

UNIVERSITE DE NANTES

ANNEE : 2007 / 2008

U.F.R DE LANGUES - CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE LANGUES
LEA

SESSION 1- 1er semestre

DIPLOME : CYCLE LICENCE : NIVEAU 2

DATE : 17/01/2008

UNITE D'ENSEIGNEMENT CONCERNEE : UE 31

HEURE : 7h30

INTITULE DE L'EPREUVE : Civilisation britannique

SALLE : Beauj. Palain

EPREUVE POUR : DA& ASSIDUS

DUREE : 2 h

DOCUMENTS AUTORISES : aucun

NOM DU PROFESSEUR RESPONSABLE : P. CARBONI, B. SELLIN, M. STIRLING, A. THIEC

OBSERVATION DU PROFESSEUR : néant.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON THE ARTICLE :

- 1) What was the immediate occasion which brought about the publication of this article?
- 2) Summarize briefly the topic discussed.
- 3) What portrait is drawn of Gordon Brown by the two journalists (vocabulary used, tone)? Compare it with that of Tony Blair.
- 4) "As recently as a fortnight ago, Brown was on top of the world" (l. 46-7): what unfavourable circumstances are described by the two authors explaining the Prime Minister's position?
- 5) Explain what major change between Tony Blair's and Gordon Brown's premierships is referred to lines 85 to 91 ("Alastair Campbell . . . left out in the cold").

CAN BROWN GET HIS BOUNCE BACK ?

The prime minister faces the biggest test of his political career as his predecessor and Labour insiders express doubts over his sense of direction, write David Cracknell and Alan Schofield

Gordon Brown did not look happy as he took his seat at the Pride of Britain Awards ceremony on Tuesday night at television studios on London's South Bank.

Before the cameras rolled the prime minister sat down at his table, surrounded by celebrities whose names he did not know, and adopted an ogre-ish expression that signalled: "Don't talk to me, I don't want to talk to you."

Only when the signal was given that the cameras were rolling and the programme was going "for a take" did Brown's face light up with a smile.

The event was organised by the Daily Mirror, the Labour-friendly tabloid newspaper. But Brown did not appear to feel close to anybody that night.

It should have been a happy occasion. Tuesday was supposed to have been a key day in his "relaunch". Labour was making all the moves to regain the initiative after David Cameron's successful speech at the Conservative party conference in Blackpool and the fallout from Brown's decision last weekend not to call a snap election.

[...]

Brown looked tired and haggard. His attempted joke about there being only 26 signatures on the No 10 website calling for an election this year fell flat. (By this weekend there were more than 12,000 names on the petition.) [...]

To make matters worse, an opinion poll on Friday confirmed the findings in last week's Sunday Times survey by YouGov that Cameron was three points clear of Labour. One in three people now thinks that the Tory leader would make the best prime minister.

Last week insiders revealed that following the disastrous performance at prime minister's questions, Brown was "very depressed". [...]

AS recently as a fortnight ago, Brown was on top of the world. He enjoyed double-digit opinion poll leads and left the Labour party conference in Bournemouth looking unstoppable. His first speech as Labour leader had left some activists in tears — not least the emotional Lord Kinnock, the former party leader. [...]

One insider said: "Gordon's team don't know what to do. There's nowhere to turn. They knew before the start of the Tory conference that they could have got a 100-seat majority. But the political initiative was squandered."

Having been silent for three months, his predecessor Tony Blair, looking tanned and well in his new role as Middle East peace envoy, has for the first time let his views be known to friends.

Blairites this weekend began to exact their revenge on the man who had conducted a guerrilla war against them for more than a decade. The former prime minister was said to be "concerned about what new Labour stands for". In an even more cutting jibe he is said to be "unhappy" at how Brown has handled the past couple of weeks, telling friends that Brown's conference speech was "empty".

Blair had always feared that Brown would come unstuck because of a lack of substance and a fear that he would not continue with aggressive reform.

This weekend it sounded as if the Blairites had given up on Brown. One former minister complained of a "lack of vision". Westminster was thick with talk that key allies such as Alan Milburn would step down at the next election. [...]

Alastair Campbell, another party stalwart, was equally perplexed and was said to be "deeply hurt" at being excluded from the party's election machine. Having been an indispensable strategic adviser for the past three general elections he was smarting at being left out in the cold.

Yet a far more serious issue than a former spin doctor's wounded pride remains: what to do next?

One No 10 official said, "It's a bit like The Candidate [the Robert Redford film]. There's a potent moment when they have won power and the question is asked, 'what do we do now?' There is just no creativity and no energy around Downing Street at the moment and Gordon knows it."

a snap election (1.28): a quickly organised general election.