

***PREMIER, DEUXIEME ET TROISIEME CONCOURS D'ACCES***

***A L'ECOLE NATIONALE DE LA MAGISTRATURE***

***EPREUVE D'ADMISSION***

**SESSION 2011**

EPREUVE ORALE DE LANGUE OBLIGATOIRE  
COMPORTANT LE COMPTE RENDU D'UN TEXTE,  
SUIVI D'UNE CONVERSATION

**Exemples de textes :**

## **Schools should develop children's character, not just their ability to pass exams**

**The best state schools already seek to improve students' achievements through a wider education. We need to do more**

[guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk), Sunday 18 September 2011

Like it or not, character-building is becoming an increasingly important issue for schools. Since the riots in August, it has also come increasingly to the attention of Michael Gove at the education department and indeed of the prime minister and Nick Clegg. An [article I wrote](#) in for the Guardian recently produced a lively response online and in the letters page. My argument was that schools of all kinds have become too much like exam factories, concentrating their energies on securing passes at A to C at GCSE level, and have given too little attention to the overall development of the child and their character (the scramble for results has also been at the cost of genuine learning and creative teaching). The government should embrace character-building and all-round education not as an alternative to academic attainment but as an essential adjunct of it. The opportunities open to those of independent education for wider enrichment should be available to all, regardless of school.

The best state schools are already doing much to develop character. On Friday I visited King Solomon Academy, an [ARK school](#) in west London. It is breathtaking in ambition. Despite the secondary school having three or four times above the national average on free school meals, it has nevertheless the ambition of every single child going to university, with 50% aiming at the [Russell Group](#). The sense of purpose is utterly formidable. The year sevens are called The Class of 2018, as that is when they will graduate in the upper sixth. The school recognises that many of its children arrive at year seven one or two years behind the national average and they have a mountain to climb.

Headteacher Max Haimendorf, the first [Teach First](#) graduate to make it to headship, has travelled around the US and has imbibed much of the thinking of the [charter school movement](#), and specifically of its [Knowledge Is Power Program \(KIPP\)](#), where schools have long academic days, stern discipline, and high academic aspiration.

Indeed, from the first moment at the King Solomon Academy, one is struck by the silence in corridors: even those lining up for assembly do so in silence. Assemblies themselves have a relentless focus on the modelling of good behaviour, high aspiration and the imparting of a common corporate culture, even down to the synchronised hand-clapping. Teachers are told in the staff handbook that "everyone on the team must be on the same page with the same standards for pupil behaviour" and that this is "non-negotiable". Even small student misdemeanours are to be picked up on, and students are instructed very firmly to stand up silently at the beginning of the class, say "bless you" when a peer sneezes and "I'm sorry" when a teacher reprimands them.

*I have never seen a school in Britain, state or independent, with such a high focus on development of character and lofty aspiration. The oldest pupils in the school have just entered year nine. It will be fascinating to see how they respond through the awkward years, and where their destinations will be when they sit A-levels in 2016.*

### **Strauss-Kahn gets his passport back**

Agence France-Presse

26 août 2011

Saskatoon Star Phoenix

Dominique Strauss-Kahn was given back his passport Thursday, his legal team said, clearing the way for the former IMF head to travel abroad for the first time since his arrest three months ago on sex crime charges.

"I can confirm that the New York Police Department and the Office of the District Attorney returned Mr. Strauss-Kahn's passport," Shawn Naunton, from the French politician's legal team, said after a brief visit to his Manhattan home.

Strauss-Kahn has been a free man since Tuesday when a New York judge agreed to a request by prosecutors to drop all charges against him.

The DA's office said it could no longer pursue the case because while Strauss-Kahn did engage in sex with a Manhattan hotel maid, her repeated lying to investigators made it impossible to prove beyond a reasonable doubt her allegations of sexual assault.

"As you all know, Mr. Strauss-Kahn's freedom was restored on Tuesday and the criminal charges were dismissed. It's gratifying to return his passport to him today," Naunton said. Strauss-Kahn is believed to be preparing to return to France, where until his arrest he was seen as a leading prospect to become president in elections next year.

Despite the dismissal of charges, the affair remains a dark cloud over his reputation.

A spokesperson at the International Monetary Fund, where Strauss-Kahn had to give up the leadership in the wake of his arrest, said that a visit was expected "as early as next week."

The IMF, which plays a crucial role in aiding countries in financial straits, was left reeling after Strauss-Kahn resigned as chief in May in the middle of tense negotiations over Greece's massive bailout.

"Like any former managing director of the IMF, Mr. Strauss-Kahn would be welcome to visit the Fund. I understand that he intends to make a personal visit to headquarters," IMF spokesperson David Hawley told a press briefing.

The case against Strauss-Kahn, 62, sensationally collapsed after prosecutors said his accuser, Guinean immigrant Nafissatou Diallo, could no longer be believed.

