



Lycée LA BRUYÈRE

31 avenue de Paris

78000 VERSAILLES

ce.0782563m@ac-versailles.fr



CPGE – Année scolaire 2016-2017

Conseils et consignes de préparation à destination des étudiants

Classe : Première Supérieure Lyon 2

Discipline : Anglais (LVA & LVB)

Enseignant : I. Armstrong

Core course (= *tronc commun*) (3h) - English 1st language (= LVA)

Objective

This 3-hour weekly course aims at preparing you for the BEL English competitive exam, common to all students. The program for this exam is literature (more precisely, writers' texts in prose – fiction or nonfiction) from the English-speaking world (including Commonwealth countries) between 1801 and today. The 6-hour exam consists in commenting on a 2-page long text and translating part of it (about 300 words) into French.

The Course

The organization for this course has not quite been determined yet, but it will focus on the more difficult literary aspects (the narrative agency, tone, Postmodern generic instability, Postcolonial treatment of identity, etc.), and it will also tackle some areas not explored during the first year (the essay and Commonwealth literature, for example). We will spend 4-5 hours on each text in class, translating part of it and analyzing it through a class discussion, as well as studying the relevant socio-historical context. You will be handed the corpus of texts in advance and be expected to read the texts and prepare the translations and text analyses as homework.

To reinforce your English level, you will also have to work outside of class on one vocabulary list and one grammar chapter per week, which you will be tested on.

Advice

You are certainly aware by now that success in translating into French depends as much on solid reading comprehension in English as on the mastery of French. To prepare for translation into French,

you should review French conjugations, especially the forms and uses of the *passé simple*, the *subjonctif présent*, and the *subjonctif imparfait*. Furthermore, full mastery of French can only be achieved by reading extensively, so you should plan on reading French literature corresponding to the English program, which is to say from the 19th to the 21st centuries.

Concerning text analysis, you should aim at acquiring the critical vocabulary and theoretical tools of literary analysis. You can keep exploring the literary analysis method with one of the textbooks recommended in the bibliography (VI.C).

Moreover, as BEL exam subjects usually have a triple dimension, corresponding to the three main areas of English studies – linguistics, literature, and civilization – you should plan on studying the history of English-speaking countries.

Bibliography

Must-have material

Strongly recommended reading in bold (= *en gras*)

I. Vocabulary

A/ Dictionaries

English dictionaries

Concise Oxford English Dictionary → The authorized dictionary for the competitive exam.

The Free Dictionary(.com) by Farlex

French dictionaries

Le Trésor de la langue française (atilf.fr)

Le Petit Robert

Bilingual dictionary

Le Robert & Collins

Thesauruses

Thesaurus.com → Synonyms and antonyms in English.

Synonymo.fr → Synonyms and antonyms in French.

B/ Vocabulary books

REY, Jean, C. Bouscaren & A. Mounolou. *Le mot et l'idée - Anglais 2. Vocabulaire thématique* (Ophrys) → Basic and advanced vocabulary arranged thematically.

RAFROIDI, Patrick, M. Plaisant & D.J. Shott. *Le Nouveau manuel de l'angliciste. Vocabulaire du thème, de la version et de la rédaction* (Ophrys) → This interesting, albeit old-fashioned book shows thematic vocabulary used in context and in literary excerpts, which are translated into French or English – so that this book doubles as bilingual reading and as an introduction to traductology.

BOUSCAREN, C. & F. Lab, *Les Mots entre eux : Words and their Collocations. Lettres et sciences humaines* (Ophrys) → Words with their common co-occurrences, for a more idiomatic English (for example, *joke* → *to tell / crack a joke, not to get / see the joke – some people can't take a joke*).

II. Grammar

MALAVIEILLE, Michèle & W. Rotgé. *Maîtriser la grammaire anglaise* (Hatier) → A clear and user-friendly textbook if you need to catch up on basic English grammar (intermediate B1-B2 levels).

PERSEC Sylvie & J.-C. Burgué, *Grammaire raisonnée 2* (Ophrys) + separate exercise booklet → To enrich and refine your grammatical knowledge and to start developing a linguistic reflection (advanced C1 level).

