly drink less. I'd love to say this reflects our prudence, but I suspect it's tied to our general lack of socialisation.

A rare bright spot: For the first time in nine years, South Korea's birth rates have risen. **The most alarming** second-order effect (=effet indirect) of young people's struggles is our global disinterest in having children. From Asia to America to Europe, birth rates are declining, so a reversal of that trend anywhere is encouraging. Fingers crossed the continuing-the-human-race trend goes viral.

While I still have you, a few other articles that caught my attention: Emma Jacobs, on teenagers' wellness obsession. Why walking — and eating — are the new drinking. What young Americans actually think about government. And, John Burn-Murdoch's take on what's really happening in American politics right now.

OK, back to my phone.

- 1. According to the author, what are the four main problems facing Gen Z?
- 2. What statistical evidence does the author provide to support his claim about Gen Z's mental health crisis?
- 3. Why does the author say Gen Z workers are rejecting management roles?
- 4. What does the author identify as "a rare bright spot" in the text, and why is it significant?
- 5. What criticism does the author make about modern media coverage?
- 6. The author mentions that global vineyard values are plummeting because young people drink less. What explanation does he suggest for this trend?

# Language: Comparatives and superlatives

## 1. Structure

	The Comparative Form	The Superlative Form
Short adjectives  Usually one syllable, or two syllables ending in -y, -le, -ow, -er.  Examples: fast, cheap, poor, happy, narrow, clever	· ·	Short adjectives: the + adjective + -est  the the cheapest, the fastest
Long adjectives  Usually two syllables or more (not ending in -y), or adjectives with suffixes like -ful, -less, -ing, -ed, -able, -ous, -ive.  Examples: expensive, important, sustainable, accessible, dangerous, intelligent	· .	Long adjectives: the + most + adjective  the most sustainable, the most creative

Exceptions	Always use <b>than</b> for $good \rightarrow the best / bad \rightarrow the comparison.$
-er / -est or more / most.	take Irregular forms: $good \rightarrow furthest$ better than, bad $\rightarrow$ worse  than, far $\rightarrow$ farther/further
correct.	than.
fun is always irregular $\rightarrow$ fun, the most fun.	more

# **W** Using in and of with the Superlative

We often use in or of to specify the group we are comparing within.

in  $\rightarrow$  used before places, groups, or contexts

- ← "The most sustainable brand in the market."

of  $\rightarrow$  used before numbers, quantities, or sets

- ← "The most successful of all Gen Z influencers."

## **In short:**

in = a place or category
of = a group or collection

2. **Exercise:** Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the adjective in parentheses:

Fast fashion is	(cheap) than	sustainable fashion.	
<b>2</b> Gen Z is	(environmentally a	ware) generation so far.	
3 Making ethical cho	ices is becoming	(hard) and	(expensive).
4 Eco-friendly brand	s must become	(accessible) to youn	g consumers.
5 Shein is one of	(popular) fas	shion apps in the world.	
6Gen Z has the	(high) rate of	second-hand shopping.	

## Document E - Why are there no jobs for gen Z?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GlUe23kWpg0&t=17s

# <u>Document F - Gen Z are increasingly becoming NEETs by choice—not in employment, education, or training</u>

Fortune, Orianna Rosa Royle, May 19, 2025

[Just like Peter Pan, there's a growing cohort of Gen Zers who are refusing to grow up and embrace life's major milestones to adulthood, like getting some form of qualification or joining the world of work.

Instead, they're opting to become NEETs—which stands for "not in employment, education, or training"—and creating record levels of youth unemployment around the world.

According to the International Labour Organization, about a fifth of people between ages 15 and 24 worldwide in 2023 are currently NEETs. And a recent PwC report shows four in 10 Gen Zers are ready to quit and survive on unemployment benefits instead.

In Spain alone, more than half-a-million 15- to 24-year-olds are neither studying nor working. Meanwhile in the U.K., almost 3 million Gen Zers are now classed as economically inactive—with 384,000 youngsters joining the "workless" class since the COVID pandemic.]

