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Langue moderne I : Anglais Cycle 2019-2020/2

Articles servant de base à l'évaluation de la compétence orale

NB : les cinq articles doivent être lus et préparés. Deux seront tirés au sort lors de l'examen oral.

1. Bobby Madley's plight symptomatic of social media shame culture
2. Teachers share things parents should do to set their kids up for success
3. History of Thanksgiving Day
4. Modern-day slavery
5. Why so many young women don't call themselves feminist

1. Bobby Madley's plight symptomatic of social media shame culture

by Max Rushden

theguardian.com - January 2nd, 2020

In an emotional blog post on New Year's Eve, the former Premier League referee Bobby Madley detailed how his career was finished in one moment 18 months ago. "Please don't think bad of me. I'm a human being who made one mistake, one that many many people have done themselves and not lost everything for."

It is a story that only fits in the 2010s – one of smartphones, social media pile-ons and a complete absence of forgiveness – one that highlights the disproportionality between someone's mistake and the impact on their lives. It couldn't really have happened before the last decade, but will almost certainly repeat itself in this one.

"I started refereeing at 16, my career was over at 32," Madley wrote. "I had my dream job, a well-paid and incredibly enjoyable job that I loved every single minute of. The footballs and medals are now all I have to remember those years of dedication and hard work."

As Madley explains with understandable contrition – he filmed a disabled man walking in front of his car and sent it to a mate, suggesting he would be able to beat him in a race. On the face of it, and without context, not a pleasant thing to do. He acknowledges this repeatedly. But context matters. It was his daughter's school sports day. He had "joked with parents about not taking part in a parents race ... claims back at me that I was scared of losing. All good banter". This was after Mark Halsey had written a newspaper article saying he was making mistakes because he was too fat.

He wrote: "F**k me I have a chance of winning the parents race this year." It was self-deprecating. He sent it to one person. It does not make him beyond criticism, or beyond sanction. But did he really deserve to lose his job? After falling out with that friend regarding a "family issue" Madley says the friend, in a bizarre act of retribution, sent the video on a USB stick to the Professional Game Match Officials Board. He was called to a meeting and dismissed "with immediate effect for gross misconduct".

"At that point my world fell apart," he says. Now, 18 months later, he lives and referees in Norway. "People have no idea the reputational damage something like that can do, never mind the mental issues it can cause."

If we take Madley's words at face value, it is hard not to feel huge sympathy. And it does feel that the PGMOL were too hasty in letting him go. But while it's easier to forgive Madley once you understand the context of his misdemeanour – his sacking makes more sense when you

consider what would have happened if the video had got out and they hadn't fired him. In the press, on social media, on the pitch?

Social media would go into meltdown – for a while at least. Faceless Twitter handles would determine that they knew “the real Bobby Madley” from a seven-second video. Madley says he produced evidence that he worked for disabled children's charities at the formal disciplinary hearing two weeks after he was dismissed. He also points out that his father suffered from a disability which had a huge impact on his upbringing.

The author Jon Ronson has written an excellent book on this subject, *So You've Been Publicly Shamed*. It begins with the story of a woman posting a bad taste joke on Twitter before flying to South Africa to do some work and losing her job by the time she lands. All the while she is oblivious – 36,000 feet in the wifi-less air. Eleven hours of a social media backlash cost her her career. Interestingly that is something Madley doesn't want to happen to the friend with the USB stick. “All that serves to do is to direct hate and abuse their way and that's what I suffered myself. I don't wish that on anyone.”

Perhaps there is an irony in a referee asking for consistency but, as Madley explains: “The decision to this day still stuns me. The same week that a politician referred to Muslim women as letterboxes and made no apology. That man now leads the country as PM. Whilst my actions were badly misjudged, it was a joke.”

Madley may not have posted his video on the internet. But his is a salutary lesson in what could happen to any of us. There will be those who believe he got what he deserved. Forgiveness – particularly online – seems in short supply and it's often partisan and inconsistent.

“I am proud that I have kept my dignity and integrity and hopefully I can move forward on and off the pitch and learn from my own mistakes, maybe I can use that to help others and make sure they don't make the same mistake I did that lost me everything.”

Bobby Madley is looking forward. And while Mike Riley and the PGMOL have a lot of decisions to make on the pitch in the new few months – perhaps one of their first could be to open the door for their former employee to get back on it if he ever returns to this country.

