Jurys de l’enseignement secondaire –
CESS général, technique et artistique de transition

Langue moderne II : Anglais
Cycle 2020-2021/2

Articles servant de base à l’évaluation de l’expression orale

NB : Les trois articles doivent être lus et préparés. Un sera tiré au sort lors de l’examen oral

1. Culture shock

2. Ken Ross: “I want to see a disabled person who’s as famous as Brad Pitt on screen”

3. 'It cuts out the faff': young people turn to TikTok for cooking tips
1. Culture Shock

https://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca

You have read about Romulus and Remus whose culture shock came when they went back to the world of human beings after being raised by a wolf. Tarzan's culture shock came when he discovered that he was not a "white ape" but a human being. Emily Carr preferred the culture of the First Nations people and the life she led on her explorations to the dresses and polite conversations of her own culture. You now know that First Nations culture did not include school or even business activity, people spent most of their time in nature or around the fire of their home talking, telling stories and making the things they needed to survive.

Psychologists tell us that there are four basic stages that human beings pass through when they enter and live in a new culture. This process, which helps us to deal with culture shock, is the way our brain and our personality reacts to the strange new things we encounter when we move from one culture to another. If our culture involves bowing when we greet someone, we may feel very uncomfortable in a culture that does not involve bowing. If the language we use when talking to someone in our own culture is influenced by levels of formality based on the other person's age and status, it may be difficult for us to feel comfortable communicating with people in the new culture.

Culture begins with the "honeymoon stage". This is the period of time when we first arrive in which everything about the new culture is strange and exciting. We may be suffering from "jet lag" but we are thrilled to be in the new environment, seeing new sights, hearing new sounds and language, eating new kinds of food. This honeymoon stage can last for quite a long time because we feel we are involved in some kind of great adventure.

Unfortunately, the second stage of culture shock can be more difficult. After we have settled down into our new life, working or studying, buying groceries, doing laundry, or living with a home-stay family, we can become very tired and begin to miss our homeland and our family, girlfriend/boyfriend, pets. All the little problems that everybody in life has seem to be much bigger and more disturbing when you face them in a foreign culture. This period of cultural adjustment can be very difficult and lead to the new arrival rejecting or pulling away from the new culture. This "rejection stage" can be quite dangerous because the visitor may develop unhealthy habits (smoking and drinking too much, being too concerned over food or contact with people from the new culture). This can, unfortunately lead to the person getting sick or developing skin infections or rashes which then makes the person feel even more scared and confused and helpless. This stage is considered a crisis in the process of cultural adjustment and many people choose to go back to their homeland or spend all their time with people from their own culture speaking their native language.
The third stage of culture shock is called the "adjustment stage". This is when you begin to realize that things are not so bad in the host culture. Your sense of humour usually becomes stronger and you realize that you are becoming stronger by learning to take care of yourself in the new place. Things are still difficult, but you are now a survivor!

The fourth stage can be called "at ease at last". Now you feel quite comfortable in your new surroundings. You can cope with most problems that occur. You may still have problems with the language, but you know you are strong enough to deal with them. If you meet someone from your country who has just arrived, you can be the expert on life in the new culture and help them to deal with their culture shock.

There is a fifth stage of culture shock which many people don't know about. This is called "reverse culture shock". Surprisingly, this occurs when you go back to your native culture and find that you have changed and that things there have changed while you have been away. Now you feel a little uncomfortable back home. Life is a struggle!
2. Ken Ross: “I want to see a disabled person who’s as famous as Brad Pitt on screen”

by Kate Hodal, Tue 26 Jan 2021, theguardian.com (shortened version)

Award-winning film producer Ken Ross is calling for more people with disabilities to be seen on TV and film screens all around the world. “If we never give individuals these roles, we’ll never move forward. We don’t need to change people to be the part we want them to be, and we don’t need to be worried about casting someone with a disability,” he says. “You would never ask someone to ‘black up’ to play Nelson Mandela – so why would you ask an actor to ‘impersonate’ someone with a disability?”

Ross has spent the past two decades working with the UK government, the NHS, Bafta and various other institutions to promote greater diversity and inclusion of people with disabilities. And although much has changed for the better (the Baftas and Oscars both recently revamped their diversity requirements, and actors such as Tommy Jessop, who has Down syndrome, are increasingly gaining industry-wide recognition), there is still serious work to be done. Ross says: “We need to get sales agents feeling more comfortable screening films that have people with disabilities. And we’ve got to see people writing their own stories, too.”

Today, despite Covid-19 preventing many TV and film projects from getting off the ground, Ross (...) has been screening calls from producers and directors keen to cast more actors with disabilities, among them George Clooney, who is talking to Ross about improving opportunities for people with Down syndrome across the industry. Ross’s last two projects, Innocence and My Feral Heart, both of which star actors with the condition, won various international awards, with Innocence in the running for an Oscar this year.

Producers call me up and say, ‘Look, I’ve had a part written for this actor after I saw him in your film and was blown away,’” explains Ross. Creating jobs for people with Down syndrome in the film industry is great for both spreading awareness of the condition and showing that it can be seen in a positive light, he adds. “When statistics show that only 6% of people with a learning disability are in paid work, it makes sense to create jobs in the film industry, where you can reach an audience of millions and encourage people to think a little bit more about how they can include others.”

