

CAPES/ CAFEP EXTERNE D'ANGLAIS**SESSION 2013****ÉPREUVE SUR DOSSIER****PREMIÈRE PARTIE**

Vous procéderez en anglais à la mise en relation des documents suivants, en vous appuyant sur la consigne ci-dessous :

Analyse the representation of political power in the following set of documents.

Document A: "A Happy Breed. After 60 years on the throne the Queen is, more than ever, an embodiment of our pride and a focus of our patriotism". Leading article: *The Times* (4 June 2012).

Document B: "Forget the Queen's Jubilee. Let's have a knees-up for the Magna Carta" (*The Guardian*, Sunday 27 May 2012).

Document C (audio): Queen's 'Jubilee' Friendlier Than Past Celebrations (1 June 2012).

Document D: A picture of Prince Harry during the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony (*The Daily Mail*, 9 November 2009).

DOCUMENT A

"A Happy Breed. After 60 years on the throne the Queen is, more than ever, an embodiment of our pride and a focus of our patriotism".

Leading article: *The Times* (4 June 2012).

5 It was a great coming together. Water soaked those who came without a broly or a motor cruiser, but it also connected the pageant, literally, to Plymouth Rock and Stornoway, to every port and fishing village in between, and to every ship, on whatever ocean, whose name begins with HMS. Consciously and unconsciously, it was a show of unity — but what sort of unity can truly be celebrated as much of Scotland yearns for independence and the spectre of class war returns to Westminster? The answer: a complicated sort of unity, not made much simpler for being embodied by our Kings and Queens.

10 Few institutions have proved as adept at reinventing themselves and their history as the British monarchy. As a result, that history is long. The coronation ceremony of 1953 dated from the 7th century. Since then British monarchs have stumbled and fallen when no longer aligned in the public mind with the public good. More often, they have adapted and laboured to retain the trust and even the love of their subjects, and none has done so more triumphantly than Queen Elizabeth II.

15 She cannot travel incognito and no one knows much about her baking skills. Yet even without the burnishing effect of time, her concern for her subjects' wellbeing is as evident as King Alfred's in the legend of the burnt cakes. If forced to choose between King John and Robin Hood, we know intuitively that she would side with Sherwood Forest's merry band against avarice and injustice. She has not been tested as Henry V was by an Agincourt, but her steadiness, her humour and her sense of duty have made her as worthy a repository of our patriotism.

20 The Queen is heir to centuries of strategic compromise, written down in Magna Carta, hammered out in the great reform bills of the 19th century and brought to a durable conclusion by the monarchy's withdrawal from political management under Queen Victoria. By then the monarchy had long since learnt how to cede the stage and share the glory of conquest with Britain's martial heroes, and to endure alongside them.

DOCUMENT B

"Forget the Queen's Jubilee. Let's have a knees-up for the Magna Carta.

If we want parties and pageantry, let's have them to celebrate our story of democracy, not an unelected monarchy".

The Guardian (Sunday 27 May 2012).

The glossy newspaper supplements are out, the *BBC* (supposedly a hotbed of subversive lefties) is preparing wall-to-wall coverage, MPs are going on holiday for two weeks, the populace is ready to put out the flags and the picnic tables. In an orgy of deference, we are celebrating Elizabeth II's 60 years on the throne. If any other country were paying homage to an unelected head of state in this way, while the living standards of the majority of the population fall and schools and hospitals struggle with diminishing resources, we would call it "the cult of the personality" and probably think about invading.

According to *The Guardian/ICM* poll last week, the royal family is more popular than ever, with only 22% believing Britain would be better off without a monarchy, and as few as 10% preferring, on the Queen's death, an elected head of state rather than King Charles or William. As Elizabeth II's supporters never tire of pointing out, the unelected monarch is far more popular than any elected politician.

That is unsurprising. The Queen never has to say anything controversial, allocate resources between competing claims, or take decisions that provoke disagreement. If your job is confined to uttering bland pleasantries, shaking hands and distributing gongs, it is quite difficult to be unpopular.

Elizabeth II has understood all that. She deserves congratulations, though no more than others whose jobs require them to keep their opinions to themselves. It seems that her son and heir lacks the same grasp of what is required. By voicing a range of opinions on alternative medicine, education, GM crops, architecture, organic food and so on, he has made himself so unpopular that, if the succession were subject to an electoral contest, he would, according to the *ICM* poll, lose by nine percentage points to his son William. (...)

It is a miserable prospect for republicans and as the nation joins the celebrations, it would be a better strategy for them to ask how they can instill a more democratic mood in the British population. While Britain claims to be among the world's oldest and most stable democracies, democratic principles have quite shallow roots in our public life. (...)

We hold street parties to celebrate the landmarks of the monarch's life – coronations, jubilees, weddings – but not to mark the major events on the British road to a (partially) democratic constitution. Does anybody recall a knees-up to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1884 Reform Act, or for the 300th anniversary of the Glorious Revolution? Why not a party, an extra bank holiday to celebrate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta?

DOCUMENT C

AUDIO: Queen's 'Jubilee' Friendlier Than Past Celebrations (1 June 2012).

In the programme “All Things Considered” (National Public Radio), Robert Siegel speaks with *Guardian* editor Michael White about this weekend's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Britain. They mark 60 years of the queen's reign — and evolving public perceptions of the royal family.

Source:

<http://www.npr.org/2012/06/01/154170209/queens-jubilee-friendlier-than-past-celebrations>

DOCUMENT D

A picture of Prince Harry during the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony. (*The Daily Mail*, 9 November 2009).



"Standing in for father: Prince Harry lays a wreath on behalf of Prince Charles, who is in Canada"

Source:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1226101/Queen-leads-Remembrance-Day-ceremony-year-World-War-I-veterans.html#ixzz2OXuQrkEJ>