2. Teachers share things parents should do to set their kids up to success

*by Rachel Gillett,
independent.co.uk, September 29th, 2017*

Children only spend half their waking hours in school during the academic year. This means that much of the rearing is still done at home. In fact, research from North Carolina State University, Brigham Young University, and the University of California, Irvine finds that parental involvement is a more significant factor in a child's academic success than the qualities of the school itself. To find out just what parents can do at home to help their kids, we asked teachers everywhere to weigh in. We included some of our favorites here :

Read together

"Read to them, read with them, and have them read to you."¹

Have dinner together

"I think family meals are a time to catch up on each other's lives. When kids and parents can converse about everything that happened during the day, I think parents are able to get the best insight into their children's lives. Constant communication is one of the many keys to success throughout life."

Be a good role model

"If you want them to read, be a reader first. If you want them to improve their writing skills, begin writing letters to your children. You want them to do well in math? Stop telling them you hate Math!"

Have high expectations for your kids

"I know a lot of parents work hard, and I can't ask them to spend more time with their kids because sometimes they can't. The best thing they can do is expect excellence from their child, because if they don't get the A, chances are they'll get close to it. If expectations are set at D, then they won't try to get better than that. It's all about setting those expectations so that your child is intrinsically motivated to do the best they can, even when you're not around. And for some, the D is their best and that's okay, too."

Force them to put the screens down

"I wish more parents read to their kids and encouraged them to read. I also think parents should encourage their children to go on walks, to stare at the clouds, and to play outside. Teenagers today spend almost 11+ hours in front of screens. It scares me. It's like they don't know how to be alone, and I worry about what it will do to independent thinking."

¹ Editor's note: Encouraging good reading habits was the most popular response among the teachers we surveyed.

Be involved

Some parents don't even realize their kid is failing. They don't respond to voicemails, they don't check their email, they don't come to conferences. Don't just ask your kid how he's doing in school, because he'll say he's fine and has no homework. Ask the teacher."

Work with teachers, not against them

"Make sure your child knows that you and the teacher are on the same page in terms of discipline, academic success, and social and emotional health. The child shouldn't think that the parents will save them from the teacher when they don't make wise choices."

Encourage more diverse interaction

"Give your child exposure to different children so they learn how to play and collaborate appropriately with others. Less technology and more interaction."

Value education

"I wish parents modeled valuing education at home and took the onus as our partners in their child's educational success."

Bring your child to school on time and pick them up on time

"Things come up and being late once or twice is fine, but when you're late to school four out of five days a week, or don't pick your children up on time, it's awkward for them ."

See what your kids are learning about in class

"Now with everything these days being electronic, it is so easy to see what your kids are doing in school. If you have questions on the class or assignments, email the teachers! Come to them directly before getting upset and going to administration. Administration may seem like they are in charge, but really, the teachers direct their classes and know what is going on in them. Teachers are your best source for answers about the class and your student."

3. History of Thanksgiving Day

by David J. Silverman
britannica.com

Thanksgiving Day, annual national holiday in the United States and Canada celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year. Americans generally believe that their Thanksgiving is modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people. The American holiday is particularly rich in legend and symbolism, and the traditional fare of the Thanksgiving meal typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. With respect to vehicular travel, the holiday is often the busiest of the year, as family members gather with one another.

Plymouth's Thanksgiving began with a few colonists going out "fowling," possibly for turkeys but more probably for the easier prey of geese and ducks, since they "in one day killed as much as... served the company almost a week." Next, 90 or so Wampanoag made a surprise appearance at the settlement's gate, doubtlessly unnerving the 50 or so colonists.

Nevertheless, over the next few days the two groups socialized without incident. The Wampanoag contributed venison to the feast, which included the fowl and probably fish, eels, shellfish, stews, vegetables, and beer. Since Plymouth had few buildings and manufactured goods, most people ate outside while sitting on the ground or on barrels with plates on their laps. The men fired guns, ran races, and drank liquor, struggling to speak in broken English and Wampanoag. This was a rather disorderly affair, but it sealed a treaty between the two groups that lasted until King Philip's War (1675–76), in which hundreds of colonists and thousands of Native Americans lost their lives.

The New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "Thanksgivings," days of prayer thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought. The U.S. Continental Congress proclaimed a national Thanksgiving upon the enactment of the Constitution, for example. Yet, after 1798, the new U.S. Congress left Thanksgiving declarations to the states; some objected to the national government's involvement in a religious observance, Southerners were slow to adopt a New England custom, and others took offense over the day's being used to hold partisan speeches and parades. A national Thanksgiving Day seemed more like a lightning rod for controversy than a unifying force.

