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SECTION Langues Etrangères Appliquées

SALLE :

INTITULE DE L'EPREUVE CIVILISATION AMERICAINE
(NANTES ET LA ROCHE) UELM

DU :

NOM DU PROFESSEUR RESPONSABLE : M. ZBIKOWSKI

OBSERVATION DU PROFESSEUR : ECRIVEZ TOUTES LES DEUG LIGNES S.V.P.

Part One. Summarize the following text in 100 words, \pm 10%. (40 points)

Indicate how many words you have used.

Jose Guzmán did the right thing. On a cold night in the rock-and-sand desert of Cañon de la Marrana on the Mexican border, he abandoned an easy journey into the U.S. — the border patrol was not in sight — to stay with a woman who had injured her ankle as she ran north toward California. What really angered Guzmán, as he waited for a Mexican rescue patrol to take him to the nearest town, was having to re-enter the U.S. illegally in the first place. After working illegally in a Los Angeles lumberyard for five years, he was caught in a police check in January. He was deported to Mexico one month later. Guzmán believes he knows who to blame. "Damn Arabs," he said. "Ever since the Twin Towers, it has been: 'Get out of here!'"

Mexico was not one of Osama bin Laden's targets, but it has been affected all the same. For a time, Mexicans had reason to hope their lives would get simpler, as Mexican President Vicente Fox put pressure on the U.S. to legalize the status of immigrants like Guzmán and set up a guest-worker program for those who haven't crossed the border into the U.S. yet. The program was a high priority for President George W. Bush in the days following his last meeting with President Fox. For five days, to be precise. Their summit was on September 5.

Since then, the hopes for Fox's plan have decreased. Rather than seeing the border with Mexico as a gateway for the easy circulation of goods and people, since September 11 the U.S. has seen it principally as a security problem. Both the Americans and the Mexicans have increased their surveillance of the border. It has become much more difficult for Mexicans to enter the U.S. illegally.

(Adapted from Time magazine)

Part Two. Write an essay of about 400 words on ONE of the two subjects. (60 points)

1. Today, most Americans try to respect and honor the national origins of the different immigrant groups that make up the nation. Is this dangerous for American national identity and for national cohesion?

2. In the American federal system, what are some of the powers exercised by the States? How can the federal government (Congress, the Supreme Court, the President) limit the powers of the States? Illustrate your essay with examples from American history.