

# Ministère de la culture et de la communication

*Concours réservé « loi Sauvadet » pour l'accès au corps de conservateur du patrimoine, spécialités « archéologie », « monuments historiques et inventaire » et « musées », organisé au titre de l'année 2015*

SESSION 2015

## Épreuve orale d'admission n°2 : épreuve d'anglais

**3 octobre 2016**

La seconde épreuve d'admission consiste en une conversation dans une langue vivante étrangère à partir d'un texte.

La langue vivante étrangère faisant l'objet de cette épreuve est choisie par le candidat lors de l'inscription parmi les langues suivantes: allemand, anglais, arabe, chinois, espagnol, italien, japonais, russe, portugais, polonais.

*(Préparation de l'épreuve : 30 minutes ; durée de l'épreuve : 30 minutes ; coefficient 1).*

### **Avertissement :**

- avant de commencer, vérifiez que le sujet qui vous a été remis comporte toutes les questions ; signalez aux surveillants tout de suite les anomalies éventuelles (page manquante, page illisible...).

**Ce document comporte 2 pages au total.**

SUJET n°2
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## Bagehot | Britain's new ambassadors

The EU renegotiation has made an unlikely diplomat of David Cameron



ALMOST a decade ago a new, ruddy-faced Conservative Party leader urged his comrades to stop “banging on about Europe”. David Cameron was right: his party’s neurosis was making it look clammy and xenophobic. He tried to kill the subject by marginalising it and, whenever his MPs became restless, flashing some Eurosceptic ankle. Hence in 2009 he pulled his party out of the European People’s Party (the EPP, the continent’s main centre-right grouping); in 2011 he tried to block a pact to save the euro zone; and in 2013 he pledged to renegotiate Britain’s membership and put the result to a referendum within four years. Thanks to this last gambit, Mr Cameron must now switch positions: having long played footsie with Eurosceptics and confronted his continental partners, today he must take on the former and flirt with the latter, especially in the build-up to the summit on February 18th at which the 27 other members of the European Council will discuss the draft renegotiation published on February 2nd.

This all amounts to a morality play about the risks of short-termism. Take the domestic picture. Though once mocked as a Tory replica of Tony Blair, Mr Cameron ditched his predecessor’s quest to put Britain at the “heart of Europe”, redefining the EU as a necessary evil. That was risky. As Ken Clarke, a pro-EU former chancellor, warned: “If you want to go feeding crocodiles then you’d better not run out of buns.” Today the prime minister’s bun store looks sparse, his talks having extracted some decent but, to many, paltry concessions. Perhaps 150 of 330 Conservative MPs remain undecided on EU membership, the merits of which were once party orthodoxy. “The mood is hardening,” reports one eminent pro-leadership Conservative MP surprised to find himself contemplating an Out vote, despite the angry civil war raging between different would-be Brexit campaigns. Meanwhile commentators are debating whether Margaret Thatcher would have backed an In vote, none of them having had the common decency to pay for a séance.

Questions swirl about the cabinet. So far five members have come out for Brexit. A larger number, including George Osborne, the chancellor, seem committed to membership. But three especially big Tory names are awaiting Mr Cameron’s deal. Theresa May, the home secretary, has indicated but not confirmed that she will back In. Michael Gove, the justice secretary and a quietly

snappy crocodile, is torn between his ideals and his loyalty to the prime minister. Meanwhile Boris Johnson, the pro-EU mayor of London, is torn between his ideals and his loyalty to his own ambitions. He will back membership only at the last possible moment, as this will mean doing his three least favourite things: hitching his lurching wagon to someone else’s steady train, admitting that Mr Cameron is right and revealing his cards in any future leadership contest.

All of which has forced Mr Cameron and his allies at last to come out with a hearty case for the EU. In a speech hailing the draft deal the prime minister asserted: “Britain is better off, more secure, more prosperous...inside the European Union.” The following day, to some grumbling, he invited his MPs to make up their own minds rather than bow to their local associations. Meanwhile Ms May boasts of her close links with her French and German counterparts and Nick Herbert, the Eurosceptic now running the Conservative pro-EU campaign, phones MPs stressing the case for membership.

In a similar fashion, Mr Cameron’s dealings with his European partners have evolved from tactical raids into relationship-building (see Charlemagne). By quitting the EPP he cut himself off from the EU’s most powerful information-sharing network. His veto in 2011, for example, was not a bold heresy but a misreading of the European mood (the prime minister had expected to trade it away for a change in voting rules). Likewise, in 2014 he alienated partners by ignoring diplomatic advice and mooting a cap on the number of migrants from the EU to Britain. In bilateral meetings last year he even threatened to lead the Out campaign.

But in the past months he has backed out of these positions, partly at Angela Merkel’s behest. Both he and Mr Osborne have toured Europe wooing their counterparts. One adviser claims the prime minister now gets on better with some—especially Mrs Merkel and Mark Rutte, the Dutch prime minister—than with many in his own party. “He got diplomacy pretty late in the day, but better late than never,” agrees Charles Grant of the Centre for European Reform. This has not gone unnoticed in Brussels. “He has rediscovered the art of building relationships with people,” says a European Commission insider, crediting the moderating influence of Tom Scholar and Ivan Rogers, Mr Cameron’s two top advisers on European matters.

### Vanitas vanitatum, omnia vanitas

What does this say about Britain’s prime minister? It is clichéd (and worse, unfair) to claim Mr Cameron is just a breezy toff, an “essay crisis” incumbent. In fact he has strong views about how society should look, works at a rate that would exhaust most and is well aware of his political mortality. He is a versatile and astute chancer. His renegotiation is the product of these traits—and two fundamentals in particular. First, of the many things Mr Cameron has long known and cared a lot about, the EU is not one. Second, his faith in his ability to devise and execute canny manoeuvres exceeds the (albeit impressive) reality. So on matters continental, the PM is a powerful car with a wobbly steering wheel. The result is tactical short-termism from a prime minister otherwise capable of being long-termist—but endowed with the wit and charm to extricate himself from the ensuing scrapes and to keep the show, albeit chaotically, on the road. Expect the coming months to bring theatre, brinkmanship, clever-clever flourishes and ultimately, in all likelihood, an In vote. Whether this circus will have merited the drama and risk is another matter. ■