



ANNALES
OFFICIELLES
2014

CONCOURS
ECRICOME
TREMPLIN 1 & 2

ÉPREUVE ÉCRITE

■ *Test d'anglais*



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ESPRIT DE L'ÉPREUVE

Durée : 1 heure 30

Consignes à lire attentivement

Vous disposez d'un livret et d'une grille de réponse.

Ce livret est un questionnaire à choix multiple (Q.C.M.) comprenant quatre phases de 30 questions à résoudre approximativement en 20 minutes (durée précisée à titre indicatif, afin de gérer au mieux le temps de passation qui ne sera nullement chronométré) :

- 1^{re} phase : Structures
- 2^e phase : Expression écrite
- 3^e phase : Vocabulaire
- 4^e phase : Compréhension

Chaque phase est composée de questions de difficulté variable.

Chaque question est suivie de 4 propositions notées A, B, C, D.

Une de ces propositions, et une seule, est correcte.

- Vous devez utiliser un feutre ou un stylo bille noir pour cocher la case correspondante à votre réponse.
- Vous avez la possibilité de ne noircir aucune réponse.
- Le correcteur blanc est interdit.

Vous devez porter vos réponses sur la grille unique de réponses.

TRES IMPORTANT

Travaillez sans vous interrompre. Si vous ne savez pas répondre à une question, ne perdez pas de temps : passez à la suivante.

Attention, ne répondez pas au hasard :

- Une bonne réponse vous rapporte 3 points ;
- Une mauvaise réponse vous coûte 1 point ;
- L'absence de réponse est sans conséquence (ni retrait, ni attribution de point).

SUJET

■ Section 1 – Structures

This section tests your ability to identify appropriate forms of standard written English.

Directions: each question contains a sentence that is incomplete in some way. Beneath each sentence you will see four words or phrases, marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

Example : John Le Carré ... for his novels on espionage.

- A. famous
- B. is famous
- C. his fame
- D. who is famous

The sentence should read, "John Le Carré is famous for his novels on espionage." Therefore B is the correct answer.

Now begin work on the questions.

1. How ... does a standard room cost at that hotel?

- A. much
- B. important
- C. many
- D. about

2. New Zealand is the country that lies ... from Europe.

- A. farther
- B. further
- C. farthest
- D. furthest

3. He fell asleep ... the meeting.

- A. while
- B. during
- C. when
- D. over

4. I love travelling, but I haven't ... had the chance to go beyond Europe.

- A. still
- B. never
- C. yet
- D. always

5. Have you already ... a motorcycle, or is this your first time?

- A. ride
- B. rode
- C. rid
- D. ridden

6. I wish that I ... going with you to the show, but I have to stay here and work.

- A. will be
- B. were
- C. have been
- D. was

7. If I had tested this product in advance, I ... it.

- A. wouldn't have bought
- B. haven't bought
- C. shouldn't buy
- D. won't buy

8. He'll leave for school as soon as he ... ready.

- A. was
- B. will be
- C. is
- D. is going to be

9. He won't be able to work on this project ... after he returns from his trip.

- A. since
- B. when
- C. until
- D. than

10. He ... when the phone rang, but he got up in time to take the call.

- A. slept
- B. has been sleeping
- C. sleeps
- D. was sleeping

11. Yes, Susan occasionally listens to Baroque composers, but she's really keen ... German Romantic music.

- A. into
- B. on
- C. with
- D. for

12. If you were at my place now, I could help you ... your essay.

- A. rewrite
- B. rewriting
- C. rewrote
- D. rewritten

13. When we start working later hours, we'll have to get ... home in the dark.

- A. use to going
- B. used to going
- C. use to go
- D. used to go

14. You haven't changed at all: you look just ... you did when I last saw you!

- A. the young as
- B. as young than
- C. so young
- D. as young as

15. This is my third pair of ... in one year!

- A. football trainers
- B. footballs trainers
- C. football's trainers
- D. footballs' trainers

16. ... strong he may be, he cannot lift such a heavy box all by himself.

- A. Although
- B. In spite of
- C. However
- D. Despite

17. This impressive smartphone is ... cutting edge of technology.

- A. on the
- B. to a
- C. beyond
- D. at

18. Before you start discussing this topic, let me point ... that it is considered controversial in many countries.

- A. up
- B. out
- C. to
- D. back

19. He discovered the conference hall ... a lavish banquet had been prepared.

- A. to whom
- B. in there
- C. at where
- D. in which

20. ... rather young, her professional experience is nonetheless extensive and relevant.