The studies don't delve into what's inspiring young people to ditch the rat race and opt for a life under their parent's roof or on public subsidies, but separate research highlights that even if they did start climbing the corporate ladder, buying a home of their own still feels like an impossible task.

## Gen Zers are delaying life milestones

Reams of research shows that those in their early twenties are earning less, have more debt, and see higher delinquency rates than millennials did at their age.

Credit reporting agency TransUnion found that twentysomethings today are taking home around \$45,500, while millennials at their age were earning \$51,852 when adjusted for inflation.

Despite earning less, young people today are being forced to dig deep for basic necessities like food, groceries, and gas, thanks to inflation. Meanwhile, house prices have increased more than twice as fast as income has since the turn of the millennium.

This divergence goes a long way in explaining why young people may feel like saving—or even working—toward the future is futile.

As one Gen Zer noted in Fortune: "I'm just focusing on the present because the future is depressing."

## Hustling is so last season

Hustling, girlbossing, or "work hard, play harder" just doesn't quite have the same grip on Gen Z as it did on millennials starting out.

Many young people today would rather protect their well-being than compete their way up the corporate ladder only to not be able to afford the McMansion their parents bought for a fraction of the price.

Even those who do want to work don't want a career. Instead, many Gen Zers are eyeing up easygoing jobs that don't require regular overtime, antisocial working hours, or substantial responsibilities like managing a large team.

Others are avoiding office jobs: The hottest roles right now among Gen Z grads are in teaching, where low pay is balanced with weeks of vacation. Meanwhile, non-grad Gen Zers are picking up tools and taking up trade jobs in record numbers.

# Mental health struggles

At the same time as unemployment among the youth is rising, their mental health is in decline. Gen Z are nearly twice as stressed out as millennials were at their age. More than a third of 18-to 24-year-olds are suffering from a "common mental disorder" (CMD) like stress, anxiety, or depression. And Gen Zers who are working are taking significantly more sick leave than Gen Xers 20 years their senior.

"Youth worklessness due to ill health is a real and growing trend; it is worrying that young people in their early twenties, just embarking on their adult life, are more likely to be out of work due to ill health than those in their early forties," researchers at the think tank Resolution Foundation (RF) previously told Fortune.

Really, is it any surprise that those mentally struggling would avoid joining the world of work when more than half of CEOs even admit that their company's culture is toxic?

## 1. Watch the video:

- a. What problem is Gen Z facing regarding employment?
- b. What causes are alluded to in the video?
- c. How do young people feel? Why?
- d. What solution has been suggested by the Quebec government? What are the pros and cons?

- 2. Read the text (Document F)
  - a. What does the acronym "NEET" stand for, and what does it reveal about a segment of Generation Z?
  - b. What statistics in the article illustrate the scale of youth unemployment and economic inactivity among Gen Z worldwide?
  - c. According to the text, what economic factors explain why many Gen Zers are reluctant to pursue traditional career paths?
  - d. How has Gen Z's attitude toward work and success changed compared to previous generations, according to the article?
  - e. To what extent can mental health issues be seen as both a cause and a consequence of Gen Z's "worklessness"?
  - f. Translate the passage in bold and into brackets

**Essay Question** (work in pairs, 400 words, 3 bricks)

In your opinion, is Generation Z's rejection of traditional work values a sign of laziness or a rational response to modern economic and social realities?

#### **Tool Box**

work-life balance : équilibre entre vie professionnelle et personnelle

job insecurity: précarité de l'emploi

cost of living :coût de la vie

to afford (something): pouvoir se permettre (quelque chose)

to quit one's job :démissionner mental health: santé mentale

to delay adulthood :retarder l'entrée dans la vie adulte

NEETs: jeunes sans emploi, études ni formation

to seek meaning: rechercher du sens generational gap :fossé générationnel

## Document G - Gen Z's views on the economy and gender roles

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okaf9IzOwnY

# <u>Document H</u> - The 'Lost Boys' of Gen Z: how Trump won the hearts of alienated young men The Conversation - Kate Scott, November 11, 2024

Generation Z was supposed to be a vanguard of progressive politics – more queer, ethnically diverse and environmentally conscious than previous generations. Spurred on by climate protests, racial equality campaigns and feminist movements, we were sold the vision that Gen Z could usher in a more progressive and equitable future.

