

*Durée 1 heure 30*

L'usage des calculatrices et de tout système électronique ou informatique est interdit dans cette épreuve.

L'épreuve est constituée, d'une part, d'un THEME et d'autre part, d'un EXERCICE D'EXPRESSION ECRITE qui consiste à répondre à deux questions.

-Le thème est noté sur 8.

-La première question sur la compréhension du texte est notée sur 4.

-La seconde question d'ouverture est notée sur 8.

La réponse à la première question devra comporter 80 mots +/- 10%. Elle permet d'évaluer la compréhension du texte et la capacité des candidats à s'exprimer avec leurs propres mots.

La réponse à la seconde question devra comporter 180 mots +/- 10%. Plus ouverte, elle permet d'apprécier les qualités d'expression, de jugement et d'argumentation.

Le non respect des limites indiquées sera sanctionné.

Remarque : les références et les titres du thème, lorsqu'ils existent, ne sont pas à traduire.

**Pour faciliter la correction de l'épreuve, les candidats écriront leur texte toutes les deux lignes.**

## I) THÈME

- Quel temps ! soupira Lise.

Je murmurai machinalement que ce printemps pourri semblait devoir se prolonger en un été pourri. Nous étions arrêtés à un feu rouge et le chauffeur se retourna vers nous.

- Si vous comptez sur moi pour vous répondre que décidément il n'y a plus de saison vous vous trompez d'adresse, déclara-t-il.

Le feu étant passé au vert, il nous présenta de nouveau sa nuque. En entendant sa voix, un chien que je n'avais pas vu se dressa auprès de lui. C'était un boxer dont les yeux (...) me rappelaient ceux de Larrivée. (...)

Rue du bac, à cent mètres des quais, un bouchon nous immobilisa. Quelques voitures poussèrent l'impatience jusqu'à klaxonner.

- Oui, d'accord, il y a des encombrements à Paris (...); depuis douze ans que je fais le taxi, Paris est pareil, nu plus ni moins, mais on dirait que les gens en font chaque jour la découverte.

Jacques Laurent, *Les sous-ensembles flous*

## II) EXPRESSION ÉCRITE

1. According to the journalist, what approach should governments adopt towards e-cigarettes and vaping? (80 words, ± 10%) Answer the question in your own words.
2. "Health is a matter for the individual and not for the State." Discuss, illustrating your answer with relevant examples. (180 words, ± 10%)

“It’s time to stop vaping,” says Lee Norman, a Kansas health official. Six people are dead in America, apparently from smoking e-cigarettes. More than 450 have contracted a serious lung disease. Mr Norman’s advice sounds reasonable. The Centre for Disease Control and the American Medical Association agree: the country’s 11m vapers should quit. A new idea is circulating, that vaping is worse than smoking. On September 11<sup>th</sup> the Trump administration said it intends to ban non-tobacco flavoured vaping fluid. Some politicians want a ban on all e-cigarettes.

Although more research is needed, the evidence suggests the recent deaths in America did not come from shop-bought products but from badly-made items sold on the street. In five out of six cases, the tainted vaping products were bought illicitly; the other involved liquid bought in a legal cannabis shop in Oregon.

E-cigarettes are not good for you. The vapour inhaled is laced with addictive nicotine. Some other chemicals in it may be harmful. But vaping is less dangerous than smoking tobacco. If people turn to e-cigarettes as a substitute, the health benefits are potentially huge. Smoking kills 450,000 Americans annually and 7m people worldwide. Anything that weans people off tobacco is likely to save lives.

The worry is that e-cigarettes will create a new generation of nicotine addicts. Some people who have never smoked have taken up vaping, including a worrying number of children. In America, 25% of high-school pupils vape. This is alarming and helps explain why many governments have banned e-cigarettes. They should not. Prohibition usually causes more harm than good. Forbidding e-cigarettes will lead vapers to buy illicit products, more likely to poison them. It will also deter many law-abiding smokers from switching to something less deadly.

Regulating vaping is wiser than trying to eliminate it. Governments should carefully control what goes into vape fluid, following the European Union, which restricts the amount of nicotine it may contain. America’s Food and Drug Administration, by contrast, seems constantly to change its mind about how to regulate vaping. Governments should also regulate how e-cigarettes are advertised. Marketing aimed at children is unacceptable. So, perhaps, are fruity flavours appealing to young palates. Government health warnings should be clear and measured. Vaping may be a dangerous habit, but it is vastly less deadly than lighting up.