BERLAND-DELEPINE, Serge. *La Grammaire anglaise de l'étudiant* (Ophrys) → A thorough grammar book with a lot of exercises for you to learn autonomously.

LARREYA, Paul & C. Rivière. *Grammaire explicative de l'anglais* (Pearson-Longman) → A thorough grammar book introducing linguistics (advanced C1-C2 levels).

III. Translation into French

PERRIN, Isabelle. *L'anglais : comment traduire ?* (Hachette) → Small handbook presenting the basics of translation methodology: how to train for this exercise, the various stages of translating, the usual difficulties, etc.

GRELLET, Françoise. *Initiation à la version anglaise : The Word against the Word* (Hachette) → More thorough review of the grammatical difficulties of English, the various challenges of translation, and the strategies to overcome them, along with a wealth of exercises and excerpts for you to train.

DEGOUTE, Mathias. *Traduire et commenter un texte littéraire anglais* (SEDES) → A selection of BEL exam-type texts with translation guidelines useful to help you solve the difficulties and get the hang of the various translation techniques.

GUSDORF, Florent & F. Ogée. *Recueil de versions anglaises* (Hachette) → A collection of annotated and translated excerpts for you to practice.

CHUQUET, Hélène & M. Paillard. *Approche linguistique des problèmes de traduction* (Ophrys) → A section on comparative grammar with numerous examples, along with a selection of annotated and translated texts from literature and the press.

IV. French language

GREVISSE, Maurice. *Le Petit Grevisse : Grammaire française* (De Boeck Duculot) + livre d'exercices → To review French grammar from the basics to the finer points, with highlights on the difficulties of French, and exercises.

RIEGEL, Martin, J.-C. Pellat & R. Rioul. *Grammaire méthodique du français* (P.U.F) → A very thorough French grammar book.

BLÉD, Edouard & O. Bled. *Bled Conjugaison* (Hachette).

V. Literature in English

A/ Anthologies

ABRAMS, M.H. et al. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*.

BAYM, Nina et al. *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*.

→ These hefty anthologies propose substantial introductions to each period focusing on the historical and ideological contexts, and the evolution of the various literary genres.

GRELLET, Françoise. *Literature in English: Anthologie des littératures du monde anglophone* (Hachette) → A complete and practical anthology featuring the best-known writers and excerpts, short biographies, overviews of the historical and cultural backdrops, and a section on literature from the Commonwealth.

GRELLET, Françoise & M.-H. Valentin. *An Introduction to English Literature: From Philip Sidney to Graham Swift* (Hachette).

GRELLET, Françoise. *An Introduction to American Literature: Time Present and Time Past* (Hachette).

→ More complete versions of the above.

CASTEX, Peggy & A. Jumeau. *Les grands classiques de la littérature anglaise et américaine* (Hachette) → Classic poetry, drama, and fiction excerpts with questions to guide your reflection.

B/ Literary history

ANGEL-PEREZ, Elisabeth. *Histoire de la littérature anglaise* (Hachette Supérieur). Chapters 6-9.

LAGAYETTE, Pierre. *Histoire de la littérature américaine* (Hachette Supérieur).

→ Concise, easy-to-read, student-oriented chronological overviews of each country's literature from the origins to the present day. They provide a good introduction but in-depth work on any specific period or author will require further reading.

BLAMIRE, H. *A Short History of English Literature* (Routledge). Chapters 17, 19, 22. → Blamires's classic work focuses on major authors and genres in clearly delineated chapters.

BRADBURY, Malcolm & R. Ruland. *From Puritanism to Postmodernism: A History of American Literature*

(Penguin). Parts III-IV. This survey shows how literature both participated in and reflected the construction of an American national identity.

C/ Bilingual editions

Two French publishers offer short stories and novellas (short novels) in English with reading guides (notes to help the reader with vocabulary and grammar):

Livre de Poche, collection « Lire en anglais ».
Pocket, collection « Langues pour tous ».

Examples of titles available:

JOYCE, James. *Dubliners: A Selection of Five Stories* (Livre de Poche).