- A. Since
- B. However
- C. Though
- D. Meanwhile

21. If you are home when I ..., I will show you my new computer.

- A. arrive
- B. arrived
- C. will arrive
- D. will have arrived

22. We haven't been to that site, since the central office notified us that it was ... limits.

- A. against
- B. outer
- C. above
- D. off

23. Sarah stopped ... to please everyone and focused instead on the key requirements.

- A. try
- B. trying
- C. to try
- D. from trying

24. We do want to address their concerns, but it is even more important ... we follow protocol.

- A. than
- B. as
- C. that
- D. for

25. This is the book that ... so much attention in the media recently.

- A. attracts
- B. has attracted
- C. attracting
- D. is attracted

26. Sam definitely would've noticed the new machine if he ... inside the factory.

- A. were going
- B. has been going
- C. were gone
- D. had gone

27. Yesterday, the boss ... not to pursue business in that country, due to the civil unrest.

- A. is deciding
- B. has decided
- C. decided
- D. was deciding

28. I'd like to speak to you ... your account details.

- A. in relation to
- B. in relation of
- C. to relation at
- D. to relation of

29. If you had presented this idea yesterday, it probably ... very popular.

- A. had been
- B. would being
- C. has been
- D. would have been

30. Because of your dress and overall demeanour, I initially ... you for the program director!

- A. mistake
- B. mistook
- C. mistaken
- D. have mistaken

■ Section 2 – Written Expression

Directions: The following sentences have four underlined words or phrases. The four underlined parts of each sentence are marked A, B, C and D. Identify the one underlined word or phrase that must be changed in order for the sentence to be correct.

Example: Fresh, green vegetables are an excellent source vitamins.

- A. Fresh
- B. vegetables
- C. an
- D. source

The sentence should read, "Fresh, green vegetables are an excellent source of vitamins". Therefore D is the correct answer.

Example : Helen from marketing has had her baby! He is born yesterday at 11pm.

- A. from
- B. has had
- C. is born
- D. at 11pm

The sentence should read, "Helen from marketing has had her baby! He was born yesterday at 11pm". Therefore C is the correct answer.

Now begin word on the questions.

31. He uses a lot of adjectives so as we get a very visual impression of the setting.

- A. uses
- B. a lot of
- C. so as
- D. get

32. I think the coming summer ought be similar to the terrible one we had in 2003.

- A. the coming
- B. ought be
- C. to the
- D. one we had

33. She kept to drive for several hours without stopping to have a rest.

- A. to drive
- B. for
- C. stopping
- D. to have

34. French women have had the right to vote beginning 1944.

- A. French women
- B. had
- C. to vote
- D. beginning

35. She discussed national politics with her flatmates when the fire alarm suddenly went off.

- A. discussed
- B. politics
- C. her
- D. off

36. Mark sometimes ruffles a few feathers, but I have a great respect for his ability to solve problems.

- A. sometimes
- B. a few feathers
- C. a great respect
- D. to solve problems

37. The hero disguised himself for the police would not find him.

- A. himself
- B. for
- C. would
- D. him

38. Jeff told his daughter that the land was the only thing worth to fight for.

- A. told his
- B. the land
- C. the only
- D. to fight

39. **He is planning staying in the Aegean Islands until he finds a job.**

- A. He is
- B. staying
- C. until he
- D. a job

40. **This theory has been prove through a whole series of experiments and is now considered a scientific fact.**

- A. prove
- B. series
- C. and is
- D. scientific fact

41. **It would help me to understand your story if you could describe me this man's clothing.**

- A. It would
- B. me to understand
- C. describe me
- D. clothing

42. **The neighbour's version of the events was utterly unbelievable: he couldn't being trusted.**

- A. neighbour's
- B. was
- C. unbelievable
- D. being

43. **I enjoy the most types of desserts, but my true favourite is chocolate cheesecake.**

- A. the most
- B. of desserts
- C. my true
- D. is chocolate

44. **The attorney can't account with his client's attitude towards the judge.**

- A. can't
- B. with
- C. client's
- D. towards

45. **Though it was expensive, I went ahead and buy the book you recommended.**

- A. Though
- B. went ahead
- C. buy
- D. the book you

46. **We didn't mind him watching a little TV, but we expressed concern of his obsession with violent video games.**

