



ORAL HEC Paris 2025

ANGLAIS LVA et LVB

Filière économique et Commerciale Générale
Programme Grande École

I. Composition et déroulement des épreuves

Le jury, composé de quinze membres, a interrogé l'ensemble des candidats admissibles en LVA (671 candidats avec des notes de 4,5 à 20 et un écart type de 3,08) et en LVB (67 candidats avec des notes de 7 à 20 et un écart type de 2,91) couvrant l'intégralité de l'éventail des notes.

Dans la majorité des cas, les candidats les plus performants n'étaient pas des « native speakers », mais des candidats particulièrement bien informés sur le monde anglophone, capables de développer des analyses pertinentes et structurées.

Ces candidats se distinguaient également par leur maîtrise du format de l'épreuve, consistant en :

- Un résumé du texte d'environ 2 à 3 minutes ;
- Suivi d'un commentaire analytique de 4 à 5 minutes.

Les meilleures prestations se caractérisaient par un vocabulaire riche et nuancé, un discours fluide et une interaction naturelle avec les examinateurs. Ces échanges prenaient la forme d'une conversation approfondie, où le candidat exprimait sa réflexion et son esprit critique.

II. Description des épreuves

1. Longueur et structure des textes

- Anglais LVA : texte de 550 à 650 mots (+/- 10 %).
- Anglais LVB : texte de 450 à 550 mots (+/- 10 %).

2. Exemples d'articles proposés

LVA

- **“Canada to partner with Australia on early warning det**
CBC News, March 18, 2025.
Prime Minister Mark Carney announced investments into the military's infrastructure and presence in the Arctic and into Nunavut infrastructure while visiting its capital of Iqaluit on Tuesday — the first domestic trip of his leadership of Canada. Carney announced Canada will be working alongside Australia to build an early warning radar system along the Canada-U.S. border into the Arctic. Canada is investing more than \$6 billion into the project, money that was already outlined in the modernization plan for the North American Aerospace Defense Command announced in 2022.
- **“Milkshake tax looms in broader sugar levy”**, *The Times*, April 29, 2025.
Milkshakes and lattes are set to be hit by a sugar tax for the first time as Labour moves to extend the levy to hundreds more soft drinks including San Pellegrino and Ribena. Packaged milkshakes and coffees will be covered by the levy.[...]
In a move that goes further than expected, ministers said it was time to be more ambitious on unhealthy drinks, announcing that they will also lower the sugar content threshold at which the tax applies, catching some of Britain's best-known brands and supermarket products which had changed recipes to avoid the previous levy.
- **“Democrats Hate Trump’s Policy Bill, but Love Some of Its Tax Cuts”**,
The New York Times, June 9, 2025.
There’s an undercurrent of Democratic support for elements of President Trump’s tax agenda, a dynamic that Republicans are trying to exploit as they make the case for enactment of their sprawling domestic legislation.
- **“UK examines ending low value import scheme over ‘dumping’ of goods”**, *The Financial Times*, April 23, 2025.
The UK government is exploring ending a scheme used by online retailers to send low-value consignments to Britain free of tariffs, as it readies for a flood of cheap imports following Donald Trump’s trade war with Beijing.
Chancellor Rachel Reeves on Wednesday announced a review of the Low Value Import scheme, which allows £135 worth of goods to be brought into the country without customs duties, after warnings from retailers including Next, Currys and J Sainsbury about the risk from cheap Chinese imports.
- **“RFK Jr. Unveils Plan to Phase Out Artificial Food Dyes”**, *The Wall Street Journal*, April 22, 2025.
The article reports that Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and the FDA plan to phase out petroleum-based synthetic food dyes—such as Red 40,

Yellow 5 and 6, Green 3, and Blue 1 and 2—by the end of 2026. The agencies aim to replace them with natural color alternatives, citing health concerns about chemical exposure, particularly for children.

While supporters praise the move as part of Kennedy’s “Make America Healthy Again (MAHA)” initiative, food industry groups argue that these dyes are already deemed safe and warn of challenges in reformulating products. Some companies, including dairy producers, have begun removing artificial dyes ahead of schedule.

- **“Navigating the Economy Amid Deliberate Policy Uncertainty”, *Harvard Business Review*, March 14, 2025.**

Sinking consumer sentiment, wobbly financial markets, and a scattering of disappointing macroeconomic data are stoking fears of a U.S. recession. Even President Trump, saying he “hate(s) to predict things like that,” did not push back when recently asked by Fox News’ Maria Bartiromo whether he expects a recession this year. Right now, there is no evidence today that the fundamentals of the U.S. economy have abruptly deteriorated in the eight weeks since President Trump took the reins. What has changed is the introduction of deliberate uncertainty about policy changes as a political

strategy. “I don’t want people to know exactly what I’m doing—or thinking,” Trump once wrote. “I like being unpredictable.”

