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SciencesPo

ADMISSION AU COLLEGE UNIVERSITAIRE

Samedi 18 février 2017

ANGLAIS

durée de l'épreuve : 1h30 – coefficient 1

IMPORTANT

Le sujet est paginé de 1 à 3. Veuillez vérifier que vous avez bien toutes les pages.
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Les pages centrales contiennent le texte que vous ne devez pas rendre avec votre copie. Aucune annotation ne sera prise en compte.

Les réponses aux questions ne devront pas excéder l'espace qui leur est réservé.

PARTIE RESERVEE A LA CORRECTION

Détail des notes

I. Compréhension du texte /10

II. Essai /10

TOTAL : /20

Note après harmonisation : /20

Commentaires

I. TEXTUAL COMPREHENSION.

After reading the text carefully, reply in English and in your own words to the following questions.

1. What challenge is Theresa May confronted with after her first 100 days ?

2. How has Britain been considered by other European countries since the Brexit vote ?

3. What should Theresa May's policy on EU migrants be, according to the journalist ?

4. What does the journalist intend to show in the conclusion of the text ?

TEXTE A CONSERVER PAR LE CANDIDAT

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A fair 100 days of May — and now for the hard part

Theresa May has passed her first 100 days in office in a way which, if not flawless, has confounded most of her critics. When she succeeded David Cameron as prime minister in July, most neutrals breathed a sigh of relief, given the alternative of a divisive campaign. She took to her new role with the assurance of somebody who had always hoped, even expected, to do it. Setting out an ambitious agenda, which she elaborated on at the Tory party conference, made sense, as did the appointment of three prominent supporters of Brexit — Boris Johnson, David Davis and Liam Fox — in key positions for determining Britain's post-European Union future.

History, however, is littered with examples of prime ministers who, after a successful first 100 days, find the realities of government are no honeymoon. Gordon Brown is the most obvious recent example. John Major, who scaled extraordinary heights of popularity immediately after he succeeded Margaret Thatcher — enough to see him through to a surprise election victory in 1992 — soon got bogged down by party management.

That is one challenge for Mrs May. Keeping both sides of the Tory party happy as Britain heads towards the EU exit door will not be an easy task. Tory leavers are anxious for a quick and clean break, while remainers are hoping for a deal that keeps Britain as close to the EU as is feasible. Parliament, meanwhile, is pressing for closer involvement in the process than Downing Street is prepared to concede. One thing is clear. The government's current stance of saying very little about what it wants to achieve in its negotiations with the EU, apart from largely meaningless generalities, is precarious.

After the Brexit vote there is not much goodwill for Britain in the rest of Europe and some of the language used by Mrs May and her ministers has not helped. Newspapers in Germany, some of them normally sympathetic to Britain, now talk of "Cold Britannia" or "Ukip country". Some in Europe would no doubt love to paint Britain as a racist, economically failing outpost. Some would love to do so because pointing to the mote in our eye distracts from the beam in theirs.

That is why it is essential that the face of Britain that Mrs May presents to the EU and the rest of the world is an open, generous and economically confident one. There is talk in Downing Street, as we report today, of using the threat of an aggressively competitive corporation tax rate of 10% as a weapon in Britain's negotiations with the EU. If they play tough on tariffs, in other words, we will respond by cutting tax to levels that will attract and retain multinational investment.

It is a curious strategy. A 10% corporation tax rate, which we urged in our post-Brexit blueprint for Britain, should be introduced because it is the right thing to do, not used as a negotiating tool. The Treasury will say the public finances are too fragile, which explains Philip Hammond's reluctance to adopt his predecessor George Osborne's post-referendum promise of a reduction of the tax to 15%. But it is exactly the kind of thing an economically confident nation should be doing. It would also dispel some of the fears of an anti-business agenda in government that were aroused by loose talk about lazy businessmen and the merits of big government.

Similarly, the right policy on EU migrants already living in Britain is plainly not to use them as pawns in a diplomatic game. Existing EU migrants came here in good faith. They have, overwhelmingly, contributed to the economy. We should continue, too, to be a magnet for skilled migrants from Europe and the rest of the world. Well before she invokes article 50, the prime minister should make clear that the rights of EU nationals already settled in Britain will be preserved.

After completing a successful first 100 days, Mrs May has more on her plate than just managing Britain's route into a post-Brexit future, although inevitably that task will dominate her premiership. She has a difficult domestic agenda which risks disappointment, particularly among the "just managing" families she has promised to champion. But it is likely that over the next few years three tough women will be in charge in Britain, America and Germany. Hopefully, Mrs May will prove to be the best of the lot. That would be something to celebrate.

The key to it all, and to Britain's future success, is not steering a line between "hard" and "soft" Brexit but ensuring an open and optimistic Brexit. The world needs Britain and Britain needs the world.

The Sunday Times

23 October 2016