So, how is it that Donald Trump was elected to a second term despite this cohort now having reached voting age? And how did he secure a larger share of voters under 30 than any Republican presidential candidate since 2008?

The answer may lie in Gen Z's "Lost Boys", as they've been dubbed by some in the media. Not unlike Peter Pan's disciples, these young men are failing to mature and find purpose in today's rapidly changing social and economic landscape. They feel overlooked and shortchanged by left-wing politics and current economic outcomes.

In Trump, they see an outlet for their grievances – a figure who promises to restore the old order and give them the recognition they believe they deserve.

## Many young people see no future

Despite the narrative that Gen Z is more progressive than previous cohorts, recent voting data tell a different story when it comes to young men. While the political leanings of Gen Z women have stayed steadily left of centre, Trump's popularity among young men surged by 15 percentage points from 2020.

To understand why so many young men are drawn to Trump's brand of populism, it's crucial to look at the broader social context in which they are coming of age. The "Lost Boys" in the United States are disproportionately working-class and struggling with unemployment, underemployment, addiction and mental health crises.

The statistics are alarming. With one in five men under 25 unemployed (and many not actively seeking work), they seem hesitant to adapt to a new economy that no longer offers them the opportunities it once did.

Against this backdrop, young men seek out explanations for their struggles in ways that affirm their sense of injustice. These explanations are often found in the "manosphere" – a loose confederacy of social media platforms and influencers flooded with discussions about how

"woke" politics, feminism and the rise of progressive values are undermining traditional masculinity.

In these corners of the internet, young men are told their personal setbacks are not the result of a weakening worldwide economy or personal failings, but rather the consequence of a society that has become too "soft". They hear that the push for gender equality has made traditional masculinity a thing of the past – that men are being ignored, emasculated and left behind.

The "manosphere" is a space where their grievances are validated and where they are encouraged to embrace hypermasculine ideals as a way to regain control.

Flitting between manosphere influencers such as Joe Rogan and Adin Ross, Trump spent hours on podcasts and streams in the lead-up to November 5. The result was so effective that podcasters were specifically shouted out in the victory declaration speech following the election. Since Trump entered politics, he has 107 podcast credits to his name, compared with Kamala Harris' 76.

Notably, Harris' own interview with Rogan fell through after the podcaster refused to accept her conditions, which included travelling to meet her.

In these online spaces, Trump was humorous and humanised. And for Gen Z men who consume more news through social media than traditional outlets, he was highly accessible. Suddenly, he wasn't just a presidential candidate, but a certified "bro" willing to openly discuss cocaine on a podcast.

Trump successfully tapped into the frustrations of these "Lost Boys". His policies – from mass deportations to curbing diversity initiatives – are framed as solutions to the challenges these men believe they face: competition for jobs and opportunities, the erosion of masculine ideals, and the loss of a once-dominant social order.

Yet as Trump waltzes to the Republican National Convention stage with James Brown's It's a Man's Man's Man's World playing in the background, it becomes apparent his appeal was never just about policies; it's about validation. His slogan of "Make America Great Again" resonates with young men who long for an idealised past in which men's roles were more clearly defined and opportunities more plentiful.

Trump tells these men their frustrations are valid – and they deserve to take back what they believe has been unfairly taken from them.

Where to from here?

If the future belongs to Gen Z, it's clear this particular subset of young men is not ready to follow the same path as their progressive peers. For many "Lost Boys", Trump is more than just

a political figure – he is a symbol of empowerment in a world that increasingly leaves them behind.

As the political and cultural landscape continues to evolve, understanding this phenomenon isn't just a matter of curiosity, but a key to addressing the needs of a generation still trying to find its place in a confusing world.

Until figures on the political left learn to be present in these spaces and address the grievances of "Lost Boys", we may continue to see them rallying around figures like Trump in their search for meaning.

## A. Watch the video (doc G)

- 1. Pick out two figures and explain them.
- 2. What are the differences between the two people interviewed?
- 3. What does it reveal about Gen Z?