Nouvelles anglaises classiques (Pocket).

Nouvelles américaines classiques (Pocket).

Thirteen Modern English and American Short Stories (Livre de Poche).

VI. Literary analysis drawing on literature in English

A/ Literary vocabulary

SUHAMY, Henri. *Les Figures de style* (P.U.F., coll. « Que sais-je ? ») → A very thorough overview of stylistic devices in French, conveniently sorted by type rather than alphabetically.

GRELLET, Françoise. *A Handbook of Literary Terms: Introduction au vocabulaire littéraire anglais* (Hachette) → Complete lists of terms arranged by literary aspects.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms → Alphabetically arranged.

B/ Literary theory

LODGE, David. *The Art of Fiction* (Penguin) → A collection of articles published in the press by professor and writer David Lodge highlighting for the general public the various aspects of fiction (the sense of place, the reader in the text, defamiliarization, etc.) and illustrating them from well-known excerpts.

FORSTER, E.M. *Aspects of the Novel* (Penguin) → A collection of lectures on various, well, aspects of the novel (the plot, "people", pattern and rhythm...) by novelist E.M. Forster (*A Room with a View, Howards End...*).

C/ Methodology of literary analysis

DEGOUTE, Mathias. *Traduire et commenter un texte littéraire anglais* (SEDES) → A selection of BEL exam-type texts with (translation and) commentary guidelines useful to learn how to ask yourself the right questions in the process of analyzing a text.

HUGHES Terence & C. Patin. *L'Analyse textuelle en anglais : Narrative Theory, Textual Practice* (Armand Colin) → Questions and answers on a selection of short texts to work in autonomy and improve your technical mastery of such aspects as narrative agency, focalization, characterization, etc.

SUHAMY, Henri. *Stylistique anglaise*. (P.U.F.) → A scholarly approach to stylistic commentary in French

with a wealth of examples drawn from English-speaking literature.

VII. Civilization and History

MIOCHE, Antoine. *Les Grandes dates de l'histoire britannique* (Hachette) → With a focus on the main historical figures and keywords.

LAGAYETTE, Pierre. *Les Grandes dates de l'histoire américaine* (Hachette) → With a focus on the main historical figures and keywords.

VINCENT, Bernard. *Histoire des Etats-Unis* (Flammarion) → A chronological history in French with highlights on outstanding events.

Course on the press (2h) - English 1st & 2nd language (= LVA & LVB)

Objective

This course aims at preparing 1st and 2nd language students for two types of oral exam:

-the BEL oral exam (1h preparation + 30mn exam), which consists in synthesizing and commenting on a recent press article drawn from the British or American press on issues pertaining to those two nations.

-the oral exams of business school and CELSA, which consist in analyzing a press audio document (IENA, Ecricome, CELSA) or a written one (some CCIP schools).

Please note that an extra 1-hour class entitled "Prépa ESC" is specifically dedicated to training for the IEP, BCE and CELSA oral exams.

The Course

We will discuss one press article per week based on a specific topic, and you will be expected to study one corresponding chapter from your civilization book per week as well.

The first semester will be dedicated to acquiring the skills to comment on a press article and exploring

the American press as it coincides with an election cycle, before moving on to the British press in the second semester.

Advice

You should brush up on British and American history and civilization.

You should read a lot of press articles from a wide array of sources over the summer, and listen to the radio in English (see bibliography).

You can also work on your accent to prepare for the oral exams by practicing with a phonetics book and by watching online videos on English pronunciation.

Bibliography

Must-have or must-read material

Strongly recommended reading in bold (= *en gras*)

I. News in English

Don't tell me about the press. I know exactly who reads the papers: *The Daily Mirror* is read by people who think they run the country, *The Guardian* is read by people who think they ought to run the country, *The Times* is read by people who actually do run the country, *The*

Daily Mail is read by the wives of the people who run the country, *The Financial Times* is read by people who own the country, *The Morning Star* is read by people who think the country ought to be run by another country and *The Daily Telegraph* is read by people who think it is.

