

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

SESSION / SEMESTRE	: session 2, semestre 1
DÉPARTEMENT	: LLCE anglais
CODE U.E. / ANNÉE	: 13b / 2009-2010
MATIÈRE	: civilisation américaine
DURÉE de l'ÉPREUVE	: 1h30
DATE ET HEURE	: 15 juin 2010, 14h – 17h
SALLE	: Y' 008
ENSEIGNANT	: P.-F. Peirano
DOCUMENTS AUTORISÉS:	néant

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

- What were the main stages in the expansion of the American territory throughout the 19th century?
- What were the main causes of the American Civil War (1861-1865)?
- On what notion(s) is the American economic model based?
- How was the United States respectively led to take part in the two world wars?

II. Text commentary (12 pts).

The Marshall Plan.

This speech was given by Secretary of State George C. Marshall at Harvard University, on June 5th, 1947, two years after the end of the Second World War and at the beginning of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, while the European countries were still faced with enormous economic difficulties.

I need not tell you gentlemen that the world situation is very serious. [...] Furthermore, the people of this country [the United States] are distant from the troubled areas of the earth and it is hard for them to comprehend the plight¹ of

¹ The plight: *la situation désespérée.*

the long-suffering peoples², and the effect of those reactions on their governments in connection with our efforts to promote peace in the world.

The truth of the matter is that Europe's requirements for the next three or four years of foreign food and other essential products are such that she must have substantial additional help or face economic, social, and political deterioration of a very grave character.

The remedy lies in breaking the vicious circle and restoring the confidence of the European people in the economic future of their own countries. [...] The consequences to the economy of the United States should be apparent to all. It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace.

Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine, but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist. An assistance that this Government may render in the future should provide a cure³ rather than a mere palliative. Any government that is willing to assist in the task of recovery will find full cooperation, I am sure, on the part of the United States' Government. Any government which maneuvers to block the recovery of other countries cannot expect help from us. [...]

An essential part of any successful action on the part of the United States is an understanding on the part of the people of America of the character of the problem and the remedies to be applied. Political passion and prejudice⁴ should have no part. With foresight, and a willingness on the part of our people to face up to⁵ the vast responsibility which history has clearly place upon our country, the difficulties I have outlined⁶ can and will be overcome.

From the *U.S. Department of State Bulletin*, June 15th, 1947.

² Be careful! A people: *un peuple* / the peoples: *les peuples*.

³ A cure: *un remède*.

⁴ Prejudice: *les préjugés*.

⁵ To face up to: *se mesurer à*.

⁶ To outline: *exposer les grandes lignes*.