# B. Read the text (Doc H) and answer the questions:

- 1. Who are the "Lost Boys" described in the text, and why are they significant in the context of Gen Z politics in the U.S.?
- 2. According to the article, how did Trump's popularity among young men under 30 change between 2020 and the most recent election, and what factors contributed to this shift?
- 3. What role does the "manosphere" play in shaping the political views of these young men? Give two examples from the text.
- 4. Identify the main **economic and social grievances** that the "Lost Boys" feel, and explain how these grievances are linked to their political choices.
- 5. How does the text explain Trump's appeal beyond his policies, and what does this suggest about the importance of social media and personal validation in modern politics?

To feel overlooked: Se sentir négligé

**Disillusionment:** Désillusion **Relatability:** Identification

Social grievances: Griefs sociaux doléances sociales

Manosphere: varied collection of websites, blogs, and online forums

promoting masculinity, misogyny, and opposition to feminism

Threats to masculinity: Menaces à la masculinité

Frame social problems as: Considérer les problèmes sociaux comme

étant...

A lack of recognition: Un mangue de reconnaissance

Empowerment: rendre puissant/ responsabilisation/ émancipation

## Document I - How a Gen Z gender divide is reshaping democracy

By Heejung Jung, Mark Bendeich and Thomas Escritt, Reuters, May 29, 2025

**South Korea's young women** are expected to lead a broad political backlash against the main conservative party at presidential elections on June 3, punishing it for months of chaos.

Multitudes of young men, though, are unlikely to join them.

In democracies worldwide, a political gender divide is intensifying among Gen Z voters, with young men voting for right-wing parties and young women leaning left, a break from pre-pandemic years when both tended to vote for progressives.

Recent elections spanning North America, Europe and Asia show this trend is either consolidating or accelerating, with angry, frustrated men in their 20s breaking to the right.

First-time South Korean voter Lee Jeong-min is one of them.

He says he will vote for **the right-wing Reform Party's candidate**, Lee Jun-seok, on June 3. Lee, the candidate, vows to shut down **the ministry of gender equality**, speaking to an issue that resonates with men like Lee, the voter, who particularly resents that only men have to do military service.

"As a young man, I find this to be one of the most unfair realities of living in Korea. At the **prime of their youth** — at 21 or 22 years old — young men, unlike their female peers, are unable to fully engage in various activities in society because they have to serve 18 months in the military."

South Korea, almost 30% of men aged 18-29 plan to back the Reform Party compared with just 3% of young women, according to a Gallup Korea poll this month.

Overall, more than half of the men back right-wing parties while almost half the women want the left-wing Democratic Party candidate to win. The divergence shrinks for older age groups.

Political economist Soohyun Lee, of **King's College London**, said many young South Korean men felt unable to meet **society's expectations**: find a good job, get married, buy a home and start a family.

And they blame feminism, many believing that women are preferred for jobs. With negligible immigration in South Korea, Lee said, "women become the convenient scapegoat".

In South Korea and other democracies, Gen Z men are seeing **an erosion of their relative advantage**, especially since the pandemic -- to the point where in a few countries the gender pay gap among 20-somethings favours young women.

EU data shows one of them is France, where men aged 18-34 voted in larger numbers for **Marine le Pen's far-right part**y than women in **last year's legislative elections**.

In the UK, where more young men than women vote conservative, males aged 16-24 are more likely to be neither employed, nor in education than female counterparts, official data shows.

In the West, young men blame immigration as well as diversity programmes for competition for jobs.

In **Germany's general election** in February, the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) won a record 20.8% of the vote, tugged along by an undercurrent of support from young men -- though **the leader of the party** is a woman.

Men aged 18-24 voted 27% for the AfD while young women ran to the other end of the political spectrum, voting 35% for the far-left Linke party, according to official voting data.

"A lot of young men are falling for right-wing propaganda because they're upset, they have the feeling they're losing power," said Molly Lynch, 18, a Berliner who voted for Linke, drawn by its stand on climate change and economic inequality.