Adapted from *The Economist*, 12 September, 2019.

**Thème**

« What weather! What dreadful / foul weather! » sighed Lise / said Lise with a sigh.

I muttered mechanically / automatically that the rotten spring seemed / appeared likely to last into a rotten / wet summer. We had stopped at the traffic lights / because the lights were red and the driver turned round / turned toward us.

“ If you’re expecting me to say / answer that oh, the seasons are really not what they used to be / there are definitely no seasons any more, you’ve got the wrong person / you’ve come to the wrong place” he said.

As the lights had turned green / turned green, we could see the back of his neck / his nape again. Hearing / on hearing his voice, a dog I had not seen sat up next to him. It was a boxer whose eyes reminded me of Larrivée’s.

In the rue du bac, we were held up in a traffic jam / a traffic jam brought up to a standstill, a hundred metres away from the banks. A few cars got impatient to the point of blowing their horn / were impatient enough to sound their horn.

“All right, there *are* traffic jams / congestions in Paris / Paris is congested. I’ve been a taxi driver for twelve years and Paris is just the same, no more no less but it’s / it looks as if people found out / discovered that / as if it was / were news to people every day / people seem to ... “

**Question 2**

I am (firmly) convinced that dealing with public health issues (such as obesity or diseases and deaths related to tobacco, alcohol or other addictive products (15) falls to the governments and local authorities.

Some will argue that letting the state decide what is good for one’s health, what one should drink, eat, smoke, is tantamount to giving away part of one’s individual freedom. (Particularly so in the US, where there may be deep-rooted mistrust of Big Gov, or in the UK, where a government regarded as overprotective is referred to as a “Nanny state” (31)). For instance, Tony Blair’s government’s or former NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg’s bans on smoking or food vending machines were met with fierce criticism [with outcries of “Big Gov” or “Nanny state” (8)].

Who else than (national or state 3) governments can muster the resources and expertise to launch efficient awareness campaigns against junk food or binge drinking for example? Only large-scale programmes such as Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” or the famous French “manger-bouger” can reach the numerous targets: parents, educators, children at school etc.

Tobacco-related medical costs weighing heavily on public healthcare systems, it is only too logical that states should try to curb its consumption by increasing its price or imposing neutral packages. And finally, how could individuals weigh in faced with the lobbying power of the pharmaceutical, tobacco, wine or food industries. Only public powers can regulate them and hold them accountable.

(In 2004, The British tabloid *The Sun* claimed that “A pint and a fag is a man's right”; yet it is public authorities’ duty to warn him that they both endanger his health. (33))

260 words (- 74)

## • More vocabulary

>> to be absolutely / completely / firmly / thoroughly convinced that

>> it is down to the governments to deal with...

>> to shoulder the burden of / to bear the brunt of healthcare costs

>> to be (held) responsible for / to be blame for sth / (legally) to be liable for / (morally) to be (held)accountable for

-responsibility falls on sb / lies with / rests with sb

-to take on / assume / bear / shoulder the responsibility for sthg / one's responsibilities

-to shun (any) responsibility

- to face up to one's responsibilities

-great / heavy / grave responsibility

-collective / joint / moral / individual responsibility

>> "Nanny State": The government regarded as overprotective or as interfering unduly with personal choice.

## How does the disposable vape ban work, and how harmful is vaping?

9 September 2025



*Peter Dazeley/ Getty Creative - Disposable vapes have been found to damage the environment*

It has been illegal for businesses to sell or supply disposable vapes in the UK since June 2025.

The government said the ban would reduce environmental damage and help cut the number of children and young people vaping.

### How does the disposable vape ban work?

The ban on disposable vapes applies to both shops and online retailers.