Jim Hacker in British sitcom *Yes Minister*

A/ Written press

UK, left-leaning: *The Guardian, The Observer, New Statesman, Glasgow's The Herald*

UK, right-leaning: *The Times, The (Daily) Telegraph, The Spectator, The Financial Times, The Scotsman*

UK, centre: *The Independent*

UK, liberal: *The Economist*

USA, liberal: *The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe*

USA, left-leaning: *The New Yorker, The Nation, The American Prospect*

USA, right-leaning: *The Wall Street Journal, National Review*

News aggregator: Real Clear Politics

Topics examined in 2015 ranged from long-view documentaries on child poverty, tabloids, the living wage, or drug laws to more topical issues such as Scottish nationalism, same-sex marriage, Brexit, secularism, or women at Westminster.

B/ Radio podcasts

UK: BBC Radio 4 (The Westminster Hour)

USA: National Public Radio (Politics podcasts, Embedded, All Things Considered)

II. Vocabulary

A/ Dictionaries

English dictionaries

Concise Oxford English Dictionary

The Free Dictionary(.com) by Farlex

Bilingual dictionary

Le Robert & Collins

Thesaurus

Thesaurus(.com) → Synonyms and antonyms in English.

B/ Vocabulary of the press

THOMSON, Jean Max. *The Big Picture: Vocabulaire de l'actualité en anglais* (Ellipses) → A user-friendly book with the basic vocabulary of the press, which also includes cultural vignettes, exercises with their answer keys, and suggested questions for reflecting or debating.

LEPIOUFLE, Jérôme & T. Robin. *English in the Media* (Belin) → A more comprehensive vocabulary book arranged thematically, with excerpts from press articles and exercises on reading comprehension and on vocabulary to work on its use in context.

III. History

MIOCHE, Antoine. *Les Grandes dates de l'histoire britannique* (Hachette) → With a focus on the main historical figures and keywords.

LAGAYETTE, Pierre. *Les Grandes dates de l'histoire américaine* (Hachette) → With a focus on the main historical figures and keywords.

VINCENT, Bernard. *Histoire des Etats-Unis* (Flammarion) → A chronological history in French with highlights on outstanding events.

IV. Civilization

A/ Civilization books

FICHAUX, Fabien & S. Loom, coord. *Definitely British, Absolutely American! Manuel de civilisation britannique et américaine. 3rd edition* (Ellipses) → Each lesson comes with related vocabulary, a chronology, and a model answer to an exam-type question.

OAKLAND, John. *British Civilization: An Introduction* (Routledge) → Clearly and thoroughly explained, with links to online exercises, videos, and other resources.

PAUWELS, Marie-Christine. *Civilisation des Etats-Unis* (Hachette) → Short lessons in English followed with press pack-style sections with a variety of iconographic documents and questions to guide you in their exploration.

JOHN, Peter & P. Lurbe. *Civilisation britannique* (Hachette) → Same concept as the previous one.

B/ Political movies

UK

FREARS, Stephen. *The Queen* (2006) → About the relationship between Elizabeth II and Tony Blair in the wake of Princess Diana's death.

IANNUCCI, Armando. *In the Loop* (2009) → A satire on contemporary Anglo-American politics and the Iraq war.

USA

CAPRA, Frank. *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939) → About American politics and corruption.

WELLES, Orson. *Citizen Kane* (1941) → About newspaper magnate W.R. Hearst.

PAKULA, Alan J. *All the President's Men* (1976) → About the investigation on the 1972 Watergate scandal.

COPPOLA, F.F. *Apocalypse Now* (1979) → About the Vietnam War, and based on Joseph Conrad's 1899 *Heart of Darkness*.

VAN SANT, Gus. *Milk* (2008) → About the life of gay rights activist and politician Harvey Milk.

HEGEDUS, C. & D.A. Pennbaker. *The War Room* (1993) → A documentary about Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign and the art of spin.

SORKIN, Aaron. *The West Wing* (1999-2006) → About the U.S. executive power.

ROSSI, Andrew. *Page One: Inside The New York Times* (2011) → About the digital revolution in the media.