"But it's actually losing power over women that wasn't actually equal in the first place."

The gender divide is not restricted to Gen Z, voters born since the mid-to-late 1990s. Millennials, aged in their 30s and early 40s, have felt the winds of change for longer.

In Canada last month, men aged 35-54 voted 50% for opposition conservatives in an election turned upside down by U.S. President Donald **Trump's tariffs** on his northern neighbour. The Liberals, which had been braced for defeat, rode an anti-Trump wave back to power, thanks in large part to female voters.

"It tends to be men who have a bit more life experience and are now in that situation where they're saying, 'This isn't working out for me and I want change'," said Darrell Bricker, global chief executive of public affairs at polling firm Ipsos.

Nik Nanos, founder of Canadian polling outfit Nanos Research, agreed, saying social media was accelerating **democracy's "angry young men symptom"**, especially in areas where blue collar jobs have dried up.

- 1. Read the text and write a short paragraph to develop these 5 topics:
  - A Deepening Gender Divide:
  - South Korea as a Case Study:
  - A Global Trend:
  - Economic Frustrations and Social Pressure:
  - Underlying Causes:

## The "Illicit Genitive" (le génitif illicite)

## 1 Rappel : le génitif saxon ('s)

Le 's s'emploie pour exprimer une possession ou une relation proche entre deux noms.

👉 Il se place devant ce qui est possédé.

Structure:

• NOM + 's + NOM

Exemples:

South Korea's young women → the young women of South Korea

democracy's gender divide → the gender divide in democracy

Gen Z's political behavior  $\rightarrow$  the political behavior of Gen Z

Le génitif saxon est typique des êtres humains, des animaux, ou des entités personnifiées (entreprises, pays, etc.).

# 2 Le génitif illicite : quand le 's devient incorrect

On parle de génitif illicite quand on utilise 's avec des noms inanimés ou abstraits, c'est-à-dire des choses qui ne "possèdent" pas réellement quelque chose.

○ Faux / Illicite	✓ Correct
<ul><li>X the table's leg</li><li>X the building's roof</li><li>X the problem's solution</li></ul>	<ul><li>the leg of the table</li><li>the roof of the building</li><li>the solution to the problem</li></ul>

# 3 Règle générale

avec des êtres humains, animaux,	avec des objets, choses abstraites, ou noms
organisations, ou unités de temps:	composés:
the teacher's book, the cat's tail, the	the color of the sky, the result of the test, the
company's image, yesterday's meeting	top of the mountain

4 Quelques cas limites (acceptés dans un style journalistique ou économique)

Certains génitifs "illicites" sont devenus tolérés dans un anglais moderne, notamment dans la presse ou le monde des affaires.

## Exemples:

the government's decision

the system's failure

the market's reaction

_		•	
Fxe	re		ο.

Choisis la bonne forme ('s ou of):

- The values \_\_\_ Generation Z
- 2 The rise \_\_\_ eco-conscious consumers
- 3 The company \_\_\_ marketing strategy
- 4 The walls \_\_\_ the building
- 5 The impact \_\_\_ social media

## Document J - Gen Z is the new force in global politics

The Financial Times, October 19, 2025

As Andry Rajoelina, Madagascar's president, fled the country earlier this month, before generals seized control of the island nation, he may not have had time to take in the sight of a flag held aloft by protesters bearing the symbol of a skull-and-crossbones wearing a straw hat. Demonstrators from Generation Z, who have rattled leaders from Nepal and Indonesia to Morocco, Peru and now Madagascar, have rallied under the same image, taken from a Japanese manga featuring a group of misfits fighting a corrupt and oppressive regime.

Whether you call them the TikTok generation, Gen Z (born between 1997 and 2012) or simply student protesters, young people the world over are demanding — and in some cases affecting — political change. Just ask Sheikh Hasina, former prime minister of Bangladesh, who was drummed out of office by student-led protests last year.

Gen Z protests are particularly significant in countries where the median age is low, as in Madagascar where half the population is below 19. There, protests were ignited by power and water cuts, but, as in other countries, a dearth of jobs and a disgust with elites flaunting their wealth were deeper causes.