Ross had an “epiphany” about disability in 2004, he says, when his wife Rachael gave birth to their third son, Max, who has Down syndrome. At the time, the condition was still considered so taboo that even the hospital staff were pointed in how they discussed it. (...) Ross is trustee and vice-chair at Portsmouth Down Syndrome Association, a charity Rachael co-founded in 2010 in order to fill the void of specialist support for families with children with the condition. (...) Over the past decade, the charity has provided hundreds of children with tailored learning in more than 100 mainstream schools in Hampshire and further afield, while
also training NHS professionals and teachers on diversity and inclusion. “The goal is for society to understand that individuals with a learning disability can lead semi-independent lives, make essential contributions and be valued members of their communities – as well as have the same hopes, dreams and aspirations as everyone else,” explains Ross.

Much of the prejudice towards people with Down syndrome can be traced back to the “segregation” of just a few decades ago, he says. In 1945 in the UK, the life expectancy for a child born with Down syndrome was just 12 years, while up until the 1970s it was still commonplace for babies with the condition to be taken straight from the hospital to an institution. Today, roughly 40,000 people in the UK have Down syndrome and life expectancy is beyond 60, due to medical advances, as well as the fact that most children with the condition today live at home and can go on to lead full lives. But much more needs to be done in terms of policy, says Ross. “Down syndrome is the least funded, yet most prevalent chromosomal learning disability in the UK, and there is no [national] policy at all regarding the education or employment of people with Down syndrome.” (...)

Ross also points to the current prenatal NHS screening offered to all expectant mothers (...) An estimated 90% of women whose unborn babies are diagnosed with the condition go on to have an abortion, which is legal right up until birth. The screening test took centre stage in a recent Emmerdale storyline, in which a couple chose to selectively abort their unborn child after learning that the baby had Down syndrome. It attracted hundreds of Ofcom complaints before it even aired and more than 31,000 people have since signed a petition calling on ITV to cancel the storyline.

“I have no doubt that if they had attempted this storyline with any other minority, they would have been closed down early,” says Ross. “What I want to see on the screen is someone with Down syndrome as recognisable as Brad Pitt, just to open the doors for everyone else. If one person can do it, everyone else can follow. It’s not impossible.”
3. 'It cuts out the faff': young people turn to TikTok for cooking tips

*by Kate Hodal, Tue 26 Jan 2021, theguardian.com (shortened version)*

Anna Spearing started baking when she was about eight or nine, making ginger biscuits in the family kitchen in Southampton and watching endless YouTube videos full of “really yummy ingredients”, in a period she refers to as “the simpler times”. Now 15, she is still baking, though the recipes have become more diverse, and the videos snappier and much shorter. Having discovered TikTok, the social video-sharing platform used by all her friends, she now frequently cooks dishes based on its 60-second viral videos, soundtracked by earworm songs and edited at rat-a-tat speed. Lockdown has sent her interest in cooking into overdrive, she says, “because it’s one of the only things left to do. [When her school was open] I barely cooked at all. Whereas now I cook supper twice a week, and I’ll bake two or three times a week, which I never would have been able to do before. I mean, it’s one of the things that brings joy nowadays.” Among all the disadvantages heaped upon young people through this pandemic, many have discovered at least one unexpected blessing: a new interest in cookery sparked, in many cases, by TikTok.

Precise figures on the phenomenon are difficult to quantify, but the social network, which is still dominated by its Chinese audience and claims more than 1 billion active monthly users worldwide, has soared in popularity in the UK particularly over the past year, where it is downloaded more than a million times a month and is expected to reach 10 million users by the end of 2021. The largest group of these are aged 18-24, but many are much younger. Highly addictive to its fans, and frequently baffling to those new to the platform, TikTok is based around short, jumpy videos which can be watched and shared, and thrives on viral memes. (…)

“It’s really easy to get sucked into it,” says 17-year-old Lois Turkington from Belfast, who also uses Snapchat and Instagram to chat to her friends, but for the long months stuck indoors has mostly relied on TikTok. “You’ll click on one link and then half an hour later, you’re still on it.” She has also found herself turning to TikTok recipes for lunches and snacks, particularly while negotiating with her parents and siblings who are also using their kitchen. “They just cut out a lot of the faff, there aren’t all the extra bits. It just says, add this, add that, stick it in the oven. Instead of all the details that a recipe will go into.” (…)

One spectacular beneficiary of the surge of interest in cookery on the platform is Poppy O’Toole, who this time last year was a busy, Michelin-trained London chef with only a passing knowledge of TikTok. After losing her job due to lockdown, the 27-year-old “felt a bit lost”, and decided to record a few cookery videos from home to upload on to the network. A clip on how to recreate McDonald’s hash browns (…) got some press attention. “And then I did a video of some crispy cube potatoes I was having for dinner, and it got 100,000 views.” (…)

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Many of her followers are young people who may have tried out the viral food hacks, but have found themselves falling in love with slightly more challenging cookery, says O’Toole. “Those trends like the [whipped] coffee, they’re good fun. But people need to be able to take away actual skills. “So here’s a skill set to make it easier for you, and at the end of the day you can say, I made that, and it’s delicious, and show off.”

For siblings Emily and Dominic Bool, 15 and 13, who live with their British family in Zurich, cooking from TikTok is part of daily life; Emily likes making cakes, often basing her decoration on viral tips, while Dominic recently cooked the family steak and chips based on a recipe on the app. Do they think TikTok has made cooking cool for people their age? “Definitely,” says Dominic. “Because when your parents tell you to cook, it’s kind of, you know ... it feels like a big process. But if you are seeing a really pleasant video, it doesn’t seem so bad any more, not like you are being compelled to do it.”