Synthèse de documents du 14 janvier 2023

Proposition de corrigé type CCINP

From a frontier to another: a piece of American history

After being the first country landing men on the Moon in the 1960s, the United States now wants to be the first country to land a woman on the moon. The dossier under scrutiny focuses on space exploration. While the 2020 feature article from the website *thespacereview.com* (document 4) explores the cultural dimension of space exploration, the 2021 *Guardian* feature article (document 2) details its economic and scientific interests. The dossier also comprises an ad published in *Fortune*, a business magazine, in 1957 (document 1). These documents confront the conquest of the West and the new frontier, space. This leads one to wonder to what extent space exploration has replaced the conquest of the west. The answer shall first focus on the cultural horizon, then on the political and economic goals and finally on the changes it brings to science and its economy. (153 words with title)

The definition of the frontier has shifted from its traditional meaning – conquering the West, to refer to space exploration. This is illustrated by the opposition pictured in the ad between the cow-boy and the rocket, and detailed in document four. It became popular after WWII and was featured in pop culture fiction but also part of the broader context of the Cold War. It still retains the symbolic aspect of its meaning. As document two shows, the exploration of space is the new frontier, especially since it is becoming cheaper.

Then, new economic and political goals have been set with space exploration. As explained in document two, Bezos and Musk aim at sending tourists into space. Despite the prominence of the private sector, governments still take part in space programmes. Indeed, the US wants to land the first woman on the moon in 2024, echoing the ambitions of Kennedy in the 1960s. Document four details the political implications of the space race. In 1961, the goal was set to land men on the moon by the end of that decade. This was a challenge on many levels, including science and technology.

The US had to evolve very fast, as the 1957 ad shows with the contrast between past and present. Nowadays, the competition is strong between the main space companies, Blue Origin and SpaceX (document two). A new era seems to be about to start with the latest gamechanging technological breakthroughs they have allowed, reducing the cost of space travel and thus effectively making it a more promising economic prospect.

To conclude, the word frontier has taken up a new meaning with space exploration, one that reflects economic and political agendas.

434 words

Proposition de corrigé type Centrale

From a frontier to another: a piece of American history

After being the first country landing men on the Moon in 1969, the United States now wants to be the first country to land a woman on the moon in 2024. The dossier under scrutiny focuses on space exploration. While the 2020 article by Glen Swanson from the website *thespacereview.com* explores the cultural dimension of space exploration, the 2021 *Guardian* article details its economic and scientific interests. The dossier also studies the theme from a historical point of view with an extract from former President Kennedy's 1961 speech, and an ad published in *Fortune*, a business magazine in 1957, both documents confronting the conquest of the West and the new frontier: space. The dossier raises the following question: to what extent has space exploration replaced the conquest of the west?

The definition of the frontier has shifted from its traditional meaning – conquering the West, to refer to space exploration. This is illustrated by the opposition pictured in the ad between the cow-boy (tradition) and the rocket (modernity), and detailed by Glen Swanson. It became popular after WWII and was featured in pop culture fiction but also part of the broader context of the Cold War. It still retains the symbolic aspect of its meaning, at the heart of Americanness. It was theoreticised by Turner and though this representation of the frontier is a myth, it still has an impact on the American psyche. As *The Guardian* shows, the exploration of space is the new frontier, especially since it is becoming cheaper.

Then, new economic and political goals have been set with space exploration, with the aim of pushing the borders of society and trade beyond the Earth. As explained in *The Guardian*, this is what Bezos and Musk set out to do, including through their aim of sending tourists into space. Despite the prominence of the private sector, governments still take part in space programmes. Indeed, the US wants to land the first woman on the moon in 2024, echoing the ambitions of Kennedy in the 1960s. He presented the New Frontier as a turning point in US history, with the need for the US to overcome the USSR. Kennedy sought to inspire voters with his speech. The political implications of space exploration are also detailed by Glen Swanson. In 1961, the goal was set to land men on the moon by the end of that decade. This was a challenge on many levels, including science and technology.

The challenge has given way to a series of technological developments. The US had to evolve very fast, as the 1957 ad shows with the contrast between past and present. *The Guardian* shows that nowadays, the competition is strong between the main space companies, Blue Origin and SpaceX. A new era seems to be about to start with the latest game-changing technological breakthroughs they have allowed, reducing the cost of space travel and thus effectively making it a more promising economic prospect. Though there are still accidents, they are presented as part of the process for scientists to improve the technology and give humanity a new goal. This is echoed by the new horizons, the new territories available for humanity to do science that Kennedy present as part of the New Frontier.

550 words