

UE : 12	CODE : ANA 25A	
DURÉE : 2h	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RÉGIME NORMAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RÉGIME SALARIE
INTITULÉ : Civilisation britannique		
Documents autorisés : Aucun		

QUESTIONS

- I. Introduce the document in an organised way and outline its structure in a summary of the text (7)
- II. Synthesis. Explain in an organised way the reasons for the diversity of religious schools in the UK and the debate around faith schools in the context of multiculturalism. You should refer to your knowledge gained from your Civilisation class and the elements in the text. (7)
- III. Define the terms in bold type (6)

Two thirds oppose state-aided faith schools

Matthew Taylor, education correspondent
The Guardian, Tuesday 23 August 2005

1. Faith schools, a central plank of the government's education reforms designed to increase parental choice, are opposed by almost two thirds of the public.

2. A Guardian/ICM poll published today shows that most respondents are against ministers' plans to increase the number of religious schools amid growing anxiety about their impact on social cohesion. The survey reveals that following **last month's terror attacks**, the majority of the public are uneasy about the proposals, with 64% agreeing that "the government should not be funding faith schools of any kind".

3. The government is due to publish proposals in the autumn which will make it easier for **independent schools**, including Islamic, Christian and Jewish institutions, to opt into the state sector, accessing millions of pounds in funding. The Department for Education and Skills has already given the Association of Muslim Schools £100,000 to make the transition smoother* for more of the 120 independent Islamic schools.

4. Yesterday **Barry Sheerman**, chairman of **the Commons** education select committee, warned that **religious schools posed a threat to the cohesion of multicultural communities**. "Do we want a ghettoised education system?" asked Mr Sheerman. "Schools play a crucial role in integrating different communities and the growth of faith schools poses a real threat to this. These things need to be thought through very carefully before they are implemented*"

5. There are currently around 7,000 faith schools in England, 600 secondary and 6,400 primary. The vast majority [6,955] are Christian, with 36 Jewish, five Muslim and two Sikh schools. At the moment the schools must meet stringent* criteria, including teaching **the national curriculum** and have buildings "which are fit for purpose", before they are accepted into the state system, but this process is being reviewed*. Once in the system the schools receive capital funding and their day-to-day running costs are met.

6. Earlier this year the chief inspector of schools, **David Bell**, criticised **Islamic schools**, saying they posed **a challenge to the coherence of British society**. In a speech to the Hansard society, Mr Bell said that "traditional Islamic education does not entirely fit pupils for their lives as Muslims in modern Britain".

7. But last night the Association of Muslim Schools said faith schools "turned out rounded* citizens, more tolerant of others and less likely to succumb to criminality or extremism" Muhammad Mukadam, chairman of the association and **head** of the latest Islamic secondary school to be given government backing*, said: "We give our young people confidence in who they are and an understanding of Islam's teaching of tolerance and respect which prepares them for a positive and fulfilling role in society. I have letters from **further education colleges** and universities commenting on how well our students mix and interact with other people and that comes from security."

8. Dr Mukadam, head teacher of the Leicester Islamic Academy, which reopens as a state school in 2007, said none of the British Muslims convicted* following the riots in Bradford and Oldham in 2001 or any of those linked to the London bombings had been to Islamic secondary schools. "Often Muslim children in mixed secondary schools feel isolated and confused about who they are. This can cause disaffection and lead them into criminality, and the lack of a true understanding of Islam can ultimately make them more susceptible* to the teachings of fundamentalists."

9. The Guardian/ICM poll found that a quarter of respondents felt faith schools were an important part of the education system and that if Christian and Jewish schools had state backing, the government should also fund Muslim schools. Eight per cent said that Christian and Jewish schools should be funded but not Muslim schools.

10. Keith Porteous Wood, director of the National Secular Society, said the two thirds opposed to government funding for faith schools reflected the public's unease about the growing influence of religious organisations in education.

Vocabulary

smoother*= easier implemented*=enforced stringent*=drastic rounded*=complete
reviewed*=examined backing*=support convicted*=condemned susceptible*=easily influenced