



**gymnase  
de  
nyon**

NOTE :

NOM : \_\_\_\_\_ Prénom : \_\_\_\_\_

**EXAMENS D'ADMISSION AUX GYMNASSES VAUDOIS  
SESSION 2021**

ÉCOLE DE CULTURE GÉNÉRALE ET ÉCOLE DE COMMERCE  
(+MPI)

BRANCHE : ANGLAIS  
SIGLE : EXAD-1C/1E-ANG-02  
EXAMEN : ÉCRIT

**Durée** : 3 heures

**Matériel autorisé** : néant.

**Consignes** :  
- Le candidat rédige les réponses à l'encre de façon soignée.  
- Les feuilles de brouillon sont remises avec l'épreuve.  
- Les feuilles doivent rester agrafées.

**Partie technique** : \_\_\_\_\_ / 30 pts

**Partie compréhension** : \_\_\_\_\_ / 20 pts

**Partie expression** : \_\_\_\_\_ / 28 pts

**Pondération** : **partie technique 20 %, partie compréhension 40 % et partie expression 40 % de la note finale**

**Part one – Use of language****Exercise 1**

**For each sentence, choose the correct answer A, B, C or D. Write your answer in the space provided. / 24 pts**

*Example:*

He <i>didn't</i> ..... what he had to do for homework. a) <i>understood</i> b) <i>understand</i> c) <i>understands</i> d) <i>understated</i>	<u>B</u>
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1. I really like my uncle Jim; he is one of the ..... people I know. a) nicer                    b) nice                    c) nicest                    d) nicerest	.....
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2. You ..... be more careful; this is a dangerous game. a) can                    b) must not                    c) should                    d) should not	.....
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3. On my volleyball team, there are four ..... a) person                    b) woman                    c) mans                    d) men	.....
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4. Are ..... shoes yours? My God, you have big feet! a) there                    b) that                    c) this                    d) those	.....
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5. The sign on the door says pets are not allowed. You ..... leave your dog outside. a) should                    b) can                    c) have to                    d) don't have to	.....
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6. .... are you doing here? You told me you were at work. a) How                    b) What                    c) Which                    d) Where	.....
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7. .... does your aunt live? Is it far? a) Where                    b) What                    c) How                    d) When	.....
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8. My brother is the ..... football player in the world. a) worst                    b) better                    c) baddest                    d) worse	.....
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9. I want ..... garage for my car. a) a more big                    b) a biggest                    c) a bigger                    d) a most big	.....
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10. It ..... a lot in Indonesia during the summer. a) raining                    b) don't rain                    c) is raining                    d) rains	.....
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11. My friend is very shy. He ..... to people he doesn't know. a) doesn't never talk      b) never talks      c) never is talking      d) never talk	.....
12. Right now, Julia ..... a book. a) read      b) reads      c) is reading      d) are reading	.....
13. On Saturday, we ..... to the restaurant. a) always go      b) is always going      c) are always going      d) always goes	.....
14. My parents ..... to my teacher yesterday. a) spoken      b) spoke      c) speaked      d) were spoken	.....
15. I would like to bring ..... presents for my family for Christmas. a) much      b) some      c) a      d) an	.....
16. I received ..... invitation to a wedding. a) a      b) some      c) much      d) an	.....
17. If you look ..... the sun for too long, it will hurt your eyes. a) on      b) in      c) at      d) up	.....
18. When it is cold in winter, I wear a hat ..... my head. a) in      b) on      c) at      d) to	.....
19. I need to take the train from the ..... a) terminal      b) stop      c) station      d) port	.....
20. My mother's brother is my ..... a) aunt      b) nephew      c) niece      d) uncle	.....
21. In Switzerland, most families have only two ..... a) child      b) children      c) childs      d) kid	.....
22. My favorite season is ..... I like warm weather. a) winter      b) summer      c) fall      d) Christmas	.....
23. She wants ..... a beautiful portrait of her mother. a) paint      b) painting      c) painted      d) to paint	.....
24. Would you like to go to a tropical island on your next .....? a) holiday      b) travel      c) spare time      d) weekday	.....

**Exercise 2**

**Transform the sentences into a question (Q), a negative (N) or a positive (P) sentence. Write full sentences. Pay attention to spelling. /6 pts**

*Example:*

<i>Would they like some water?</i>
<b>P:</b> <i>They would like some water.</i>

1. This is the worst day of my life!
<b>N:</b>
2. You don't have to come to my birthday.
<b>P:</b>
3. It can be very difficult.
<b>Q:</b>
4. The cat walked into my room.
<b>N:</b>
5. She knows the difference between these two pictures.
<b>Q:</b>
6. Your parents are eating dinner.
<b>Q:</b>

**Part two – Reading comprehension****Read the text and answer the questions that follow.**

## Playing For Laughs: How Humour Made Us Human

Adapted from The Day 2020, National Geographic 2018

*Is laughter a question of survival? A new theory suggests that a good sense of humour might be a sign of intelligence, making us more desirable and giving us an evolutionary advantage.*

Earlier this year, as Covid-19 spread and the world closed the shutters, some observers noticed something strange. In a time of uncertainty and fear, they thought, when almost everyone was blocked indoors all day without a time limit, comedy should have become silent.