- **“Gen Z is leading the charge back to the office”, *The Financial Times*, April 28, 2025.**

Contrary to some stereotypes Generation Z, the cohort born between 1997 and 2012, is leading the charge back to the office, while older generations are more reluctant to return to past patterns of presenteeism. Workers under 24 years old are more likely to be in the office than their older counterparts,

- **“Inside the lives of the million Australians who make up the night-time economy”, *ABC News Australia*, March 17, 2025.**

The article explores the growing world of Australians who work while most of the country sleeps. It follows Abdullah Farzad, an Afghan refugee delivering food through the night, to highlight the often invisible workforce that sustains the nation’s \$174 billion night-time economy. A University of Melbourne study reveals that about one million people—from nurses and cleaners to security guards and delivery riders—work between 6pm and 6am, often facing health risks, irregular schedules, and poor access to basic amenities like toilets and public transport. Despite lower average pay, night-time jobs are on the rise, growing from 3% to 6.6% of all roles between 2012 and 2024.

- **“More than 1,000 musicians join forces on silent album to protest AI law”**, *The Washington Post*, February 27, 2025.
More than 1,000 musicians, including Annie Lennox, Kate Bush and Cat Stevens, have released an album that is mostly silent - except for white noise recorded in empty studios - in protest of a proposed law change in Britain that would give artificial intelligence firms access to copyrighted music. The album "Is This What We Want?" was released Tuesday as U.K. lawmakers consider whether to allow tech companies to use copyrighted works to train their AI models unless artists opt out.
- **“Elections Canada has been in touch with social media platforms about election misinformation”**, *CBC News*, March 24, 2025.
The head of Elections Canada says he has been in touch with social media platforms in an effort to address concerns about misinformation as Canada wades into an election campaign. Chief Electoral Officer Stephane Perrault told reporters on Monday that he has reached out to social media sites such as X and TikTok to "seek their support to making this election a secure election."
- **“UK unions call for action to protect creative industry workers as AI develops”**, *The Guardian*, March 3, 2025.
Action is needed to protect workers in creative industries amid huge changes in technology and artificial intelligence, unions have urged. The TUC said there was an urgent need to put in place “proper guardrails” for workers ranging from artists, writers and journalists to teachers and academics. The union organisation said government proposals for copyright and an AI framework, which are under consultation, needed to go further to protect creative workers.

LVB

- **“The rise of the loner consumer”**, *The Economist*, June 9, 2025
Over the past couple of years, investors have looked more favourably upon companies involved in the out-and-about economy. According to OpenTable, a booking website, in Germany the number of seated restaurant diners in early June was 10% higher than a year ago. In a sense, then, covid-19 is truly in the rear-view mirror. Yet the pandemic continues to cast a long shadow. For although people are getting out of the house, they are increasingly doing so alone.
- **“UK ban on zero-hours contracts ‘to include agency workers’”**, *The guardian*, March 4, 2025.
Agency workers will reportedly be included in a ban on “exploitative” zero- hours contracts as part of changes to the UK government’s employment bill.

Under the new rules, employers will have to offer agency workers a contract that guarantees a minimum number of hours every week, the BBC reported. Agency workers who choose to be on zero-hours contracts will be eligible for compensation if their shifts are changed at short notice. It is one of a number of amendments to the government's employment rights bill, which will be presented on Tuesday. Labour has promised repeatedly to ban "exploitative zero-hours contracts". According to the BBC, the government still has to decide whether the minimum hours offered

- **"A US brain drain could be Canada's brain gain"**, *CBC News*, March 30, 2025.
Over the last few months, academics and scientists in the U.S. have been scrambling to keep their footing on swiftly eroding ground, amid massive Donald Trump-ordered funding cuts and new restrictions. But although a weakening of the American scientific community has far-reaching impacts on the global academic landscape, experts say one side effect could be top talent from the U.S. coming to Canada.
- **"Carney vows to govern for all Canadians after winning election upended by Trump"**, *CBC News*, April 28, 2025.
Mark Carney achieved what seemed like an impossible feat just a few months ago, leading the Liberals to another victory after an election that was shaped by U.S. President Donald Trump's trade war and threats of annexation.[...] Carney, a central banker who only jumped into Canadian politics in January, successfully reversed his party's fortunes after polling earlier this year suggested defeat was all but guaranteed.
- **"Life expectancy growth stalls across Europe as England sees sharpest decline, say researchers"**, *The Guardian*, February 19, 2025.
England suffered the largest decline in life expectancy improvement, with a fall in average annual improvement of 0.18 years, from 0.25 between 1990 and 2011 to 0.07 between 2011 and 2019. The second slowdown of life expectancy growth in Europe was in Northern Ireland, followed by Wales and Scotland.
- **"Collections Coming for Millions of Student-Loan Borrowers"**, *The Wall Street Journal*, May 5, 2025.
The Trump administration is starting to put millions of defaulted student-loan borrowers into collections Monday and threatening to confiscate their wages,

tax refunds and federal benefits. There are some five million borrowers whose loans are in default, many of whom haven't made regular payments since the pandemic. Millions more are on the cusp of default, according to the Education Department.

