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

Langue moderne II : Anglais
Cycle 2021-2022/1

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. Men cause more climate emissions than women, study finds
2. Here's why we call this time of year the 'dog days' of summer
3. Tokyo Olympics: fears athletes could face hottest Games on record

1. Men cause more climate emissions than women, study finds

Damian Carrington, Wed 21 Jul 2021, The Guardian

Men's spending on goods causes sixteen percent more climate-heating emissions than women's, despite the sum of money being very similar, a study has found. The biggest difference was men's spending on petrol and diesel for their cars. The gender differences in emissions have been little studied, the researchers said, and should be recognised in action to beat the climate crisis.

The analysis compared single men and women in Sweden and found that food and holidays caused more than half of all emissions for both men and women. The scientists found that swapping meat and dairy for plant-based foods and switching to train-based holidays, rather than using planes or cars, cut people's emissions by forty percent.

"We think it's important to take the difference between men and women into account in policy making," said Annika Carlsson Kanyama, at the research company Ecoloop in Sweden, who led the study. "The way they spend is very stereotypical – women spend more money on home decoration, health and clothes and men spend more money on fuel for cars, eating out, alcohol and tobacco."

The research, published in the Journal for Industrial Ecology, did not include fuel for work vehicles such as taxis or plumbers' vans. Previous research found that in families with one car, men used it more often to go to work with women more likely to use public transport.

Holidays accounted for about a third of emissions for both the men and women. "That is a lot more than I expected," said Carlsson Kanyama. They used data for single people because figures for individuals living in families were not available.

The changes to diet and holidays to reduce personal emissions were chosen because they do not require extra spending, such as buying an electric car. "These are substantial changes of course, but at least you don't need to get yourself another job, or borrow money from the bank," she said. "So it's something within reach here and now. You just use the same money you have and buy something else."

A study in 2017 found that the greatest impact individuals can have in fighting climate change is to have one fewer child, followed by not using a car and avoiding flying.

Studies in 2010 and 2012 showed that men spent more on energy and ate more meat than women, both of which cause high emissions. But Carlsson Kanyama said: "I'm surprised

more studies have not been done about the gender differences in environmental impact. There are quite clear differences and they are not likely to go away in the near future.”

The EU’s green deal was criticised last week for failing to include the intersection between gender and the environment.

“The climate crisis is one of the key challenges of our time and affects men and women quite differently,” said Leonore Gewessler, Austria’s climate minister. “For instance, the majority of people impacted by energy poverty are women. It is, therefore, crucial to take gender differences into the equation, if we want to develop solutions and a transformation that works for everyone.”

“The European Green Deal policies are, at best, gender-blind and, at worst, widen gender inequalities,” said Nadège Lharaig, at the European Environmental Bureau, which published a report – Why the European Green Deal needs ecofeminism – on Friday.

The spending data in the analysis was from 2012, the latest available. Carlsson Kanyama said it was unlikely to have changed sufficiently today to change the overall conclusions.

2. Here's why we call this time of year the 'dog days' of summer

Becky Little, 16/07/2021, National Geographic

For many, the “*dog days*,” evoke those summer days that are so devastatingly hot that even dogs would lie around on the asphalt, panting. But originally, the phrase had nothing to do with dogs, or even with the lazy days of summer. Instead, the dog days refer to Sirius, the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major, which means “big dog” in Latin and is said to represent one of Orion’s hunting dogs.

To the Greeks and Romans, the “dog days” occurred around the time Sirius appears to rise alongside the sun, in late July in the Northern Hemisphere. They believed the heat from the two stars combined is what made these days the hottest of the year, a period that could bring fever or even catastrophe. In 2021, the dog days span from July 3 to August 11.

“If you go back even as far as Homer, *The Iliad*, it’s referring to Sirius as Orion’s dog rising, and it describes the star as being associated with war and disaster,” said Jay B. Holberg, author of “*Sirius: Brightest Diamond in the Night Sky*” and senior research scientist at the University of Arizona Lunar & Planetary Laboratory. “All throughout Greek and Roman literature, you found these things.”

The phrase “dog days” was translated from Latin to English about 500 years ago. Since then, it has taken on new meanings. “Now people come up with other explanations for why they’re called the ‘dog days’ of summer, [like] this is when dogs can go crazy,” said Anne Curzan, an English professor at the University of Michigan. “This is a very human tendency,” she said. When we don’t know the origin of a phrase, we come up with a plausible explanation. “The meaning has been lost,” said Holberg, “but the phrase has lived on.”