Not to mention book adaptations (such as N. Jewison's 1967 *In the Heat of the Night* about racism in the American Deep South, S. Kubrick's 1972 *Clockwork Orange* about state violence, etc.) and the plethora of biopics on political leaders (on JFK, Malcom X, R. Nixon, M. Thatcher, Gandhi, etc.).

V. Phonetics

BAKER, Ann. *Ship or Sheep? An Intermediate Pronunciation Course* (Cambridge UP) → To work on the sounds of English (vowels and consonants).

LARREYA Paul & W. Schottman. *A Pronunciation Guide (Nathan)* → A book on the sounds, stress and intonation of English with MP3 audio exercises to download.

English specialty (5h) - English 1st & 2nd language (= LVA & LVB)

Translation into English (2-3h)

Objective

This 4-hour written exam consists in translating French literary (mostly contemporary) prose into English.

The Course

You will work at home on one vocabulary list and one difficult grammatical aspect (with a corresponding grammatical translation exercise) per week, as well as one literary translation every two weeks.

We will check the accuracy of those translations in class.

Advice

Note that no dictionary is allowed for this exam. Memorizing vocabulary, studying grammar, and reading extensively in English (with and without reading guidelines) is the best preparation for this exam.

Bibliography

I. English language

Please explore the bibliography of the core course to see which vocabulary and grammar books may suit you best (paying special attention to RAFROIDI for vocabulary).

II. Translation into English

ORIEZ, Sandrine. *Syntaxe de la phrase anglaise. Licence-Master-Concours* (P.U. Rennes) → Explains the bases and principles of the syntax of the English sentence.

SOUESME, Jean-Claude, *Pratique raisonnée en linguistique anglaise* (Armand Colin) → Examples of language in use accompanied with questions to guide your reflection.

CHUQUET, Hélène & M. Paillard. *Approche linguistique des problèmes de traduction* (Ophrys) → A section on comparative grammar with numerous examples, along with a selection of annotated and translated texts from literature and the press.

MAURY, Virginie. *Le thème anglais expliqué* (Ellipses) → Annotated translations into English to improve your knowledge of vocabulary, your understanding of grammar and your mastery of translation techniques.

Literature program (2-3h)

Objective

This 30-minute oral exam requires you, after preparing for 1 hour, to analyze a passage extracted from one of the three following works in the program:

Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter* [1850], Penguin Classics, 2002, ISBN: 9780142437261.

William Shakespeare, *The Winter's Tale*, ed. Stephen Orgel, The Oxford Shakespeare, 2008, ISBN: 9780199535910.

Thomas Hardy, *The Collected Poems of Thomas Hardy*, Wordsworth Poetry Library, 1998, ISBN: 9781853264023.

Sections to study: *A Set of Country Songs*, (« At Casterbridge Fair », p. 215-218; « Rose-Ann », p. 225); *Lyrics and Reveries* (« In front of the Landscape », p. 275; « The Convergence of the Twain », p. 278; « The Ghost of the Past », p. 279; « The Torn Letter », p. 285; « Beyond the Last Lamp », p. 286; « Wessex Heights », p. 290; « The Place on the Map », p. 292; « Ah, are you digging on my grave ? », p. 300); *Poems of 1912-13* (p. 307-325).

The Course

We will spend 9-10 weeks per work, starting with Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale*. After introducing the thematics of the work, we will read selected excerpts closely, for which you should prepare at home.

Advice

The three works must be carefully read at least once (including their prefaces) and annotated this summer, and *The Winter's Tale*, which we will start the school year with, should be read twice (possibly once in French and the second time in English). You should be able to know your way around the books quite well by September.

You can also work on your accent to prepare for this oral exam by practicing with a phonetics book and by watching online videos on English pronunciation.

Bibliography

I. Drama

A/ Dramatic theory

RIGAUD, Antonia & F. PALLEAU-PAPIN, dir. *An Introduction to Anglophone Theatre* (P.U. de Rennes) → Encompasses all aspects of drama (genre, dramaturgy, staging, and performing) from the Renaissance to the present day.

