

Devoir surveillé – Nominalisation et style soutenu

Condenser, abstraire et formaliser : la nominalisation au service du style soutenu — grammaire et expression de Tle LVA

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 – Reading comprehension — The two vocabularies of English (4 pts)

Read the following text carefully, then answer the four questions in English, in complete sentences. **THE TWO VOCABULARIES OF ENGLISH** The coexistence of two vocabularies within English is often described as an accident of history. Following the Norman Conquest of 1066, French became the language of the court, of the law and of the administration, while English remained the language of the household and of the field. For nearly three centuries, the two circulated side by side, each in its own domain. When they eventually merged, English emerged with a double lexicon: a short, concrete, Germanic core for everyday exchange, and a longer, abstract, Latinate layer inherited from French and, later, from the scholarship of the Renaissance. The consequence is a vast range of near-synonyms that speakers still exploit today. A speaker may put off a meeting; a report will state that it has been postponed. A detective looks into a case; a commission investigates one. Neither form is inherently superior, yet each carries a social signal, and readers interpret that signal instantly, long before they have examined the argument itself. Written academic English tends to favour the Latinate layer, not out of snobbery, but because abstract nouns allow information to be compressed. « They decided to withdraw » becomes « the decision to withdraw », which can then be qualified, counted, dated, or made the subject of a further claim. Density, rather than elegance, is arguably the true motive behind formal style.

- a) a) According to the text, which historical event explains the existence of two vocabularies in English? Quote the relevant element. (1 pt)
- b) b) What does the text give as the main reason why academic English favours Latinate vocabulary? Answer in your own words. (1 pt)
- c) c) « Neither form is inherently superior, yet each carries a social signal. » Explain what the author implies about the reader's reaction. (1 pt)
- d) d) Explain the phrase « an accident of history » (paragraph 1) and say whether the rest of the text confirms it. (1 pt)

Exercice 2 – Language — Nominalisation (4 pts)

Rewrite each pair of sentences as a single sentence built around a noun phrase. Do not add information.

- a) a) The council decided to close the library. This provoked an outcry among residents. (1 pt)
- b) b) Prices rose sharply last winter. Economists were seriously worried. (1 pt)
- c) c) The scheme failed. It had been badly designed. (Begin with: The failure. . .) (1 pt)
- d) d) Young people rely more and more on social media. Paediatricians consider this worrying. (1 pt)

Exercise 3 – Language — Passive voice and impersonal structures (4 pts)

Rewrite each sentence as indicated, using a passive or an impersonal structure. Keep the original meaning.

- a) a) People believe that the reform has failed. (Begin with: It...) (1 pt)
- b) b) Same sentence, beginning with: The reform... (1 pt)
- c) c) The committee must address these issues before December. (Make it passive and omit the agent.) (1 pt)
- d) d) Someone observed the same phenomenon in Scotland in 2019. (Make it passive.) (1 pt)

Exercise 4 – Language — Register: Latinate verbs and written English (4 pts)

Rewrite each sentence in formal written English. Remove every contraction, phrasal verb, vague quantifier and oral intensifier.

- a) a) They put off the vote and didn't tell anyone. (1 pt)
- b) b) The police are looking into loads of things at the moment. (1 pt)
- c) c) It's really getting worse, and you can see it everywhere. (1 pt)
- d) d) We need to find out why a lot of people gave up the programme. (1 pt)

Exercise 5 – Written expression — A formal paragraph (4 pts)

Write a single paragraph of about 150 words for a school report, arguing whether smartphones should be banned in secondary schools. Respect the four requirements below.

- a) a) Register: about 150 words, no contraction, no get, thing, a lot of, really, or you used in a general sense. (1 pt)
- b) b) Nominalisation: include at least four noun phrases built on a nominalised verb or adjective, and underline them. (1 pt)
- c) c) Impersonality: include at least two impersonal passive structures (It is often argued that..., X has been shown to...). (1 pt)
- d) d) Nuance: include two hedging markers (may, tends to, arguably, to some extent) and one Latinate verb replacing a phrasal verb. (1 pt)

Bon courage !