In Africa, where the median age is 19 and job creation is woeful, young people are an increasingly potent, if unpredictable, force. It was tech-savvy youth in Sudan who helped propel a wave of protests that toppled the 30-year dictatorship of Omar al-Bashir in 2019. Last year, in Kenya, protesters explicitly identifying as Gen Z forced President William Ruto to reverse proposed tax increases and sack his cabinet. And just this month, in Morocco, protesters calling themselves Gen Z 212 (after the dialling code) took to the streets of Rabat, Casablanca and Tangier to demand better prospects and to decry spending on the 2030 World Cup, which Morocco is co-hosting.

Most Gen Z protests — organised in the social media ether — lack obvious leaders. That is a strength, making them hydra-headed and harder to suppress in countries from Kenya to Iran, where they keep resurfacing despite murderous state repression. But the amorphous nature of

Gen Z protests is also a weakness. They often lack the means to convert legitimate anger into coherent policies or alternative political structures, leaving them susceptible to charismatic strongmen offering instant solutions.

The cult status of Captain Ibrahim Traoré, Burkina Faso's self-styled anti-imperialist revolutionary and a master of TikTok, is a case in point. It may not be a stretch to see US President Donald Trump, who was also quick to grasp the political utility of TikTok, as a beneficiary of youth seeking the shattering of politics-as-normal.

Gen Z can be a source of political instability. In Sudan, an idealistic civilian movement saw its power snatched by generals who then plunged the country into a vicious civil war. In Madagascar, Rajoelina himself, then a 34-year-old DJ, was swept to power in 2009 in a previous cycle of youth protests only to be pushed out of office by the next generation and a few generals. Youth protests are also easy prey for disinformation campaigns that can twist legitimate grievances to nefarious ends, including support for Russian mercenaries or homegrown coups.

Still, Gen Z protesters can be a force for good, putting entrenched elites on notice that politics is a social contract, not a licence to loot. Many leaders will calculate that their best chance of survival is to crush protests. But they should be aware that youth movements will keep coming back. A better way of surviving is to create an environment conducive to jobs, services and security. Those leaders that cannot provide such basics can expect to see a skull-and-crossbones flag on a street near them soon.

## **Traduisez l'extrait suivant:**

Souvent, une étincelle suffit pour lancer la contestation : une pénurie d'eau ou d'électricité, un privilège accordé à un puissant, le blocage des réseaux sociaux, des soins hospitaliers indignes, des inondations destructrices, voire des décès de patients ou de militants. Dans la rue et en ligne, du Maroc au Népal, du Pérou au Bangladesh, en passant par le Sri Lanka, le Kenya ou encore Madagascar, une mobilisation tous azimuts part à l'assaut de pouvoirs corrompus et vieillissants, quand elle ne participe pas à la chute de régimes et à l'organisation de nouvelles élections.

Elle est portée par la génération Z (ou «Gen Z»), ces jeunes nés entre la fin des années 1990 et le début des années 2010, en plein boom numérique. Ces «zoomers» représenteraient un tiers de la population mondiale. Originaires du Sud global, ils ont grandi avec la menace du réchauffement climatique, des pandémies, des discriminations raciales et de genre, sur fond d'une plus grande affirmation des pouvoirs illibéraux et autoritaires. Et une quinzaine d'années après le succès mitigé des printemps arabes.

Libération, 3 octobre 2025, **Mobilisation Gen Z : du Maroc au Népal, une génération qui se** soulève

### Document K - Gen-Z

Lauren Smith, Atlantico, 8 juillet 2025

La génération Z européenne perd confiance dans la démocratie, ca n'en fait pas le nouveau visage du fascisme

Le sondage YouGov pour le Tui Institute montre que près de 60 % des 16-26 ans privilégient toujours la démocratie, tandis que 21 % se disent prêts à envisager un régime plus autoritaire... en cas de crise. Ces chiffres traduisent surtout une colère contre le statu quo : logement hors de prix, emplois précaires, coût de la vie, insécurité culturelle et soupçons sur le fonctionnement de l'UE. Loin d'un fantasme de coup d'État, c'est un appel à réformer le système pour qu'il réponde enfin aux attentes de la jeunesse.

