

DS d'anglais – Type Mines Ponts

Durée de l'épreuve : 1 heure 30 minutes

L'emploi de tous documents (dictionnaires, imprimés, ...) et de tous appareils (traductrices, calculatrices électroniques, ...) est interdit dans cette épreuve.

L'épreuve de langue vivante est constituée, d'un THÈME, et d'un EXERCICE d'EXPRESSION ÉCRITE qui consiste à répondre à deux questions.

- Le thème est noté sur 8.
- La première question est notée sur 4.
- La deuxième question est notée sur 8.

La réponse à la première question devra comporter 80 mots plus ou moins 10%.

La réponse à la deuxième question devra comporter 180 mots plus ou moins 10%.

Dans les deux questions de l'exercice d'expression écrite, le candidat indiquera lui-même le nombre de mots employés dans sa réponse.

Le non respect des limites indiquées sera sanctionné.

Expression écrite

Welcome to dystopia: getting fired from your job as an Amazon worker by an app

We were initially anxious about the introduction of robots into our workforce because of the potential disappearance of manual labor jobs. Robots would take over factories, we were told, they'd drive our cars and trucks, and they would do all of the cleaning that janitorial and domestic workers are currently hired to do.

Instead, the robots are here not to replace this lower tier of underpaid and undervalued work. They are here to smugly sit in the middle, monitoring and surveilling us, hiring and firing us. Amazon has recently replaced its middle management and human resources workers with artificial intelligence to determine when a worker has outlived their usefulness and needs to be let go. There is no human to appeal to, no negotiating with a bot. This is the most boring possible Terminator sequel, where the robots aren't here to murder or enslave you but rather to text you snidely that you won't need to come into work tomorrow or, for that matter, ever again.

According to a report by Bloomberg, Flex drivers, who are Amazon contract workers and not granted the protections reserved for full-time employees, are being hired and fired via an app. A software program monitors each worker to determine whether they are working quickly enough, whether they are driving safely enough, and whether they are efficiently meeting their delivery quotas. That this program is rife with errors and punishes workers for things that are not their fault, from traffic problems to incorrect delivery directions, does not seem to concern Amazon. Workers have often complained about the unfair monitoring and lack of human oversight, but Amazon has maintained its system.

It's not even difficult to figure out why. Jeff Bezos, who keeps promising us he is going to leave Earth and go to space but here he still is, seems to believe all workers are inherently lazy. And look, it's always very helpful when our billionaire overlords just say the evil thing out loud so we don't

have to speculate. The man who designed Amazon's warehouses has pretty much said that Amazon's systems are set up to promote high employee turnover, because longer-term workers are more comfortable and less desperate to please.

The desperation is key. When human beings are uncertain about why things are happening to them, or feel a general loss of control over the outcomes of their own actions (because, say, they are doing their job to the best of their ability but are suddenly, mysteriously, fired), it causes anxiety and desperation.

This system works for Amazon because the US maintains a large population of insecure and underpaid workers. (...) Amazon isn't going to change on its own unless forced to, and that means giving people the power – and the money – to say no to their own exploitation.

Adapted from *The Guardian*, 05 July 2021

Question 1: According to the journalist, what is Amazon's new management system and why is it problematic? Answer in your own words (80 words, +/-10%)

Question 2: Do you believe that employees' well-being can be improved? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples. (180 words +/-10%)

Thème

Elle voulait être astronaute, Jeff Bezos réalisera finalement son rêve, à l'âge de 82 ans. Wally Funk accompagnera le milliardaire dans l'espace à bord d'un vol de sa société Blue Origin, devenant ainsi la personne la plus âgée à voyager dans l'espace, a annoncé l'entreprise américaine, jeudi 1er juillet. Elle sera le quatrième passager du premier vol habité de la société de tourisme spatial aux côtés de M. Bezos, de son frère Mark Bezos, et du gagnant d'une mise aux enchères dont le nom n'a pas encore été révélé.

Dans les années 1960, Wally Funk a fait partie du programme privé « Mercury 13 », un groupe de treize femmes ayant passé les mêmes tests que les astronautes masculins sélectionnés dans le cadre du programme Mercury de la NASA.

La fusée doit décoller le 20 juillet avant d'atteindre la ligne de Karman, à 100 kilomètres au-dessus de la Terre. Les prestigieux passagers pourront alors flotter en apesanteur durant quelques minutes.

Adapté du *Monde* 01 juillet 2021