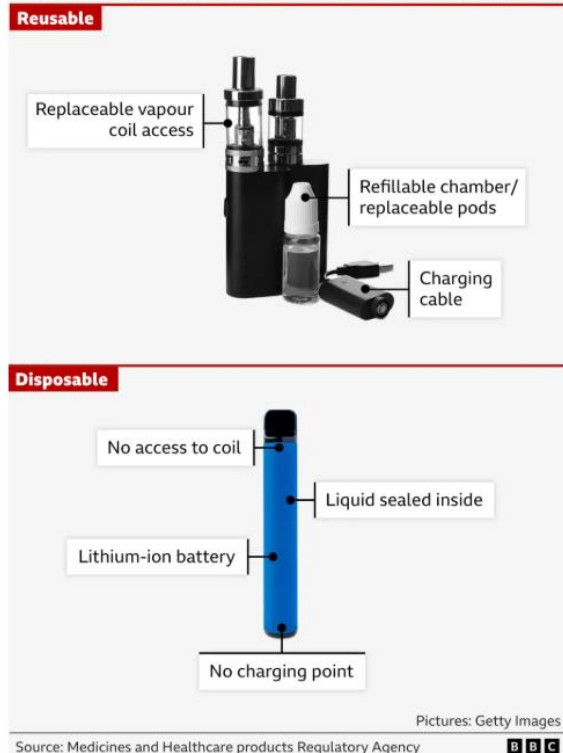
Those caught breaking the law in England face a minimum £200 fine, with a prison sentence of up to two years for repeat offences. Penalties are broadly similar in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Trading Standards can seize any single-use vapes being sold.

Only reusable devices can be legally sold. They must have a rechargeable battery, a replaceable coil, and be refillable.

Vapes should be returned to stores or recycling centres for specialist handling.

### How do reusable and disposable vapes compare?



However, waste firm Biffa told the BBC it had seen an increase in the number of vapes incorrectly mixed in with general recycling since the ban. It said this has caused an increase in fires.

Vapes contain lithium-ion batteries, which can catch fire when crushed in bin lorries or at recycling centres. Biffa said it dealt with 60 fires caused by vapes and other small electrical items in June alone.

Another of the UK's largest waste firms, Veolia, said vapes and other battery-operated items cause a fire every day in its lorries and facilities.

Why are disposable vapes bad for the environment?

Almost five million single-use vapes were thrown away each week in 2023, according to the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Vapes contain circuit boards which can leak toxic compounds such as cobalt and copper if they are not disposed off correctly, posing a risk to fish and marine mammals.

These minerals and the lithium could - if properly recovered - be reused for green technologies such as electric car batteries or in wind turbines.

However, recycling vapes is not straightforward because of their size and the way they are manufactured, making them difficult to take apart.

### How else are vaping rules changing?

#### Vaping tax

Vaping products are already subject to 20% VAT but, unlike tobacco, they do not attract a separate additional tax.

However, a new vaping duty will start on **1 October 2026**. It will be charged at a flat rate of £2.20 per 10ml vaping liquid.

At the same time, tobacco duty will be increased to preserve the financial incentive for cigarette smokers to switch to vaping.

### **Advertising and sponsorship ban**

The government's Tobacco and Vapes Bill - which is currently making its way through Parliament - will outlaw vape advertising and sponsorship.

It will also restrict the flavours, packaging and display of vapes and other nicotine products.

The British Medical Association (BMA) argued that vapes' bright colours and flavours such as bubble gum or candy floss made them attractive to children.

### **Illegal vapes**

The government is also cracking down on illegal vapes, which are widely available and are much more likely to contain other harmful chemicals or drugs.

More than six million illegal vaping products were seized by Trading Standards officers across England between 2022 and 2024, according to analysis by the BBC.

How many children and adults vape?

Although it is illegal to sell or supply vapes to under-18s, the number of children vaping has increased sharply in recent years.

Around 20% of 11 to 17-year-olds (1.1 million) in Great Britain have tried vaping, according to a 2025 survey by health charity ASH (Action on Smoking and Health).

About 7% (400,000 children) said they currently vaped, with 3% (160,000) saying they vaped daily. Older children were more likely to vape.

ASH found 2.8% of 11 to 17-year-olds said they smoked cigarettes and vaped.

According to the ASH survey, 10% of over-18s in Great Britain said they vaped, an estimated 5.5 million people. This was down slightly from 2024, suggesting vape use may be levelling off.

Some 13% adults said they smoked, which has been at the same level since 2021.

The survey found that 55% of current vapers were ex-smokers, while 40% still smoked.