- A. him
- B. watching
- C. of
- D. with

47. **If you can believe it, his mother actually thought of reading books and magazines was useless!**

- A. believe it
- B. thought of
- C. books
- D. was

48. **We asked both of them to assist to the meeting with us so that they could explain the rise in production costs.**

- A. asked both
- B. to assist to
- C. could explain
- D. rise in

49. **If Tara has been involved from the start, I'm sure she would've identified this risk in the earliest stages.**

- A. has been
- B. I'm sure
- C. this risk
- D. the earliest stages

50. **The current administration's politic is being attacked by a coalition of conservatives and more radical elements.**

- A. The current
- B. politic
- C. attacked by
- D. of conservatives

51. If your presentations are too technical, you're likely to scare down potential customers!

- A. your presentations
- B. too technical
- C. you're likely
- D. scare down

52. When they showed up on his doorstep, Fred has been busy working on his latest assignments.

- A. up on his doorstep
- B. has been
- C. working on
- D. latest assignments

53. After trying to call us that morning, Jenny dropped by our flat to ask us how could she help.

- A. to call us
- B. dropped by
- C. to ask us
- D. could she help

54. When you get home from school, you should to do all of your homework right away.

- A. get home
- B. from school
- C. should
- D. all of your homework

55. Ian remarked on the fact that he found several of our example quite unusual.

- A. remarked on
- B. fact that
- C. found
- D. of our example

56. These are the computers whose we'll be using to train all the new interns.

- A. These
- B. whose
- C. using to train
- D. the new interns

57. The program requires every students to fill out a pre-enrolment form specifying their preferences.

- A. every students
- B. fill out
- C. specifying
- D. their

58. After discussing the agenda of the meeting, Evelyn asked us when do we arrive at the station.

- A. discussing
- B. of the meeting
- C. asked us
- D. do we arrive

59. This customer will probably hire us if we will provide him with a few more references.

- A. This
- B. hire us
- C. will provide
- D. with a few more

60. Before she called, we have prepared two alternate proposals for presentation at the meeting.

- A. Before she
- B. have prepared
- C. alternate proposals
- D. presentation

■ Section 3 – Vocabulary

Directions: In this section, each question is a sentence with a word or phrase underlined. Below each sentence are four choices and you should select the one that has the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase.

Example : It was not until the nineteenth century that a bridge was built over the river at Bordeaux.

- A. created
- B. prepared
- C. constructed
- D. linked

Here the word “constructed” is closest in meaning to “built”, so C is the best answer.

Now begin work on the questions.

61. Her latest novel got mixed reviews.

- A. perplexing
- B. widespread
- C. conflicting
- D. passionate

62. Your name came up during the meeting.

- A. was mentioned
- B. was praised
- C. was demanded
- D. was chosen

63. However you learn this, the important thing is that you can use it to solve practical problems.

- A. in other respects
- B. all else being equal
- C. to the extent that
- D. by whatever means

64. The setting of the play was not immediately obvious, but the action clearly took place in a big city.

- A. message
- B. location
- C. interpretation
- D. intrigue

65. Facing a decline in sales, the boss made a daring decision to save the firm.

- A. strange
- B. bold
- C. short-term
- D. prompt

66. I find John hard to follow because he frequently skips from one subject to another.

- A. jumps
- B. eliminates
- C. repeats
- D. combines

67. According to conventional wisdom, we should balance the budget as quickly as possible.

- A. institutional incentives
- B. legal processes
- C. widespread perceptions
- D. mainstream media

68. These prices are already rock-bottom, so don't expect a discount.

- A. totally fair
- B. thoroughly verified
- C. utterly final
- D. the very lowest

