

Devoir surveillé – Modalité : bilan et nuances (épistémique / déontique)

Synthèse des modaux anglais en Terminale LVA : valeurs épistémique et déontique, degrés de certitude, obligation et nuances pour l'écrit argumentatif

Durée : 120 min – Sans document – Sur 20 points · Anglais (LVA) Terminale

Nom : _____ Date : _____ Note : _____ / 20

Les réponses doivent être rédigées et justifiées. Soigne l'orthographe et la présentation.

Exercice 1 – Compréhension écrite

(4 pts)

Read the following text carefully, then answer the four questions in English. WHY EXPERTS SAY “MAY” RATHER THAN “WILL” When a climate scientist announces that sea levels are likely to rise by up to one metre by 2100, the sentence sounds cautious — and it is meant to. Researchers rarely claim that something will happen; they prefer to say that it may, that it could, or that it tends to. This habit is not a sign of weakness. In academic writing, an unqualified statement is a promise that the evidence must keep, and evidence is almost never complete. Journalists, however, work under different pressures. A headline reading “Sea levels could rise” attracts fewer readers than one reading “Sea levels to rise”. The modal disappears, the qualification goes with it, and the public is left with a certainty that no scientist ever expressed. When the prediction is later revised, the same public concludes that the experts were wrong — although, strictly speaking, they had never committed themselves to anything. Learning to read modality is therefore a civic skill as much as a grammatical one. Behind every “must”, “should” or “might” lies a claim about how much the speaker knows, and how much responsibility they are prepared to take. Students who can hear that difference are harder to mislead — and, when they write, far more convincing.

- a) Quote two modal verbs and one non-modal equivalent used in the first paragraph to describe how researchers speak. (1 pt)
- b) In your own words, explain why the author writes that « an unqualified statement is a promise that the evidence must keep ». (1 pt)
- c) According to the text, why does the public end up believing that experts were wrong? Explain the role played by headlines. (1 pt)
- d) Explain the phrase « a civic skill as much as a grammatical one » in about thirty words of your own. (1 pt)

Exercice 2 – Degrés de certitude et déductions

(4 pts)

Complete each sentence with the modal that matches the value given in brackets. Use a past form (modal + have + past participle) where the context requires it.

- a) The office is empty and the alarm is on: everyone ___ gone home. (déduction quasi certaine)
- b) She ___ have received the invitation — it was sent to her old address. (impossibilité logique au passé)
- c) The committee ___ meet again in October, but no date has been set. (possibilité faible)
- d) You ___ have told me earlier; I could have changed my ticket. (reproche)

Exercice 3 – Modalité et discours rapporté*(4 pts)*

Rewrite each sentence in reported speech, beginning with the words provided. Pay attention to the modal, the pronouns and the time markers.

- a) a) « We will announce the results tomorrow, » the jury said. → The jury said. . .
- b) b) « You must not leave the room before the end, » the examiner told us. → The examiner told us. . .
- c) c) « It may be too late to appeal, » the lawyer admitted. → The lawyer admitted that. . .
- d) d) « I should have read the contract more carefully, » he confessed. → He confessed that. . .

Exercice 4 – Registre, atténuation et équivalents non modaux*(4 pts)*

Rewrite each sentence as instructed, keeping the meaning but changing the degree of engagement or the register.

- a) a) « Immigration is the main cause of this crisis. » → Nuance la thèse à l'aide d'un modal et d'un adverbe d'atténuation.
- b) b) « Young people spend more and more time online. » → Réécris la phrase avec tend to.
- c) c) « Send me your answer before Friday. » (courriel professionnel) → Réécris la demande en registre soutenu.
- d) d) « She will can attend the conference next year. » → Corrige la phrase et explique l'erreur en une ligne, en français.

Exercice 5 – Expression écrite*(4 pts)*

« Artificial intelligence will make human expertise obsolete. » Discuss this statement in a single argumentative paragraph.

- a) a) Longueur et structure : 150 à 180 mots, une thèse annoncée dès la première phrase, deux arguments, une concession. (1 pt)
- b) b) Modalité épistémique : emploie au moins quatre modaux différents exprimant des degrés de certitude distincts. (1 pt)
- c) c) Équivalents non modaux : emploie au moins deux tournures parmi be likely to, tend to, be bound to, it is arguable that, be expected to. (1 pt)
- d) d) Point de vue et connecteurs : nuance ta position à l'aide d'au moins trois connecteurs logiques (however, although, admittedly, therefore, to some extent). (1 pt)

Bon courage !