

**UNIVERSITÉ DE TOULON ET DU VAR
FACULTÉ DES LETTRES ET SCIENCES HUMAINES**

SESSION / SEMESTRE	: session 1, semestre 1
DÉPARTEMENT	: LLCE anglais
CODE U.E. / ANNÉE	: 13b / 2009-2010
MATIÈRE	: civilisation américaine
DURÉE de l'ÉPREUVE	: 1h30
DATE ET HEURE	: 6 janvier 2010, 8h00 – 11h00
SALLE	: amphi W 300
ENSEIGNANT	: P.-F. Peirano
DOCUMENTS AUTORISÉS:	néant

I. Answer **two** of the following four questions (8 pts).

- Why has the United States been called "a nation of immigrants"?
- On which notions is the American economic model founded? In which period(s) did this model flourish and expand?
- In the colonial period, what were the main three "areas" in the Thirteen Colonies? Why were they different from one another?
- Which institutions represent the three branches of power at the federal level?

II. Text commentary (12 pts).

On "American individualism".

This text is an extract from the final speech given by Herbert Hoover in his electoral campaign, at Madison Square Garden, New York, shortly before the presidential elections of 1928 – which he went on to win.

We have demonstrated that we can meet any economic problem and still maintain our democracy as master in its own house, and that we can at the same time preserve equality of opportunity and individual freedom.

In the last fifty years we have discovered that mass production will produce articles for us at half the cost they required previously. We have seen the resultant growth of large units of production and distribution. This is big

business. Many businesses must be bigger, for our tools are bigger, our country is bigger. [...]

One of the great problems of government is to determine to what extent the government shall regulate and control commerce and industry and how much it shall leave it alone.

The wisdom of our forefathers in their conception that progress can only be attained as the sum of the accomplishment of free individuals and hard work has been reinforced by all of the great leaders of the country since that day. Jackson, Lincoln, Cleveland, McKinley, Roosevelt, Wilson, and Coolidge have stood unalterably for these principles.

And what have been the results of our American system? Our country has become the land of opportunity to those born without inheritance, not merely because of the wealth of its resources and industry, but because of this freedom of initiative and enterprise. Russia has natural resources equal to ours. Her people are equally industrious, but she has not had the blessings of one hundred and fifty years of our form of government and of our social system.

By adherence to the principles of decentralized self-government, ordered liberty, equal opportunity, and freedom to the individual, our American experiment in human welfare¹ has yielded² a degree of well-being unparalleled in all the world. It has come nearer to the abolition of poverty, to the abolition of fear of want³, than humanity has ever reached before. Progress of the past seven years is the proof of it. This alone furnishes the answer to our opponents. [...]

Prosperity is a job for every worker; it is the safety and the safeguard of every business and every home. A continuation of the policies of the Republican Party is fundamentally necessary to the further advancement of this progress and to the further building up of this prosperity.

"Madison Square Address by Herbert Hoover", in
The New Day: Campaign Speeches of Herbert Hoover, 1928.

¹ welfare: *le bien-être* (the Welfare State: *l'Etat-providence*).

² to yield (here): *produire*.

³ want (here): *le besoin*.