Thanksgiving Day did not become an official holiday until Northerners dominated the federal government. While sectional tensions prevailed in the mid-19th century, the editor of the popular magazine *Godey's Lady's Book*, Sarah Josepha Hale, campaigned for a national Thanksgiving Day to promote unity. She finally won the support of President Abraham Lincoln. On October 3, 1863, during the Civil War, Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26.

The holiday was annually proclaimed by every president thereafter, and the date chosen, with few exceptions, was the last Thursday in November. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, however, attempted to extend the Christmas shopping season, which generally begins with the Thanksgiving holiday, and to boost the economy by moving the date back a week, to the third week in November. But not all states complied, and, after a joint resolution of Congress in 1941, Roosevelt issued a proclamation in 1942 designating the fourth Thursday in November (which is not always the last Thursday) as Thanksgiving Day.

As the country became more urban and family members began to live farther apart, Thanksgiving became a time to gather together. The holiday moved away from its religious roots to allow immigrants of every background to participate in a common tradition.

Thanksgiving Day football games, beginning with Yale versus Princeton in 1876, enabled fans to add some rowdiness to the holiday. In the late 1800s parades of costumed revelers became common. In 1920 Gimbel's department store in Philadelphia staged a parade of about 50 people with Santa Claus at the rear of the procession. Since 1924 the annual Macy's parade in New York City has continued the tradition, with huge balloons since 1927.

The holiday associated with Pilgrims and Native Americans has come to symbolize intercultural peace, America's opportunity for newcomers, and the sanctity of home and family.

Days of thanksgiving in Canada also originated in the colonial period, arising from the same European traditions, in gratitude for safe journeys, peace, and bountiful harvests. The earliest celebration was held in 1578, when an expedition led by Martin Frobisher held a ceremony in present-day Nunavut to give thanks for the safety of its fleet. In 1879 Parliament established a national Thanksgiving Day on November 6; the date has varied over the years. Since 1957 Thanksgiving Day has been celebrated in Canada on the second Monday in October.

4. Modern-day slavery

britishcouncil.org

December 2 is the United Nations' International Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Did you know that slavery still exists today and is probably much closer to you than you realise?

Blood and Earth

In his book *Blood and Earth*, Kevin Bales speaks with Ibrahim, a 23-year-old slave who has worked in a gold mine since he was nine. He is dying. His lungs are filled with liquid caused by the dust and bacteria in the mine. As their conversation ends, Ibrahim turns to Kevin Bales and says, 'I want to be remembered. When my story is written and your book is ready, will you send me a copy? I want to show it to others, to show them that I am not completely useless. I just want to show that something good can come out of my life.'

So what's the connection to you? As you read this article, you are probably using a smartphone, tablet, or laptop. Each device requires minerals – including gold. Perhaps the gold in your electronic device was mined by slaves.

Slavery today

According to the Global Slavery Index 2018, over 40 million people are victims of modern slavery, and of these, 15 million are in forced marriage. Slavery involves violence, physical or psychological, and control – often in the form of threats in order to generate profit. To quote Kevin Bales, 'Slavery is when one person controls another, uses violence to maintain that control and exploits them economically.' This violence may be physical and/or psychological, and the control may be verbal threats – but at the heart of slavery is exploitation and 'ownership' of another human being for profit. Forms of modern slavery include forced labour, human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced marriage.

You might be surprised to see forced marriage included above. Sadly, forced marriage involves the same lack of choice, power imbalance, coercion and labour exploitation as other forms of slavery. This also includes forced child marriage – usually of girls, of 17 years or younger.

Slavery behind closed doors

Another form of slavery is domestic servitude. Across the globe, domestic workers, mostly women, migrate abroad to support their families back home. Employment agents in their country of origin promise a generous salary and good working conditions with a caring host family. This, however, may be far from reality. Domestic workers are sometimes forced to work long hours and their passports and mobile phones are taken away. In extreme cases, behind closed doors of private homes, they are locked up, starved, deprived of sleep and often physically and sexually abused. They are trapped, scared and unfamiliar with their new surroundings. Domestic servitude happens globally, including in the UK.

