

UNIVERSITE DE NANTES

ANNEE : 2009/2010

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

SESSION ...1. - Semestre 2

DIPLOME : CYCLE : ...L..... NIVEAU : ...2.....

UNITE D'ENSEIGNEMENT CONCERNEE : ...UE41.....

INTITULE DE L'EPREUVE : ...Civilisation américaine.....

EPREUVE POUR : DA ou DA& ASSIDUS (*rayez la mention inutile*)

DOCUMENTS AUTORISES :aucuns.....

NOM DU PROFESSEUR RESPONSABLE : H. Jane BAYLY (2CMs, 1 TD), Gene ZBIKOWSKY (4 TD), Xavier LEMOINE (2 TD)

OBSERVATION DU PROFESSEUR :

DATE : 18 Mai 20 10

HEURE : 13h30

SALLE : BEAUX HALL 4

DUREE : 3 ...h ...

PART ONE (10 points) :

Answer the following questions in one to three sentences.

1. What is the purpose of the specialized committees in the House and the Senate?
2. What is a lame duck President?
3. What was California proposition 187 of 1994?
4. What were the characteristics of the second great wave of immigration (the "new immigration" 1880-1924) to the U.S.?
5. Why is the press in the U.S. described as "the guardian of democracy?"
6. Why are the Great Lakes important to the American economy?
7. Which states use agribusiness?
8. What is the power of Judicial Review?
9. What is meant by vertical integration in the media industry?
10. What were the most immediate reactions to 9/11 under the Bush Administration?
11. Why has the PATRIOT Act been harshly criticized?
12. How many illegal immigrants are estimated to live in the US in 2008?
13. What is a think tank and what does it do?
14. What is the official religion in the United States?
15. Do Americans have Social Security? Explain.
16. With the decline of the manufacturing sector and the explosion of services, what has been the impact on employment?
17. Very briefly describe the situation of labor unions today.
18. Define "Social Darwinism". How does it relate to the American Dream?
19. What are the 4 characteristics of religion in America?
20. What is a hyphenated American?

PART TWO (10 points) :

CHOOSE BETWEEN OPTION A (ESSAY) AND OPTION B (COMMENTARY)

Write every other line.

OPTION A: WRITE AN ESSAY ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECT:

Does the pervasiveness of religion in America contradict the Constitutional separation of Church and State?

OPTION B: WRITE A COMMENTARY ON THE FOLLOWING TEXT.

Commencement speech by Barack Obama at Knox University on June 4, 2005.

/.../

Like so much of the American story, once again, we face a choice. Once again, there are those who believe that there isn't much we can do about this¹ as a nation. That the best idea is to give everyone one big refund on their government—divvy it up by individual portions, in the form of tax breaks, hand it out, and encourage everyone to use their share to go buy their own health care, their own retirement plan, their own child care, their own education, and so on.

In Washington, they call this the Ownership Society. But in our past there has been another term for it—Social Darwinism—every man or woman for him or herself. It's a tempting idea, because it doesn't require much thought or ingenuity. It allows us to say that those whose health care or tuition may rise faster than they can afford—tough luck. It allows us to say to the Maytag workers who have lost their job—life isn't fair. It let's us say to the child who was born into poverty—pull yourself up by your bootstraps. And it is especially tempting because each of us believes we will always be the winner in life's lottery, that we're the one who will be the next Donald Trump, or at least we won't be the chump who Donald Trump says: "You're fired!"

But there is a problem. It won't work. It ignores our history. It ignores the fact that it's been government research and investment that made the railways possible and the internet possible. It's been the creation of a massive middle class, through decent wages and benefits and public schools that allowed us all to prosper. Our economic dependence depended on individual initiative. It depended on a belief in the free market; but it has also depended on our sense of mutual regard for each other, the idea that everybody has a stake in the country, that we're all in it together and everybody's got a shot at opportunity. /.../

¹ "How does America find our way in this new, global economy? What will our place in history be?"