

**DST type Mines-Ponts 28/2/24 1h30 PSI**

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

**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**

**Women won the vote with the 19th Amendment, but hurdles remain**

[...] Article 1 of the 19th Amendment to the US constitution [...] guaranteed that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex". Passed by Congress on June 4, 1919 and made into law in August 1920, the amendment gave women political power over 130 years after the nation's founding.

It was the culmination of nearly a century of agitation for women's suffrage. Beginning in the 1840s, women organized in a concerted effort to gain the vote. Their goal seemed almost impossible. [...] They were discouraged from appearing or speaking in public. Their lives were controlled by those of their husbands, brothers and fathers, and most women could not sign contracts, work outside the home, inherit or own property, or receive an education.

[...] It was a difficult fight. Some suffragists voted illegally and served time in prison. Others chained themselves to the gates of the White House and refused to work once they got to jail. Still others used acts of nonviolent and even violent civil disobedience.

Their first successes were in the West, where some male legislators hoped giving women the right to vote might attract more women to territories like Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. However, these early victories did not consist of men handing the vote to women; rather, they were long fought.

Though local suffrage slowly opened to women in many states, suffragists continued their fight for national voting rights through the 19th century. Mocked, jailed, beaten and force-fed, they defied the era's stereotypes of female propriety.

During the early 20th century, suffragists focused their efforts on a constitutional amendment. Using tactics like massive parades and years-long picket at the White House, they slowly bent public opinion toward voting rights for women. A suffrage amendment was first introduced in 1878; it took 41 years for Congress to send it to the states for ratification.

The 19th Amendment opened up political influence to women, but not all shared in suffrage for some time. Black women were often barred from polls through much of the 20th century; Native American and Asian American women faced citizenship bars for many years.

Nor did the amendment guarantee equal rights; a proposed amendment guaranteeing women equal protection under the Constitution has yet to become law, and women still face significant societal disparities compared to men.

Though women are outnumbered in public office three to one and the US has yet to elect a woman president, women vote in greater numbers than men.

Erin Blakemore, National Geographic, 23/5/19

**Question 1. Why has guaranteeing women's equal rights been such a long fight? Answer the question in your own words. (80 words ±10%) /4**

**Question 2. "Deeds, not Words" (Emmeline Pankhurst). Is this true of all fights for justice? Illustrate your answer with relevant examples. (180 words ± 10%) /8**

**THEME**

**/8**

Je fus interrompu au milieu de l'après-midi par mon voisin Leo Horowitz. Il était inquiet de ne pas m'avoir aperçu de la journée et venait s'assurer que tout allait bien. (...) Il dut trouver étrange que je ne le fasse pas entrer et se douta que je lui cachais quelque chose. Il insista :

- Vous êtes certain ? demanda-t-il encore d'un ton curieux.
- Absolument. Rien de spécial. Je travaille. Il vit soudain apparaître derrière moi Duke qui s'était réveillé et voulait voir ce qui se passait. Leo ouvrit de grands yeux.
- Marcus, que fait ce chien chez vous ? Je baissai la tête, honteux. (...)
- Je voulais aller voir Alexandra, expliquai-je. Et j'ai vu le chien qui sortait de la propriété. Je me suis dit que je pourrais l'amener ici, le garder pour la journée et le ramener ce soir en faisant croire qu'il était venu chez moi de son propre chef.
- Vous êtes tombé sur la tête, mon pauvre ami.

Joël Dicker, *Le Livre des Baltimore*, Éditions de Fallois, 2015