69. After receiving such an enthusiastic write-up in the press, our sales are surely going to take off!

- A. prize
- B. manual
- C. critic
- D. review

70. Few people ever take kindly to being told that their artistic tastes are awful.

- A. easily accept
- B. ask for
- C. joke about
- D. object to

71. This disastrous decision triggered a calamitous chain of events.

- A. exposed
- B. initiated
- C. balanced
- D. required

72. During airlines strikes, tax-free airport shops witnessed booming turnovers.

- A. unstable
- B. stagnant
- C. thriving
- D. receding

73. Conservatives protest that businesses are already saddled with too many taxes.

- A. burdened with
- B. opposed to
- C. confused about
- D. threatened by

74. We've only got one shot at success, here!

- A. vision of
- B. way with
- C. chance for
- D. right to

75. Admittedly, slashing prices is sometimes the quickest way to boost revenues.

- A. publicising
- B. increasing
- C. complicating
- D. reducing

76. They've been successful at tapping into scientific advances and developing practical applications.

- A. participating in
- B. drawing from
- C. breaking down
- D. turning around

77. Leaving aside his personal foibles, his professional behaviour is irreproachable.

- A. shortcomings
- B. feelings
- C. misgivings
- D. tastes

78. I cannot sufficiently stress how important this deal is for our future!

- A. realize
- B. undermine
- C. illustrate
- D. emphasize

79. Jake had to take on some extra shifts at his evening job to make ends meet.

- A. fulfil the contract
- B. pay the bills
- C. get a promotion
- D. finish on time

80. He won't buy new clothes next winter because he's rather stingy.

- A. intrepid
- B. forgetful
- C. miserly
- D. obedient

81. Imagine our elation when we learned of the buyout!

- A. hesitation
- B. euphoria
- C. clearance
- D. despair

82. He's been under her thumb since the day they started living together.

- A. submissive
- B. considerate
- C. secretive
- D. combative

83. On the basis of this development, William presented a forecast of our yearly revenues.

- A. itemization
- B. strategy
- C. explanation
- D. projection

84. Unlike Americans, Europeans overwhelmingly support state-run healthcare.

- A. to a varying extent
- B. on traditional grounds
- C. in the vast majority
- D. on a moral basis

85. Rachel is sometimes moody, but she manages her team well.

- A. insecure
- B. deceitful
- C. irritable
- D. envious

86. You can say almost anything you want about a competitor here, as long as it's not outright slander.

- A. defamation
- B. collusion
- C. misdemeanour
- D. prosecution

87. It has become more commonplace to see tourists here, but the hospitality sector is still struggling.

- A. localized
- B. ordinary
- C. respected
- D. profitable

88. We are set to face an unmitigated disaster.

- A. immediate
- B. obvious
- C. unforeseen
- D. utter

89. His conclusions about the current crisis are eerily reminiscent of ideas circulating in the 1930s.

- A. disturbingly
- B. alluringly
- C. absolutely
- D. doubtfully

90. After the latest poll, she decided to withdraw her candidacy.

- A. redirect
- B. abandon
- C. streamline
- D. publicize

■ Section 4 – Reading Comprehension

In this part you will read passages on various topics then answer questions about them. Choose the answer A, B, C or D which best answers the question or completes the given sentence.

If you want to get a sense of China's economic priorities, follow the pandas. At last count in 2004, there were about 1,600 individuals of this endangered species alive in the wild, according to the World Wildlife Fund. Around 350 pandas live under human care at zoos or breeding centers globally, with roughly 50 of them being loaned out to zoos across the world -- and almost all the recent loans have been to countries that have signed major trade and foreign investment deals with China.

The trading partners even pay China a fee for the pandas. Indeed, China retains ownership of all the giant pandas around the world, which are selectively loaned to other countries. "Panda loans are associated with nations supplying China with valuable resources and technology and symbolize China's willingness to build *guanxi* -- namely, deep trade relationships characterized by trust, reciprocity, loyalty and longevity," according to a recent paper by researchers at Oxford University.

Take Scotland. In early 2011, China negotiated multi-billion dollar agreements with Scotland for the supply of salmon and petrochemical and renewable energy technology. Canada and France also both signed multi-billion dollar uranium export deals that coincided with panda loans to the two countries. Australia -- which holds the world's largest uranium reserves -- received a pair of pandas in 2009 after agreeing to supply uranium to China in 2006.

Other countries with panda loans, such as Singapore and Thailand, have inked free-trade agreements with China. The same goes for Malaysia, which will be getting a panda soon. The panda-for-resources swap is a trend that is likely to grow, especially as China's rapidly expanding economy drives demand for outside resources even higher. There is no shortage of interest in the pandas, either. "There seems to be a backlog of countries clamoring for pandas," said Oxford University's Kathleen Buckingham.

Not all of China's major trading partners have been lucky enough to land a panda. Buckingham said this is because the value of the animals is tied to their rarity -- the same reason that diamonds or gold are prized commodities. "Every zoo has a lion or tiger, but not a panda," she said. "China needs to remain selective in its choice of panda-receiving countries in order to maintain the rarity, and therefore, their value."