### **How harmful are vapes to children and adults?**

Vaping is nowhere near as harmful as smoking cigarettes, which contain tobacco, tar and a range of other toxic cancer-causing chemicals, and is one of the largest preventable causes of illness and death in the UK.

But because vaping may itself cause long-term damage to lungs, hearts and brains, it is only recommended for adult smokers trying to quit as part of the NHS "swap to stop" programme.

The vapour inhaled contains a small amount of chemicals, often including the addictive substance nicotine, **which poses a greater risk to young people than to adults.**

"Vapes can be an effective way for adult smokers to quit - but we have always been clear that children and adult non-smokers should never vape," the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has said.

More research is needed to fully understand the effects of vaping, but in December 2023, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned "alarming evidence" was growing about the damage it causes.

In February 2025, the government said a £62m research project would track 100,000 eight to 18-year-olds for a decade to better understand the risks.

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## **French parliament votes to ban disposable e-cigarettes**

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The measure banning single-use electronic cigarettes, popular among young people in France, is part of a wider government anti-smoking campaign.

*Le Monde* with AFP, February 13, 2025

The French parliament on Thursday, February 13, voted to ban single-use electronic cigarettes, considered to be gateways to tobacco addiction for teenagers and harmful to the environment. The bill was approved by the French parliament with a final vote in the Senate upper house. France now becomes the second EU country after Belgium to have introduced such a ban.

Pre-filled disposable e-cigarettes, known as "puffs," are popular with young people, can have a high nicotine content, come in many flavors including apple, watermelon and cola and are cheap.

"It is a great victory in a two-pronged battle that we were fighting: an environmental battle against the polluting lithium batteries in these 'puffs', and a health battle for our schoolchildren," lawmaker Francesca Pasquini, the author of the bill, told Agence France-Presse (AFP). "A fine piece of cross-party work!" lawmaker Michel Lauzzana said on X.

Addressing President Emmanuel Macron, Lauzzana added: "We are now awaiting the promulgation of this law and its application throughout the country."

The legislation was earlier approved by the Assemblée Nationale lower house. The measure is part of a wider government anti-smoking campaign.

Health authorities in France and Belgium say that chronic nicotine consumption is especially harmful to the adolescent brain and could encourage use of other drugs. In December 2024, Belgium approved legislation to become the first EU country to ban disposable e-cigarettes.

The European Union aims to achieve a tobacco-free generation by 2040, reducing the 27-country bloc's smoking population from around 25 percent now to less than five percent of the total.

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### **This vaping ban is our trivial, mindless elite at its worst**

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Rather than addressing the real issues, British leaders are only capable of poorly considered proscriptions

**MADLINE GRANT** - *The Telegraph*, 13 September 2023

Kingsley Amis once quipped that "no pleasure is worth giving up for the sake of two more years in a geriatric home in Weston-super-Mare". Much as it pained me to give in to the wellness brigade, however, I've recently bought myself some extra months in that bath-chair on the seafront.

Though never a heavy smoker, I successfully kicked the habit – spurred on by the indignity of panting after a half-mile jog, mounting costs and general vanity. A few times a year, I'll still have the odd "ur cigarette", the quintessentially perfect puff in a sunlit beer-garden or at a boozy wedding, but there's no doubt I smoke vastly less than before. All thanks to vaping. Vapes, unlike patches and nicotine gum, work particularly well for many would-be quitters because they go with the grain of human behaviour rather than demanding a hair-shirt approach. They mimic the physical activity of smoking while carrying a fraction of the risk (vapes do not burn tobacco, or produce tar or carbon monoxide). Disposable vapes offer the same convenience as cigarettes. You can buy one on the move, with no worries about refilling or charging your device.

The Government's imminent ban on disposable e-cigarettes may seem trivial, but it's a vivid example of making the perfect the enemy of the good. Officials fear that the flavoured models and their brightly coloured packaging are being aimed at children, even though the law already bans under-18s from buying vapes, and, as I can attest, plenty of adults enjoy them, too.

It would be absurd to outlaw booze for all ages just because some children manage to sneak a bottle of Frosty Jack's or Glen's Vodka from the icky offy down the road, yet a vape ban would follow the same logic. Surely the solution is to enforce existing regulations, not create brand-new ones?

Others have raised the problem of mounting plastic waste. But if vape disposal is a particular issue, then why not raise awareness about responsible recycling, or consider a deposit and return scheme? An outright ban should be a last resort, given the well-documented public health benefits of vaping.