She had lied both about details of the case and about her background, destroying her credibility in a he-said/ she-said trial.

The maid's lawyer continues to argue that his client has been denied her right to justice and that prosecutors turned their backs on the medical evidence that showed a brief sex act took place in the hotel room. He has filed a civil lawsuit on Diallo's behalf seeking unspecified monetary damages.

An IMF employee, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Thursday that employees "couldn't care less" if Strauss-Kahn, who had headed the 187-nation institution for more than three years, visited.

Former French finance minister Christine Lagarde won the IMF succession battle and took up her post as the new head of the 187-nation Fund on July 5, becoming the first woman to head the key crisis lender.

Saskatoon Star Phoenix

BBC News , 24 February 2011

## **US gay marriage ban: US government drops defence of law**

**The US government says it will no longer defend in the courts a law banning federal recognition of same-sex marriages approved by states.**

US Attorney General Eric Holder said President Barack Obama had found the Defense of Marriage Act (Doma) unconstitutional.

The 1996 law defines marriage as "only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife".

Five states and Washington DC allow same-sex marriages.

Meanwhile, Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie signed same-sex civil unions into law on Wednesday, which will give gay and lesbian couples the same state rights as married partners beginning on 1 January 2012.

Previously, the US had defended the law banning same sex marriage in challenges of its constitutionality. US President Barack Obama had said he supported only same-sex civil unions, though in December he acknowledged his position was "evolving".

White House spokesman Jay Carney said on Wednesday Mr Obama believed Doma was "unnecessary and unfair", but was still "grappling" with his personal views on gay marriage.

In the US, marriage comes under the purview of state law, and Doma, passed under former President Bill Clinton, states that no state or other jurisdiction of the US shall be required to recognise a same-sex marriage approved elsewhere.

The law also requires the federal government to interpret the legal concept of marriage only as a legal union between a man and a woman.

"The president will have to explain why he thinks now is the appropriate time to stir up a controversial issue that sharply divides the nation," said Michael Steel.

In a letter to Mr Boehner and other Congressional leaders on Wednesday, Mr Holder said the Obama administration would not defend the law in two current court challenges brought by same-sex couples.

He said the president, a constitutional lawyer, had deemed the law violated the equal protection provisions of the US constitution.

But Mr Holder said the administration would continue to enforce parts the law requiring government agencies to interpret marriage as only a union between a man and a woman until the law was ruled unconstitutional by a court.

"While both the wisdom and the legality of... Doma will continue to be the subject of both extensive litigation and public debate, this administration will no longer assert its constitutionality in court," Mr Holder wrote.

At stake are thousands of federal benefits afforded to married couples, including Social Security benefits, tax benefits, immigration rights, family leave, military housing and other items.

September 22nd, 2011

## Burqa ban opponent fined by French court

By Saskya Vandoorne, CNN

A woman fighting France's ban on Islamic face coverings was fined 120 euros (\$162) Thursday for wearing a burqa, the first fine handed down by a French court over the controversial law.

Hind Ahmas sought out the punishment so she could take her fight to a higher court, she told CNN. A second woman, Najet Ait Ali, was fined 80 euros (\$108) in the same court appearance.

"I am happy to be fined, since I can now take this to the European Court of Human Rights," Ahmas said. "It's not about the amount I have to pay. It's about the principle," she said, calling the ban "pure provocation. I'm fighting to be able to walk freely in the street."

Rachid Nekkaz, of a group called Don't Touch My Constitution, later turned up at the courthouse with a check to cover the cost of each fine, offering to pay the penalty for every woman fined for wearing a face covering.

The court hearing came after the website of the city of Rennes was defaced by a hacker in protest at the burqa ban and a ban on public street prayers that went into effect last Friday.

"You allow women to walk around half-naked but you don't allow Muslim women to cover their body? Shame on you France, Muslims are people too," read a message posted on the city website.

The site was attacked at about 6 p.m. Monday night and was operating normally again about 24 hours later, said city spokesman Manuel Contin, who said he did not know why Rennes was targeted.

The court did not explain why the two women got different fines. They were not ordered to take citizenship courses - another possible sentence under the law that came into effect in April. They were arrested May 5.

The law allows women who are cited for wearing an illegal veil to pay the fine or perform community service. It reserves harsher treatment for anyone who forces a person to wear a veil. That is punishable by a year in prison and a 30,000 euro fine (about \$43,300). Forcing a minor to wear the veil is punishable by two years in prison and 60,000 euros.

Authorities say the prohibition is necessary for national security reasons as well as to uphold French values of equality, dignity and national identity.

The French Constitutional Council said the law does not impose disproportionate punishments or prevent the free exercise of religion in a place of worship, finding therefore that "the law conforms to the Constitution."

But critics argue the government has no business telling people what clothes to wear or how to practice their religion.