Strategically handing out pandas to curry favor isn't exactly a new phenomenon. When Mao Zedong was in power, pandas were gifted to the leaders of the former Soviet Union, North Korea, U.S. and the U.K. From 1972 to 1974, China gifted 24 pandas as "goodwill ambassadors."

But as the power of pandas as a diplomatic and business tool grew, so did the business of pandas. In the 1980's, as China sought to open up its economy, "all of a sudden they needed

dollars, so they had people trying to peddle short-term loans of pandas,” said Dave Towne, president of the Giant Panda Conservation Foundation. A pair of pandas were available for a monthly rental fee of \$100,000.

After conservationists and watchdogs objected, China instituted reforms that extended loan periods and put a greater emphasis on research. Nowadays, approved zoos must still pay fees to China for the privilege of having pandas. A pair costs about \$1 million a year, though some agreements may differ. Although caring for a panda can get expensive and zoos often sink additional dollars into conservation projects, they're able to offset some costs as visitors flock to see the pandas.

The panda swap can also cut in the other direction. The United States, for example, lost two American- born panda cubs in 2010 after President Obama took a meeting with the Dalai Lama over Chinese objections. The cubs -- which China owns regardless of birthplace -- were quickly recalled. Suzanne Gendron, director of Hong Kong's Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, observes that China “values pandas as their number one animal. You wouldn't want to give a panda to someone you don't trust.”

*Source: « China swaps pandas for uranium in trade deals » (adapté),
par Sophia Yan, CNN, 14 octobre 2013*

91. What is the main topic of this article?

- A. China's national energy strategy
- B. pandas as a tool for trade
- C. the rising cost of rare animals
- D. pandas' threat of extinction

92. Who objected to the Chinese tactic of short-term loans of pandas for cash:

- A. Oxford University researchers
- B. President Obama
- C. wildlife protection groups
- D. China's original trading partners

93. Oxford University researchers see China's lease of its pandas as motivated by the goal of:

- A. nurturing beneficial foreign alliances
- B. wielding hegemonic influence over the west
- C. increasing China's long-term revenues
- D. contributing to the global presence of pandas

94. The high cost for countries hosting pandas is offset by:

- A. the removal of trade barriers throughout most of Asia
- B. the prestige of saving an endangered species
- C. the opportunity to enter multilateral trade agreements
- D. the high volume of visitors who go to see pandas

95. During the 1970's, pandas were principally bestowed as:

- A. a means of reducing Chinese debt
- B. a way to ensure the survival of the species
- C. a token of benevolent intentions
- D. a means of exchange for raw materials

96. A reason this article mentions for why some countries have failed to get a panda is that China:

- A. has a vested interest in maintaining the worldwide scarcity of pandas
- B. thought that loaning pandas to such countries would tarnish their image
- C. judged that such countries couldn't meet panda safety requirements
- D. seeks to diversify the types of countries to which they loan pandas

97. The text implies that, in 2010, China demanded the return of pandas born in the U.S. because:

- A. the climate was adversely affecting the cubs' health
- B. the U.S. government had politically displeased China
- C. the cubs were needed for a breeding programme
- D. U.S. officials tried to swap the cubs with another country

98. The text indicates that trading pandas for resources is a thriving trend because:

- A. international rules have been made more flexible
- B. China has developed a more favourable image
- C. pandas are becoming more readily available
- D. China's national economy continues to grow

In 1942, a British forest guard in Roopkund, India, made an alarming discovery. More than three miles above sea level, he stumbled across a frozen lake surrounded by hundreds of human skeletons. That summer, the melting ice revealed even more remains, floating in the water and lying haphazardly around the lake's edges.

Since this was the height of World War II, there were fears that the skeletons might belong to Japanese soldiers who had died of exposure while sneaking through India. The British government, terrified of a Japanese land invasion, sent a team of investigators to determine whether this was true. Upon examination they realized these bones weren't Japanese soldiers at all, but of a much older vintage. But what killed them? Many theories were put forth, including an epidemic, a landslide, and a ritual suicide. For six decades, no one was able to shed any light on the mystery of "Skeleton Lake."

In 2004, a scientific expedition offered the first plausible explanation of the mysterious deaths. The answer was stranger than anyone had guessed.

All of the bodies were dated to about 850 AD. DNA evidence indicated that there were two distinct groups of people killed near the lake: one was a family or tribe of closely related individuals, the other a group of shorter individuals. Rings, spears, leather shoes, and bamboo staves were found, leading experts to believe that the group was comprised of pilgrims heading through the valley with the help of local porters.