- **“DoorDash to pay N.Y. workers nearly \$17 million for using tips as wages”**, *The Washington Post*, February 25, 2025.
Food delivery company DoorDash will pay out \$16.75 million in a settlement with the New York attorney general's office, which found the app-based ordering service had used the tips that customers gave delivery workers to instead partially pay their wages, Attorney General Letitia James said Monday.
- **“No extra money for NHS and teachers' pay rises, says No 10”**, *The Times*, April 29, 2025.
Schools and hospitals will get no extra cash to fund above-inflation pay rises recommended for teachers and NHS staff, No. 10 has said, leading unions to warn of industrial action if ministers do not change course. The Treasury has budgeted for pay rises of 2.8 per cent and accepting recommendations for higher awards will mean that public services must find savings elsewhere.
- **“Keir Starmer eyes India trip to sign trade deal”**, *Politico*, June 3, 2025.
The U.K. PM has touted the deal as part of his success on the international stage since it was agreed in early May. Keir Starmer plans to formally sign the U.K.-India trade deal with Narendra Modi on a visit to India this summer. Starmer has touted the deal as part of his success on the international stage since it was agreed in early May after three years of talks. At the G20 summit late last year, Britain's leader accepted an invitation from Modi to visit India.
- **“School phone bans alone do not improve grades or wellbeing, says UK study”**, *The Guardian*, February 5, 2025.
Banning smartphones at school does not by itself improve academic grades and children's wellbeing, a study suggests. Researchers from the University of Birmingham did find that spending longer on phones and social media in general was linked to lower grades, poor sleep, disruptive behaviour and a lack of exercise. But these outcomes did not differ between schools that banned phones and those that did not.

- **“The ‘Zombie Buildings’ at the Heart of the Office Meltdown”**, *The Wall Street Journal*, April 27, 2025.

Five years after the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, U.S. cities are still struggling to avoid commercial real-estate doom loops. Such “zombie buildings,” left in financial limbo, hurt local economies as nearby businesses lose customers and revenue. The situation underscores how remote work, falling office demand, and debt disputes are dragging down urban recovery, leaving investors with huge losses and neighborhoods struggling to revive.

III. Choix et objectifs des textes

Les articles sélectionnés couvrent une période de six à sept mois précédant la date des épreuves orales. Ce choix vise à permettre aux candidats d’aborder des thématiques d’actualité susceptibles d’avoir été étudiées au cours de leur préparation.

Les textes proviennent de sources anglophones variées et crédibles, notamment : *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Harvard Business Review*, *BBC*, *CNN*, *CBC News*, entre autres.

Le jury veille à garantir une diversité des sources, des thématiques et des styles d’écriture, afin d’évaluer la compréhension globale du monde anglophone et la capacité d’analyse personnelle du candidat.

IV. Attentes du jury

L’épreuve vise à mesurer la réactivité, la pertinence du raisonnement et la capacité à mobiliser des connaissances culturelles, politiques et économiques du monde anglophone.

Le jury rappelle que :

- Le résumé doit durer 2 à 3 minutes ;
- Le commentaire doit durer 4 à 5 minutes.

Le candidat doit éviter un résumé trop détaillé ou descriptif au détriment du commentaire analytique. Le résumé doit se concentrer sur les arguments essentiels ainsi que sur les données significatives (dates, chiffres, noms propres). La référence de la source ou de la date de publication n’est nécessaire que si elle contribue à la compréhension du propos.

V. Erreurs fréquemment observées

- Certains candidats avaient préparé à l'avance des éléments qu'ils souhaitaient intégrer à leur commentaire, sans qu'un lien clair puisse être établi entre ces éléments et le texte proposé.
- Une gestion du temps parfois inefficace : certains candidats ont passé une partie importante de leur commentaire à répéter ou reformuler les mêmes idées, au détriment de l'analyse.
- Une compréhension insuffisante des différences entre les systèmes politiques américain et britannique, entraînant des confusions dans l'argumentation.
- Un manque de compréhension du texte source, conduisant certains candidats à présenter des informations contradictoires ou inexacts.

VI. Observations générales et recommandations

Le jury souhaite attirer l'attention des enseignants de classes préparatoires sur la nécessité de couvrir l'ensemble du monde anglophone dans leur enseignement.

Le programme « actualité du monde anglophone » ne se limite pas aux États-Unis et au Royaume-Uni, mais inclut également le Canada, l'Australie, la Nouvelle-Zélande et l'Afrique du Sud.

Il a été constaté que certains candidats privilégient exclusivement les thématiques américaines et britanniques. Le jury recommande donc que les enseignants veillent à intégrer l'étude d'autres pays anglophones afin de mieux préparer les candidats à la diversité des sujets proposés lors des oraux.

Conclusion

Le jury félicite le niveau globalement élevé des candidats et de la qualité des échanges observés. Les prestations les plus réussies ont mis en évidence une maîtrise linguistique solide, une culture générale approfondie et une capacité à articuler une réflexion personnelle, avec ouverture sur le monde anglophone.