L'Europe est-elle en train de voir naître une génération d'autoritaristes en herbe ? Aurions-nous élevé une cohorte qui rêve du temps des hommes forts et des dictatures ? Sommes-nous au bord d'un coup d'État contre l'ordre libéral-démocratique ?

On pourrait le croire à en juger par la couverture médiatique d'une nouvelle étude sur les attitudes des jeunes face à la démocratie. Un sondage YouGov pour le Tui Institute, publié la semaine dernière, présente son enquête annuelle auprès des 16-26 ans en Europe et révèle que la génération Z (nés à la fin des années 1990 et au début des années 2000) se montre de plus en plus sceptique à l'égard du statu quo.

Ou, pour reprendre le titre du Guardian : « Les jeunes Européens perdent la foi en la démocratie », et un nombre croissant d'entre eux « soutiennent même un régime autoritaire ». Sveriges Radio (radio publique suédoise), sur son programme Ekot, a adopté un ton tout aussi alarmiste, interviewant Åsa Wikforss, professeure de philosophie théorique, qui qualifie l'étude de « profondément inquiétante » : « Quand les gens perdent foi dans la démocratie comme système, cela peut annoncer sa disparition, c'est très dangereux. » En Espagne, Cadena SER, la plus ancienne et la plus écoutée des radios nationales, a mis en ligne un article dénonçant une jeunesse européenne « misogyne, xénophobe et de plus en plus fasciste ».

Mais ce portrait reste incomplet. D'abord, l'étude montre que près de 60 % des jeunes Européens préfèrent la démocratie à tout autre régime politique. En Pologne, en Espagne et en France, le soutien au système démocratique actuel est plus faible (entre 48 % et 52 %), tandis qu'en Allemagne, 71 % des jeunes l'approuvent.

Les chiffres qui ont le plus fait sensation sont toutefois ceux qui révèlent l'ouverture supposée des jeunes à des formes non démocratiques de gouvernement. Environ un cinquième d'entre eux—21 %—dit qu'il accepterait un régime autoritaire dans certaines circonstances. On ignore lesquelles, et la formulation exacte de la question n'est pas précisée. Mais cela a été interprété

comme si la jeunesse européenne était à deux doigts de se saisir des armes pour renverser leurs gouvernements.

Evidemment, ce n'est pas le cas, et ce 21 % doit être pris avec d'énormes pincettes. D'autres résultats montrent qu'il s'agit moins d'un tournant massif vers l'autocratie que d'une profonde insatisfaction vis-à-vis de la situation actuelle.

D'abord, le sondage révèle que la grande majorité des jeunes souhaitent de véritables changements dans la vie politique de leur pays. Dans tous les pays interrogés, seuls 6 % estiment que le système politique fonctionne bien. Il n'est guère surprenant que cette génération se sente abandonnée par ses gouvernements : on le constate dans l'évolution de leurs opinions sur l'immigration, dont 38 % des jeunes souhaitent aujourd'hui un durcissement des contrôles aux frontières, contre 26 % en 2021. Il en va de même pour le climat : seuls un tiers d'entre eux estiment que les préoccupations environnementales doivent primer sur la croissance économique, contre 44 % en 2021. Et près de 40 % pensent que l'Union européenne ne fonctionne pas de manière démocratique. Plus de la moitié critique l'UE pour son obsession des « sujets secondaires », au détriment de questions essentielles comme la défense ou l'économie.