Analysis of skulls showed that, no matter their stature or position, all of the people died in a similar way: from blows to the head. However, the short, deep cracks in the skulls appeared to be the result not of weapons but of something round. The bodies had wounds only on their heads and shoulders, indicating the blows came from directly above. The scientists reached an unexpected conclusion: the hundreds of travellers all died from a sudden and severe freak hailstorm.

Hail is rarely lethal. But trapped in a valley without shelter, the 9th-century travellers could not escape the sudden barrage of rock-hard, cricket-ball-size spheres of ice. Twelve hundred years after the storm, the green-tinged bones of the hail victims still ring the lake, preserved alongside their tattered shoes.

Source : « Skeleton Lake of Roopkund, India », article (adapté) d'Atlas Obscura sur Slate.com, 24 mai 2013

99. The British government initially suspected the Roopkund skeletons were those of:

- A. native spies
- B. foreign soldiers
- C. Japanese merchants
- D. British intelligence operatives

100. According to the text, the Roopkund skeletons were positioned around the lake:

- A. in random spots
- B. in two distinct piles
- C. in ritual poses
- D. in an intricate pattern

101. When the skeletons were found in northern India, British officials decided to investigate because they:

- A. thought the site provided a key to winning the war
- B. wanted to develop their presence in India
- C. were wary of an enemy attack force using that route
- D. hoped to blame Japan for killing civilians

102. The 2004 research expedition established that:

- A. the wounds were caused by sharp objects
- B. different groups died at varying times
- C. shorter porters suffered the worst injuries
- D. all trauma was limited to the upper torso

103. Which of the following was not revealed by the 2004 expedition?

- A. some skeletons had injuries on their shoulders
- B. one group was made up of taller people than the other
- C. some armed people had attacked another group
- D. the skeletons could be dated to the ninth century AD

104. The hailstorm that researchers suppose happened is described in this text as having been sudden and:

- A. totally predictable
- B. very localized
- C. altogether unsupported
- D. extremely unusual

105. The travellers met their deaths because:

- A. they had too many personal effects
- B. there was no shelter to flee to
- C. their shoes were unsuitable for the conditions
- D. they couldn't get to a higher altitude

If the tiny sample of smokers in a new study in the British journal *Lancet* are any indication, electronic cigarettes might be slightly more effective than nicotine patches in helping people quit smoking. Great, right? Except another new study from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (or C.D.C.) suggests that more children and teens are trying them.

Smoking is still the leading cause of avoidable death in the United States. The devices are not one of the methods officially approved in the U.S. to help people quit, but many people are using them this way. A growing number of scientists are studying them as a possible way to end an epidemic. The topic, though, remains as polarizing a health issue as sex education or diet sodas.

The e-cigarette was developed by a pharmacist in China. The pharmacist, Hon Lik, was a three-pack-a-day smoker. That was nothing unusual -- more than 300 million people in China are regular smokers. But when Lik's father, who was also a heavy smoker, died of lung cancer, Lik decided he had to come up with an alternative that wouldn't kill him.

Most scientists believe nicotine itself, while highly addictive, is not what causes cancer, but rather the toxic chemicals that are created when tobacco and filler products burn. If there was a way to get nicotine addicts their fix without the burn, you just might avoid the health problems for smokers... and for the people around them. Nicotine then becomes as harmless as any other addictive substance, such as caffeine, some experts say.

So Lik developed an e-cigarette, a device that uses a small battery to atomize a pure liquid solution of nicotine. Nothing is burned. There is nicotine, and then there is flavoring added for taste. Essentially the person using these inhales a kind of vapor that looks like fog from a fog machine.

A recent review of all the scientific research done on e-cigarettes by Drexel University professor Igor Burstyn concludes "current data do not indicate that exposure to vapors from contaminants in electronic cigarettes warrants a concern." However, critics point out that e-cigarettes come in kid-friendly flavors, such as gummy bear, atomic fireball candy and cookies-and-cream. It makes them worry that e-cigarettes will become a gateway for kids to develop a lifelong nicotine addiction -- or worse, try the real thing.

Tobacco use has been on the decline with kids; it's about half what it was in the mid-1990's. But the latest C.D.C. study shows a growing number of middle and high school students have tried e-cigarettes. One in 10 high school students surveyed said they had tried e-cigarettes last year. That's double the number from 2011.