- 5 But no. Instead, Covid generated a lot of Internet memes, as thousands of people wanted to forget about the crisis. It seemed that the best remedy for the virus – at least while we waited for a vaccine – was laughter<sup>1</sup>.

**But what is laughter really for?**

- 10 There is no doubt that it has an evolutionary origin. Monkeys, which are closely related to human beings, have been observed laughing and even making jokes. Koko the celebrity gorilla used to hold a plastic tube to her nose, say in sign language that she was an elephant, and pretend to drink juice through her “trunk<sup>2</sup>”.

Koko, the gorilla that died in her sleep at age 46, was famous for her emotions and her ability to communicate in sign language.

- 15 She became an international celebrity, with a vocabulary of more than 1,000 signs and the ability to understand 2,000 words of spoken English, according to *The Gorilla Foundation*.

*National Geographic* magazine included Koko on its cover twice: First in October 1978, with a photograph that she took of herself in a mirror (making it one of the

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<sup>1</sup> laughter: le rire

<sup>2</sup> trunk: trompe d'un éléphant

20 earliest animal selfies. She also appeared a second time on the cover in January 1985, in a story about Koko and her pet kitten<sup>3</sup>.

Koko became the most visible member of her species, the western lowland gorilla<sup>4</sup>, which is considered critically endangered by the *International Union for Conservation of Nature*.

25 "Because she was smart enough to comprehend and use aspects of our language, Koko could show us what all big monkeys are capable of: reasoning about their world, and loving and being sad for the other beings they become attached to," says Barbara King, professor of anthropology.

### **A bit of history**

30 Throughout history, thinkers have tried to explain why we laugh. In the 17th Century, the English philosopher Thomas Hobbes said that we laugh at others to prove our superiority over them.

A century later, German thinker Immanuel Kant wrote that we laugh when something creates an expectation<sup>5</sup> that is then neutralised. So in a joke like the classic, "Why did the chicken cross the road?" we expect to hear a punchline, but instead we end up with an ordinary answer: "To get to the other side".

Another German philosopher, Arthur Schopenhauer, suggested that humour was caused by irregularities in our language. Sometimes very different objects can be grouped under the same name: both a tiny Chihuahua and a huge Labrador are called "dog", for example. Observing this incoherence can create laughter.

40 Psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud had a different explanation. He believed that humans have animal instincts that we hide in order to live with each other peacefully in society. Humour allows us to let go these instincts harmlessly<sup>6</sup>: so when we mock another person, we let go of our aggression towards others without actually hurting them.

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<sup>3</sup> kitten: chaton

<sup>4</sup> Western Lowland Gorilla: espèce de gorille

<sup>5</sup> expectation: une attente

<sup>6</sup> harmlessly: sans faire de mal

**Now**

Today, scientists think that laughter could help us establish friendships with people. They have discovered that human beings laugh differently with friends than we do  
50 around strangers. The better we can imitate a friendly laugh with a stranger, the more they will probably trust us.

Now a new book, *The Comedy of Error*, by Professor Jonathan Silvertown from the University of Edinburgh, says that a good sense of humour is a sign of intelligence, which is a key indicator for natural selection. A more intelligent individual will be  
55 more desirable to others, guaranteeing that their genes are transmitted.

But some think that scientists are wrong to look for one single explanation for the origins of laughter. They suggest that laughter is not just biological, but also cultural and social. Even if it has an evolutionary origin, humans can use laughter to do things never intended by our evolution.

**60 Is laughter a question of survival?**

Yes, say some. They believe that laughter helped the human race develop its present extraordinary intelligence, by choosing cleverer individuals who made better jokes than others. They also suggest that laughter played – and continues to play – a vital role in creating strong communities of people and guarantees that everyone in them  
65 is comfortable.

No, say others. They think that it is too simple to see laughter as only a result of evolution. We developed thumbs to help us use tools<sup>7</sup>, but we can now use them for communication, and a variety of other functions for which they did not develop. In the same way, they say, we should study the social functions of laughter, instead of  
70 looking for a single, evolutionary explanation.