The power of consumer choice

Every item we buy has a back story. From electronics to textiles, from handmade carpets to coffee, tea and chocolate, each of these products might include child or adult slavery. Consider a product as innocent as chocolate. While the chocolate bar itself may have been produced in your country, the cocoa in the chocolate probably came from West Africa, where 60 per cent of the world's cocoa is produced. As you read this, thousands of children and adults live in slave-like conditions on cocoa farms. Unknowingly, your purchase might support slavery. However, consumer demand for ethically-sourced products and services can send a powerful message to producers. Imagine if we all refused to purchase goods that have a back story of slavery. Company sales, and therefore profits, would fall. Look around at items in your home and workplace and ask yourself the simple question, 'Where did this come from and who made it?'

Why didn't I learn about modern slavery at school?

Did you ever learn about modern slavery at school? History lessons may have included the horrific practice of slavery, however, it was probably considered something that was very much 'in the past'. But slavery still exists and it is the everyday reality for millions of people. It takes brave educators to raise awareness of the difficult, upsetting and invisible reality of modern slavery.

The good news is that thousands of individuals and anti-slavery organisations are taking action. One such organisation is The NO Project, which focuses specifically on the education of youth and young adults. 'Youth are the next generation of corporate leaders, policy makers and consumers,' says the founder of The NO Project. 'How we choose to spend our money says a lot about who we are. So, the question is – who are we? And remember, another time, in another place, that enslaved human being could be you.'

5. Why so many young women don't call themselves feminist

by Dr Christina Scharff, King's College London

In recent years, feminist movements have attracted significant attention in Europe and North America. So why do so many young women still say they do not identify with the term? Fewer than one in five young women would call themselves a feminist, polling in the UK and US suggests.

That might come as a surprise as feminism - the advocacy of women's rights on the grounds of equality of the sexes - has been in the spotlight lately. A day after the inauguration of US President Donald Trump, millions around the world joined the 2017 Women's March. A key aim was to highlight women's rights, which many believed to be under threat. Another defining moment came when sexual harassment claims were made against film producer Harvey Weinstein by more than 80 women - allegations he denies.

Online movements have also gained momentum. Actress Alyssa Milano suggested that anyone who had been "sexually harassed or assaulted" should reply to her Tweet with "#MeToo", resurrecting a movement started by activist Tarana Burke in 2006. Half a million responded in the first 24 hours and the hashtag has been used in more than 80 countries. Many other celebrities have publicly embraced feminism.

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Rejection of feminism

These events have all helped to bring feminism to mainstream attention. So it is perhaps unexpected that the identity "feminist" has not gained more popularity among young women in the Western world.

However, people do not appear to reject the term feminism because they are against gender equality or believe it has been achieved. A study found that eight out of 10 people said men and women should be treated equally in every way, with many agreeing sexism is still an issue.

This appears to represent a shift in attitudes over time. A study of 27,000 people in the US found that two-thirds believed in gender equality in 2016, up from a quarter in 1977. And in a 2017 UK poll, 8% said they agreed with traditional gender roles - that a man should earn money and a woman should stay at home - down from 43% in 1984.

If many believe gender equality is important, and still lacking, then why do relatively few people - including young women - identify as feminist? It could be that they do not feel the term speaks to them. And the term feminist is less likely to appeal to working-class women, polls suggest.

Battling stereotypes

Another hurdle may be some of the stereotypes and misconceptions associated with feminism.

In her introduction to the recently published anthology *Feminists Don't Wear Pink and Other Lies*, curator Scarlett Curtis refers to the stereotype of feminists as not wearing make-up, or shaving their legs or liking boys. These stereotypes have persisted through the ages. In the 1920s, feminists were often called spinsters and speculation about their sexual preferences was rife. Almost a century later, these views still hold some sway.

Having interviewed a diverse group of young German and British women for my research, I found associations of the term "feminism" with man-hating, lesbianism or lack of femininity was a key factor in rejections of the label "feminist". The majority said they did not want to call themselves feminist because they feared they would be associated with these traits. This was despite many stressing they were not homophobic and some identifying as lesbian or bisexual.

So, how could the image of feminism be improved?

Arguably, as a society we should do more to challenge narrowly defined expectations of how women should look and act.

Working harder to make this movement more inclusive could mean that feminism speaks to the experiences and concerns of diverse groups of women.

Nevertheless, whichever label women choose to adopt, the indication that the vast majority of people now support equality - and acknowledge it has not yet been achieved - is heartening.