DAWSON, S.W. *Drama and the Dramatic* (Methuen) → A concise book, each chapter of which deals with a specific element of dramatic writing (language and situation, action and tension, character and idea...).

LENNARD, John & M. Lockhurst. *The Drama Handbook: A Guide to Reading Plays* (Oxford U.P.) → A very practical approach spanning all the stages in the creation and reception of a play, from writing and editing to designing, seeing, and criticizing. It also contains an extensive glossary.

STYAN, J.L. *The English Stage: A History of Drama and Performance* (Cambridge UP) → A chronological approach with a focus on the material and ideological conditions of staging and performing throughout the ages.

B/ William Shakespeare

SHAKESPEARE, William. *Scènes célèbres. Famous scenes* (Folio, coll. « Bilingue ») → To improve your

knowledge of Shakespeare's language and work with the help of the French translation.

LAROQUE, François. *Shakespeare. Comme il vous plaira* (Gallimard, coll. « Découvertes ») → A richly illustrated presentation of Shakespeare's time and world.

SUHAMY, Henri, *Shakespeare* (Livre de Poche, coll. « Références ») → An initiation to Shakespeare and his work by genre.

C/ The Winter's Tale: from page...

SHAKESPEARE, William. *Le Conte d'hiver* (Folio, coll. « Théâtre »). → You can start by reading the play in French. This edition is prefaced by Yves Bonnefoy.

CLARET, Jean-Louis. *The Winter's Tale* (Atlande, coll. « Clefs concours ») → An overview of the main themes of the play.

SMITH, Emma. *Approaching Shakespeare* (<http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/approaching-shakespeare>) → Includes a 40-mn lecture on *WT* by an Oxford scholar.

ALEXANDER, Catherine M.S. *The Cambridge companion to Shakespeare's Last Plays* (Cambridge U.P.). Introduction + ch. 1-6. → The volume opens with a historical timeline that places Shakespeare's late plays in the contexts of contemporary political events, theatrical events, other cultural milestones, Shakespeare's life and that of his playing company, the King's Men.

D/ The Winter's Tale: ...to stage

Try to see the play – at least one of The Royal Shakespeare Company performances on DVD.

II. Poetry

A/ Theory of poetry

GALLE, Etienne & J. Rabin. *Poésie de langue anglaise : Introduction et florilège* (P.U. Rennes) → This anthology features an initiation to scanning with exercises and examples, as well as work on sounds and images.

DOUMERC, Eric & W. Harding. *An Introduction to Poetry in English*. (P.U. Mirail) → Roughly the same contents and approach as the preceding book – but in English. It also proposes a few commentary outlines.

HOBBSBAUM, Philip. *Metre, Rhythm and Verse Form*. (Routledge) → Gives precise definitions of different standard verse forms such as the blank verse, the heroic couplet, or the sprung rhythm. It also contains a glossary of technical terms.

SUHAMY, Henri. *Versification anglaise* (Ellipses) → A very thorough study of the genealogy and multiple forms and subtleties of English metrics and prosody.

WOLOWSKY, Shira. *The Art of Poetry: How to Read a Poem* (Oxford U.P.) → On top of broaching the technical aspects of rhyme, meter and rhythm, this comprehensive book also tackles essential components of poetic language such as metaphors, syntax, the poetic voice, or gender.

B/ The Collected Poems of T. Hardy

Bibliographical suggestions will be given later on.

III. Fiction

A/ Theory of fiction

See core bibliography.

B/ The Scarlet Letter

Bibliographical suggestions will be given later on.

IV. Phonetics

BAKER, Ann. *Ship or Sheep? An Intermediate Pronunciation Course* (Cambridge UP) → To work on the sounds of English (vowels and consonants).

LARREYA, Paul & W. Schottman. *A Pronunciation Guide* (Nathan) → A book on the sounds, stress, and intonation of English with MP3 audio exercises to download.

FOR ALL COURSES, JURY REPORTS ON PAST EXAMS, which are a treasure-trove of advice and a most precious tool to capture the spirit of the exams and the jury's expectations, should be perused on the Lyon ENS website.