**What do we know?**

Most people agree that laughter brings some surprising health<sup>8</sup> benefits. It relaxes the body and releases endorphins<sup>9</sup> – chemicals that contribute to our sense of feeling

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<sup>7</sup> tool: outil

<sup>8</sup> health: santé

<sup>9</sup> to release endorphins: libérer de l'endorphine (hormone)

75 good. It also burns calories: 10 to 15 minutes of laughter burns around 40 calories. Laughter can intensify blood circulation, which is good for the heart, and reinforces the immune system. Some studies have shown that people who laugh frequently live much longer than those who do not.

**What do we *not* know?**

80 There is some debate over what laughter can do for our sense of control. On the one hand, laughter often involves an absence of control: it makes our muscles go weak, and can even block rational thought. When we like someone or want to make a good impression, we laugh more than we should. We even talk about "uncontrollable laughter". But the ancient philosophers thought that laughter was a way of  
85 restoring<sup>10</sup> control. By laughing about a problem, we show that we have not been defeated by it.

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<sup>10</sup> to restore : rétablir



**Exercise 1: For each definition/synonym, find the correct word in the text. The lines are indicated. Always respect the category of words (adjective, noun, verb, etc.) and the spelling. The words follow the order of the text.**

**/ 6 pts**

<i>Example:</i> benefit, help (noun)	<i>advantage</i>
1. expanded (ll.1-7) (verb)	_____
2. part of a window (ll.1-7) (noun)	_____
3. insecurity (ll.1-7) (noun)	_____
4. stopped talking (ll.1-7) (two words) (verb)	_____
5. connected (ll.9-14) (adjective)	_____
6. famous (ll.9-14) (noun used as adjective)	_____
7. dominance (ll.30-36) (noun)	_____
8. end of a joke (ll.30-36) (noun)	_____
9. to make fun of (ll.41-45) (verb)	_____
10. people we don't know (ll.48-55) (noun, plural)	_____
11. one of our fingers (ll.66-70) (noun)	_____
12. logical (ll.80-86) (adjective)	_____

**Exercise 2: Choose the answer that fits best according to the text. The questions follow the order of the text. Write the letter corresponding to your answer in the space provided. / 14pts**

1. During the pandemic, observers found out that
  - A. comedians were very quiet.
  - B. too many people were on the Internet.
  - C. a lot of people tried to make things less tragic.

Answer 1: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Koko the gorilla
  - A. played with an elephant.
  - B. imitated an elephant.
  - C. was killed aged 46.

Answer 2: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Koko could pronounce 2000 words.
  - A. True
  - B. False
  - C. We do not know

Answer 3: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Koko and her pet kitten communicated very well.
  - A. True
  - B. False
  - C. We do not know

Answer 4: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Monkeys like Koko are becoming more and more rare.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. We do not know

Answer 5: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Koko was one of the few big monkeys who could show love and sadness for other beings.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. We do not know

Answer 6: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Which TWO of these interpretations of laughing were NOT illustrated in the ***A bit of history*** section?

- A. We laugh to show that we are better than other people.
- B. We laugh to make people think we are good-looking.
- C. We laugh not to hurt people.
- D. We laugh when what we expect doesn't happen.
- E. We laugh to get people's respect.

Answer 7: \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_

8. We adapt our laughter to the person we are with.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. We do not know

Answer 8: \_\_\_\_\_

9. According to the section ***Is laughter a question of survival?***, people who think that laughing is a question of survival believe that laughing

- A. brings people together.
- B. makes a person more intelligent.
- C. helps people to be healthy.

Answer 9: \_\_\_\_\_

10. According to the section ***Is laughter a question of survival?***, people who think that laughing is not only a question of evolution believe that

- A. the brain doesn't change like the body.
- B. there is not only one explanation.
- C. laughing is a matter of communication.

Answer 10: \_\_\_\_\_

11. What benefit of laughing is NOT listed in the ***What do we know?*** section?

- A. It makes our body work more.
- B. It makes us laugh even more.
- C. It makes us live longer.
- D. It helps our body defend itself.

Answer 11: \_\_\_\_\_

12. According to the last paragraph, everybody agrees that when we laugh we cannot control ourselves.

- A. True
- B. False
- C. We do not know

Answer 12: \_\_\_\_\_

13. The main objective of the article is to illustrate

- A. what effects laughing has on others.
- B. the biological aspects of laughing.
- C. the link between laughing and evolution.

Answer 13: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part three – Writing**

**/ 28 pts**

Write a diary entry (note dans un journal intime) of 180 to 230 words based on *Alien Alert in Seattle*. Imagine Walter is writing in his diary.

Include these three elements:

- A. He explains why he wants to go to Mitrax and do an intergalactic voyage.
- B. He writes about Mr Kent and the fact that he agreed to take him to the spaceship.
- C. He explains his desire to see Karen again after his adventure.

Base your answer on what you know about the story. Use today's date.  
Complete your entry with a greeting.