The hottest days?

So, did the Greeks get it right? Are the dog days, around when Sirius rises, really the hottest days of the year? In a word: no.

Although July and August are often the hottest months of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, the hottest period can vary from year to year. And depending on your latitude, the astronomical dog days can come at different times. In Athens, for instance, Sirius will rise around the middle of August this year. But farther south, it’ll happen earlier in the year; farther north, it’ll happen later.

There’s another reason that the dog days don’t correspond neatly with the heat: The stars in Earth’s night sky shift independently of our calendar seasons. “Our Earth is like a spinning top,” said Bradley Schaefer, professor of physics and astronomy at Louisiana State University. “If

you toss it onto a table, after it slows down ... the pointing direction of the top will slowly go around in circles." Similarly to a top, "Earth's rotation is kind of wobbling around."

"The calendar is fixed according to certain events, but the stars have shifted according to the way that the Earth wobbles," said Larry Ciupik, astronomer at Adler Planetarium and director of the Doane Observatory. "So in about 50-some years, the sky shifts about one degree."

This means that the dog days of ancient Greece aren't the dog days of today. It also means that several millennia from now, this astrological event won't even occur during the summer. "In 26,000 years, the dog days would completely move all around the sky," said Schaefer. "Roughly 13,000 years from now, Sirius will be rising with the sun in mid-winter." Ah yes, the dog days of winter. When it's so cold that even the dogs lie around the fire, trying to stay warm.

3. Tokyo Olympics: fears athletes could face hottest Games on record

Justin McCurry, 20/07/2021, The Guardian

As if the coronavirus was not enough to contend with, Olympic athletes who have arrived ahead of the start of the Tokyo Games on Friday now find themselves at the sharp end of a Japanese summer.

The heat and humidity that descends on the Japanese capital after the rainy season has been a concern since it won the bid to host the Games in 2013.

Doubts over Tokyo's claim in its 2020 pitch that "mild" weather in July and August would provide athletes with the ideal sporting environment were underlined in 2019, when the International Olympic Committee pressured organisers to move the marathon and race walking events to the cooler climes of Sapporo, 800km (500 miles) north of Tokyo.

The first time Tokyo hosted the Olympics, in 1964, organisers made the decision to move the "summer" Games to the autumn, when temperatures are comfortably lower.

But athletes competing this year face potentially the hottest Olympics on record, with high temperatures combining with brutal humidity to make every moment spent outdoors an endurance test.

As Tokyo residents were warned not to exercise outdoors, beach volleyball players practising at Shiokaze park complained that the sand was too hot for their feet, prompting staff to hose down the playing surface while athletes waited in the shade.

Olympic organisers have introduced measures they say will protect athletes from the worst effects of the heat, including cooling tents, mist fans and ice cream for volunteers.

The environment ministry's colour-coded scale warns residents when to avoid regular or heavy exercise. Early on Tuesday afternoon, the ministry reported that the wet bulb globe temperature – which combines temperature, humidity, wind and solar radiation measurements – stood at 31.8 degrees, prompting a "danger" warning. The WBGT is forecast to drop into the upper 20s over the next three days, however.

The ministry recommends that sports activities should be stopped when WBGT exceeds 31 degrees, but it is unlikely that the same standard will apply to Olympic events. It issued 13 "no exercise" advisories from late July to early August last year – the same timeframe as this year's Olympics – according to the Kyodo news agency.

The ban on domestic spectators means Japanese sports fans will follow the action from the comfort of their air-conditioned homes, but there is concern that an expected rise in heatstroke cases could place additional pressure on medical services already stretched by Covid-19 infections and the vaccination rollout.

Japan's summer heat can pose a serious threat to health, especially among its large population of older people. In 2019, more than 71,000 people sought emergency care for heatstroke, with 118 deaths during the June-September period. Last year, when the pandemic meant there were fewer people out and about, there were still 65,000 cases and 112 deaths.

"Holding the Games during July and August ... was a serious issue even before the coronavirus pandemic," Haruo Ozaki, the chairman of the Tokyo Medical Association, told reporters this month. "There are still high risks of heatstroke at events such as competitive walking, triathlon and beach volleyball."

While the pandemic has forced many athletes to arrive only days before their events, others have had time to acclimatise. They include the Australian softball team, who arrived for their training camp in early June and will open the sporting action on Wednesday against Japan in Fukushima, where the forecast is for a high of 34C but, mercifully, plenty of cloud cover.