

Sujet type Mines-Ponts - Correction

Q1

France has long fought tooth and nail to preserve its linguistic specificities. Consequently, French senior officials and presidents are notorious for their poor English skills, and their broken English verges on the preposterous. Yet, today, as English is spoken by billions of people worldwide and has become the language of international business, mastering it is a prerequisite to run a modern state. So, making fluency in English compulsory should help the French governing class to keep up with an increasingly globalized world. (83 words)

Q2

In your opinion, how important is it to preserve linguistic diversity in the world today? (180 words $\pm 10\%$).

ANALYZING THE QUESTION

- Preserving linguistic diversity :

- Speaking different languages/ promoting multilingual environments?
- Or fighting for the preservation of one's language and refusing the spread of, say, English (like J. Chirac)?

It is possible to use **IF / THEN** for your answer:

If Preserving linguistic diversity means A, **then** it is crucial, but **if** it means B **then** I am not so sure.

If language is seen as a tool, **then** diversity is not so important, but **if** it means an outlook on the world, **then** variety is crucial.

- **HOW IMPORTANT is it** \neq "is it important" (this is NOT a yes/no question)

For this question, and others beginning with "**how far**" / "**to what degree**" / "**to what extent**", you may want to use the following words in your answer:

PROVIDED ...

SO LONG AS ...

TO THE EXTENT THAT... / INsofar AS / INasmuch AS

IF AND ONLY IF ...

UNLESS...

- INTRODUCTIONS

In today's society, where everything is globalized, it's time to have a global language even if it means losing a part of the history and culture that are conveyed by each language. (32w.)

In today's globalized world, speaking the same language helps people to do business worldwide. So is it really necessary to preserve so many diverse languages. Although it doesn't seem to be required, it can still contribute to make the world a better place. (43w.)

- CONCLUSIONS

Although saving linguistic diversity is a way to identify with a nation, I reckon that this diversity is not as helpful as it might seem in a globalized world.

Thus, losing all linguistic diversity may unify all societies on Earth, but then these societies would no longer have much sense, which I think is worse than having a lot of different languages.

- USEFUL REFERENCE

George Orwell, 1984: Newspeak is a propagandistic [language](#) that is characterized by euphemism, circumlocution, and the inversion of customary meanings. Newspeak, "designed to diminish the range of thought," was the language preferred by Big Brother's pervasive enforcers. (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*)

- USEFUL VOCABULARY

- **Standardization** = uniformisation
- **Important as it may seem / important though it may seem** = aussi important que cela puisse paraître
- Language is **part and parcel of** culture / tradition = faire partie intégrante de
- **Folk memory** = mémoire collective
- Se replier sur soi-même : **to withdraw into oneself / to turn in on oneself / to turn inward**
- **To be open to other cultures / to embrace other cultures / to open up to the outside world**
- **Soft power** = the ability to achieve one's goals without force, esp by diplomacy, persuasion, etc