Tout cela dépeint une génération anxieuse quant à son avenir — économique, politique et culturel. Interrogé par le Guardian, Thorsten Faas, politologue à la Free University de Berlin et coauteur de l'étude, explique : « Parmi ceux qui se situent à droite du centre et se sentent économiquement défavorisés, le soutien à la démocratie tombe à un sur trois. » Loin de traduire un rejet de la démocratie, ces résultats traduisent plutôt un cri de frustration face aux promesses non tenues des sociétés libérales-démocratiques. Les jeunes sont mûrs pour se révolter contre les partis qu'ils jugent responsables de la détérioration de leurs conditions de vie : flambée des prix de l'immobilier, marché du travail atone, coût de la vie insoutenable, confinement dû à la pandémie... Autant de facteurs qui nourrissent leur désillusion. Selon une étude de l'an dernier, 32 % des jeunes Français pensent que leur vie ira en empirant dans la prochaine décennie. Au Royaume-Uni, la plupart des adolescents s'attendent à faire moins bien que leurs parents ; en Italie, un tiers envisage de partir dès qu'ils en auront l'âge.

À qui d'autre pourraient-ils en vouloir, sinon aux partis de gauche et libéraux-progressistes qui dominent la vie politique européenne depuis leur naissance ? On l'a vu lors des élections européennes de l'année dernière : les partis populistes et souverainistes de droite ont progressé dans la plupart des États membres — surtout chez les 16-24 ans. En Allemagne, 16 % des électeurs de cette tranche d'âge ont voté pour l'Alternative für Deutschland, se hissant en deuxième position derrière les chrétiens-démocrates. En France, environ un tiers des jeunes ont voté pour le Rassemblement National. En Belgique, Vlaams Belang arrive en tête chez les hommes de la génération Z, tandis que les jeunes femmes privilégient le parti écologiste.

Les jeunes sont certes partagés entre gauche et droite selon le genre, mais même les jeunes femmes se tournent vers des partis radicalement à gauche ou anti-système plutôt que vers le centre-gauche traditionnel. Aux élections fédérales allemandes de février, Die Linke (successeur

du Parti communiste est-allemand) a recueilli 27 % des suffrages parmi les 18-24 ans — un score remarquable, d'autant qu'elle compte 44,5 % de femmes et 60 % de moins de 30 ans parmi ses adhérents. Au Royaume-Uni, en juillet dernier, près d'un quart des femmes de 18-24 ans ont voté pour le Parti vert ; en Espagne, plus de la moitié des jeunes femmes ont choisi l'extrême gauche aux dernières législatives de 2023.

Ce tournant populiste, et particulièrement à droite, n'a rien d'étonnant. La génération Z a grandi sous le joug du politiquement correct : identité, genre, écologie ont été inculqués dès l'enfance — à l'école ou à l'université — sans répit. Pendant ce temps, elle a vu s'effondrer le monde prospère dont jouissaient leurs aînés. Elle en est, à juste titre, furieuse.

Mais rien n'indique que la génération Z menace la démocratie. Au contraire, les jeunes sont indignée par leur sous-représentation dans les systèmes politiques actuels : ils veulent une démocratie qui fonctionne mieux pour eux, non l'abandonner. Les résultats de l'enquête Tui ne doivent pas semer la panique, mais sonner l'alarme : la jeunesse est désabusée et ne craint pas d'exiger des changements. Notre ordre politique ferait bien de l'écouter.

- 1. Translate the passage in bold face
- 2. Concentrate on documents I,J and K and answer the following question:

To what extent is Gen Z questioning democracy? (200 words)

## Thème littéraire:

Le malheur, on croit toujours qu'il cognera à la porte d'à côté. Pas à la nôtre bien sûr. On croit ça aussi pour la guerre. On croyait qu'elle touchait des pays fragiles, seulement. On ne sait pas quel en a été l'événement déclencheur. Ça va vite, le début d'une guerre, le début d'un effondrement. C'est comme un cheval affolé par le feu, ça s'emballe, ça prend la fièvre de l'envenimement. Mais on a dit le mot. On nous l'a fourré dans la bouche, les médias nous l'ont mis dans la bouche, et le mot il s'est mis à exister dans le quotidien, et ça a été la guerre. La guerre commence ainsi, lorsqu'on la nomme, lorsque ce mot-là habite avec vous. Je m'en souviens quand je l'ai prononcé, et de son mauvais goût, le goût qui coûte. Cette parole était hésitante, lourde, capitale, parce qu'à l'instant où elle serait proférée, ça existerait.

Avril Bénard, *A ceux qui ont tout perdu,* 2023