Since e-cigarettes first entered the UK market, smoking among 18 to 24-year-olds has halved, from 26 per cent in 2011 to 13 per cent in 2021. Far from being a "gateway" to smoking, the available evidence suggests the opposite – vapes overwhelmingly attract ex-smokers and those who would otherwise have smoked.

An ElfBar clampdown won't mean better alternatives, either. Australia's ban on recreational vaping appears to have propelled people into the black market. There, 92 per cent of vaping devices are now bought through illegal channels, lacking any product safeguards and protection for minors.

Counter-intuitively, Australia's heavy-handed campaigns seem to have actually boosted smoking and vaping prevalence; preliminary data show tobacco usage among 14 to 17-year-olds rose from 2 to 13 per cent between 2018 and 2023. But that's the law of unintended consequences. As Winston Churchill said, "if you destroy a free market you create a black market".

Banning flavoured vapes is a classic example of the "something must be done" tendency, so prevalent in UK politics – often producing badly framed legislation. Three years after the Government's much-touted ban on single-use plastic, it has emerged that "eco-friendly" paper straws are far more likely to contain long-lasting and potentially toxic chemicals known as PFAS. Much of the initial crusade was itself based on a false premise, an overblown estimate of US plastic straw use devised by a nine-year-old environmental campaigner.

Following the Manchester Arena bombing, the government announced a new Protect Duty, known as Martyn's Law, which will place more rigorous obligations on venues to protect against terror threats and train staff in safety protocols. This may sound harmless, but a House of Commons report warned that the requirements could put some small firms and organisations at risk of closure, while failing to "make a significant impact" on preventing attacks.

Creating an additional layer of bureaucracy might well have the unintended consequence of dissuading volunteers who keep community venues going. It seems an emotive response to a tragedy, potentially disproportionate to the actual threat. Government decisions often reflect hyperactivity in the wrong areas, inaction in crucial ones. It remains extraordinary that, after an estimated 350 attacks so far this year, numerous pets killed, children maimed, several people dead, you can still buy a manifestly dangerous breed of fighting-dog, the Bully XL. Pettifogging proscriptions are our forte, yet we drag our feet on this. Flavoured vapes? Ban 'em! Plastic straws? Begone! Child-mauling dogs? Meh.

Massive structural problems afflict the UK – shoddy social care, an out-of-control pensions bill, an unreformable NHS – yet we seem only capable of addressing trivialities.

It is the political equivalent of procrastination; an urgent DIY job beckons, the roof is half off, but instead you put the kettle on and do the laundry. Perhaps this is typical behaviour for a government in its death throes, redolent of John Major's traffic cone hotline, or the stately troupe of tsars appointed by Gordon Brown in a last-ditch effort to show he cared. But does anyone believe that Labour will fare any better? Unable to fix the big problems, our political class prefers mindless tinkering.

## **Hausse modérée du prix des cigarettes, plus de lieux publics sans tabac, interdiction des puffs : le gouvernement présente son plan contre le tabagisme**

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L'objectif est d'atteindre un prix du paquet de cigarettes à 13 euros à l'horizon 2027, avec une étape à 12 euros en 2025, a annoncé le ministre de la santé. Les « espaces sans tabac » vont être généralisés aux plages, forêts et parcs publics, ainsi qu'aux abords des établissements scolaires.

Par [Camille Stromboni](#), *Le Monde*, 28 novembre 2023

Comment faire de nouveau reculer le tabagisme, alors que la prévalence – 12 millions de fumeurs quotidiens en population adulte – stagne depuis plusieurs années ? Le ministre de la santé et de la prévention, Aurélien Rousseau, a dévoilé, mardi 28 novembre, le nouveau programme national de lutte contre le tabac pour la période 2023-2027. « Chaque année, la France paye un lourd tribut au tabagisme, qui reste la première cause de mortalité évitable, avec 75 000 décès par an, soit 200 morts par jour », souligne-t-il.

Premier pilier de ce plan attendu, alors que de nouveaux produits inquiètent, comme les cigarettes électroniques jetables visant les adolescents : prévenir l'entrée dans le tabagisme, en particulier chez les plus jeunes, parmi lesquels une nette baisse du tabagisme a été observée entre 2017 et 2022. « Il faut aujourd'hui franchir une nouvelle étape », a défendu le ministre, rappelant l'objectif du gouvernement d'une génération sans tabac en 2032.

