

1^{ère} SESSION2^e SEMESTRE

U.F.R. DE LANGUES Département : ANGLAIS (L.L.C.E.) Diplôme : Licence U.E. 44 LV2	Date: lundi 9 mai
Intitulé de l'épreuve : Documents autorisés : aucun Durée : 3 Heures	Heure: 8h30.
Nom du professeur responsable : Elaine Kennedy-Dubourdieu Observations : Bien suivre les consignes ci-dessous :	Salle: CIL 405

ETUDIANTS ERASMUS :

Vous devez obligatoirement préciser sur votre copie vos : Nom, Prénom, Université et pays d'origine ainsi que le nom de l'enseignant responsable de votre programme en France.

CONSIGNES : Votre travail sera évalué sur le contenu et la justesse de votre expression en anglais. Relisez soigneusement votre copie avant de la rendre.

A) Cours magistral : The 'Racial' History of the United States.

Answer the 2 questions below, using what you know about American 'racial' history. If you wish, you can also illustrate your answers with examples taken from literature, films or songs that you might know.

Question 1:
Minimum 12 lines

What exactly was/is the Ku Klux Klan? Who created it in 1865 and for what reasons? Has it totally disappeared today?

Question 2
Minimum 12 lines

It is often said that there were two periods of "reconstruction" in American history. The first came at the end of the Civil War in 1865 and the second, almost a century later, during the 1950s and 1960s, along with the Civil Rights Movement.

Why was this 'second reconstruction' necessary?

Would you say that it was a complete success and that all the battles for 'racial' equality have been won in the United States?

B.) Lecture de documents

Answer the following questions using the extracts which you will find on the next page:
/ 30

1) What is meant by the terms the 'American Dream' and the 'American Way of Life'? /10
(Minimum 8 lines)

2) Since the 1950s and 1960s people's belief in this 'American Dream' seems to have changed. In what way? How has this happened? /10
(Minimum 8 lines)

2) What is the American 'character' / 'mentality' said to be? What historical events helped to shape (façonner) this 'character' / 'mentality'? /10
(Minimum 8 lines)

[...] The feeling an American dreads most is that of being "struck"—held fast in the mud of an environment where everything seems stagnant. In many areas of Europe and the Far East this has been men's destiny for centuries, but to an American it seems a violation of everything he has felt about life. The sensation of being trapped is the ultimate indignity. So he moves. And his moving keeps alive his sense of social possibility, the belief that something can happen; and as long as something can happen all is not lost.

This hope and the accompanying mood of adventure are a clue to the impact the **internal migrations have had on the American character**. They serve to explain why each **new frontier**, and especially the Far Western one, has been romanticized in the folk imagination. Buffalo Bill¹, Kit Carson² and the other Indian Scouts³, General Custer⁴, the "Silver kings"⁵ of the Comstock lode⁶, and even "bad-men" like Billy the Kid⁷ have become type figures of a tradition which has run itself out in the "Westerns", the movies, and the pulp fiction⁸.

Max LERNER, *America as a Civilization*. Simon and Schuster, 1957.

1. Buffalo Bill (1846–1917): an American cowboy and Pony Express rider who fought against the Sioux.
2. Kit Carson (1809–1868): an explorer of the West.
3. Indian Scouts: those who were sent out to gather information about terrain and the movements of Indians during the Indian Wars.
4. General Custer (1839–1876): an officer in the US Army who fought the Indians. He died during the battle of Little Bighorn.
5. Silver kings: alludes to those who got rich from silver mining.
6. Comstock lode: rich deposits of silver in Nevada.
7. Billy the Kid (1859–1881): another of America's folk heroes, a bandit and bank robber.
8. Pulp fiction: name given to cheap, sensational fiction.



"I was looking for my piece of the American Dream when I bought this truck... now I'm looking for a parking space."

Chris WILDT, cartoonstock.com.

buldeger

[...] We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain **in-
alienable Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness —That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of, the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object,

[...] The American Way of Life is individualistic, dynamic, pragmatic. It affirms the supreme value and dignity of the individual; it stresses incessant activity on his part, for he is never to rest but is always to be striving to "get ahead"; it defines an ethic of self-reliance, merit, and character, and judges by achievement: "deeds, not creeds" are what count. The American Way of Life is humanitarian, "forward looking", optimistic. Americans are easily the most generous and philanthropic people in the world, in terms of their ready and unstinting response to suffering anywhere on the globe. The American believes in progress, in self-improvement, and quite fanatically in education. But above all, the American is idealistic. Americans cannot go on making money or achieving worldly success simply on its own merits; such "materialistic" things must, in the American mind, be justified in "higher" terms, in terms of "service" or "stewardship" or "general welfare". Because Americans are so idealistic, they tend to confuse espousing an ideal with fulfilling it and are always tempted to regard themselves as good as the ideals they entertain: hence the amazingly high valuation most Americans quite sincerely place on their own virtue. And because they are so idealistic, Americans tend to be moralistic: they are inclined to see all issues as plain and simple, black and white, issues of morality. Every struggle in which they are seriously engaged becomes a "crusade". [...]

Will HERBERG, *Protestant, Catholic, Jew*, Anchor Books, 1955.

Firstly describe the photograph below in detail:

How old are the children? What are they wearing? What are they doing? etc

Secondly make suppositions about the photograph:

What period might this be? Where might the photograph have been taken? Where might the children be going? What might have happened after the photograph was taken?

You can also imagine some dialogue between the two children if you like