Pour cela, le prix du paquet de cigarettes – aujourd'hui d'environ 11 euros – sera porté à 13 euros d'ici à 2027, comme le prévoyait le gouvernement. Pas de changement pour 2024, toutefois. La « première étape » se jouera en 2025, à 12 euros, a annoncé M. Rousseau. Dans son entourage, on défend un « pas significatif »,

quand bien même cette augmentation devrait être proche de celle attendue du seul fait du mécanisme d'indexation de l'imposition sur le tabac à l'inflation, modifié en 2022 par le Parlement, réagit-on déjà dans les rangs des associations antitabac. Sur cette base, les prix devraient ainsi augmenter dès le 1<sup>er</sup> janvier 2024 de 40 à 50 centimes, selon des estimations de la Confédération des buralistes, rapportées dans *Les Echos*.

En septembre, l'annonce faite par la première ministre, Elisabeth Borne, de ne pas augmenter la fiscalité sur le tabac pour 2024 avait été largement dénoncée par les acteurs de la lutte contre le tabagisme. « Pour être efficaces, les hausses de taxes doivent être fortes, répétées et continues dans le temps », avait réagi le Comité national contre le tabagisme.

Cette hausse à l'horizon des quatre prochaines années permettra-t-elle un « effet prix » significatif sur la baisse de la consommation ? « Cela ne va rien changer, craint Loïc Jossier, président de l'Alliance contre le tabac, qui milite pour un paquet à 16 euros, au minimum. Cela ne marquera pas les esprits, et on peut même se demander si la prévalence ne va pas augmenter de nouveau, comme entre 2005 et 2010, quand le prix du paquet avait stagné. » Le prix constitue en effet le « levier majeur », selon le professeur de santé publique, qui pointe aussi « la nécessité de faire enfin appliquer l'interdiction de vente aux mineurs chez les buralistes ». « Dans les arbitrages interministériels, force est de constater que la voix des lobbies du tabac porte plus que celle de la santé publique », déplore-t-il.

### **Accompagnement des fumeurs**

Autre mesure qui sera, à coup sûr, saluée dans les rangs des acteurs de la lutte contre le tabac : les espaces sans tabac vont être généralisés à toutes les plages, forêts, parcs publics et aux abords extérieurs de certains lieux

publics à usage collectif, spécialement les établissements scolaires. Une manière de « *dénormaiser* » la consommation de tabac, dans des lieux où cette interdiction relevait jusque-là en grande partie de décisions locales, notamment des collectivités. Des exceptions sur certaines périodes pourront être décidées par le préfet.

En direction des plus jeunes, une mesure promise par le gouvernement devrait se concrétiser dans les prochaines semaines : l'interdiction des cigarettes électroniques jetables à usage unique – appelées « puffs » (« bouffées », en anglais) –, en vogue avec leurs emballages colorés et leurs arômes sucrés chez les adolescents. Une proposition de loi « *transpartisane* », visant à « *interdire les dispositifs électroniques de vapotage à usage unique* », soutenue par 162 députés issus de 8 groupes politiques, arrive en commission des affaires sociales, mardi 28 novembre, avant son examen dans l'Hémicycle le 4 décembre.

Pour ce qui est des autres « *produits d'appel* », comme les sachets de nicotine – eux aussi une porte d'entrée vers l'addiction –, le ministère de la santé joue la prudence. A ce stade, il entend ouvrir la réflexion pour « *construire une doctrine et définir des règles permettant d'anticiper et d'intervenir systématiquement et le plus précocement possible* » face à ces nouveautés déployées chaque année sur le marché. De même qu'un « *travail* » va être engagé pour limiter les arômes autorisés dans les produits de vapotage.

Un second volet du plan prévoit, lui, une série de mesures consacrées à l'accompagnement des fumeurs dans l'arrêt du tabac. Sur ce sujet comme sur d'autres, les pharmaciens devraient jouer un rôle accru, avec la possibilité de donner un accès direct aux traitements de substitution nicotinique, dans le cadre d'une expérimentation.

[Camille Stromboni](#)