But as far as risky behavior goes, it's still a tiny fraction of students. The survey showed about 3% of these kids said they had used one in the last 30 days. By contrast, 39% of students said they had drunk some amount of alcohol in the past 30 days, 22% had binge drunk and 24% had ridden with a driver who had been drinking.

The real problem is that 88% of adult smokers who smoke daily said they started when they were kids, according to the C.D.C. Kids who start down the path to using e-cigarettes may stick with them for life.

*Source: « E-cigarettes: Healthy tool or gateway device? » (adapté),
par Jen Christensen, CNN, 13 septembre 2013*

106. In comparison to nicotine patches, the Lancet study suggests that e-cigarettes may help people stop smoking:

- A. a little more successfully
- B. more definitively
- C. in more complex cases
- D. for a shorter time

107. The text asserts that using e-cigarettes as a way to end the health problems caused by smoking is:

- A. sanctioned by the U.S. government
- B. more effective than any other method
- C. a subject of substantial controversy
- D. considered more of a harm than a help

108. The text mentions addictive or unhealthy consumption of all of the following except:

- A. alcoholic beverages
- B. sugar-rich foods
- C. products with nicotine
- D. caffeinated items

109. The text suggests that Hon Lik's father:

- A. was fervently anti-smoking
- B. tried to stop smoking but failed
- C. only smoked occasionally
- D. smoked nonstop all his adult life

110. The main purpose for which the e-cigarette was originally invented is as a means of:

- A. eliminating the odours from smoking
- B. offering a wider range of flavours to smokers
- C. marketing nicotine products to youths
- D. eliminating the health risks caused by smoking

111. The C.D.C. study illustrated that, among teenagers:

- A. drinking too much alcohol is currently a bigger problem than e-cigarettes
- B. using e-cigarettes is most often done in connection with alcohol
- C. riding with a drunk driver is more common than drinking some alcohol
- D. using e-cigarettes usually leads to smoking actual cigarettes

112. Professor Burstyn's review of recent research determines that the e-cigarette will not:

- A. reduce the health risks of consuming nicotine
- B. create a new means of nicotine addiction
- C. expose smokers to dangerous vapours
- D. encourage youngsters to try smoking

113. According to this text, the main problem with teenagers using e-cigarettes is that:

- A. e-cigarettes are often associated with alcoholism
- B. most lifelong nicotine addicts started smoking young
- C. e-cigarettes are likely to be a gateway to illegal drugs
- D. as a result, smoking cigarettes is also rising in popularity

It's been a while since chicken tikka masala was conferred with the crown of national dish of the U.K. Ever since, the curry industry, as it's popularly referred to, has continued to grow, producing Indian dishes made to suit the British palette. Today, it boasts over 10,000 restaurants and 80,000 employees, and an annual turnover of £3.5 billion, making it an important part of the U.K.'s economy.

Latest statistics show that curry restaurants (a blanket term for high and mid-end Indian restaurants, Bangladeshi curry houses and Pakistani kebab eateries) in Britain serve approximately 2.5 million customers every week. In London alone, there are more Indian restaurants than in Mumbai and Delhi combined. Close to 43 million portions of chicken tikka masala are served per year in restaurants across Britain.

But it's not just about food. Indian cuisine's popularity is also witnessed in the National Curry Week events held every year as well as the annual British Curry Awards which have become a highlight in London's social calendar -- Prime Minister David Cameron refers to them as 'the curry Oscars'. The eighth edition of the Awards, which took place in London last month, had another ingredient to add to its menu: latest statistics reveal that an Indian meal is now the preferred choice of take-away among the British population, overtaking Chinese and pizzas. This led to the introduction of a new category in this year's Awards: Best Delivery Restaurant/Takeaway.

Curry may have been born in India, but British Bangladeshis globalised it. So affirms Enam Ali MBE, founder of the Awards and promoter of the British curry industry for the past 30 years. Bradford and East London's Brick Lane are brimming with Bangladeshi curry houses. "The industry has created over 100,000 jobs for South Asians in U.K.," says Enam.

Besides the all-time favourite chicken tikka masala, jalfrezi comes a close second for a gravy, whereas lamb shanks or chops are well-liked in fine-dining restaurants, says Enam. Seekh kebabs are still the most popular in casual dining restaurants, he adds. A British version of the popular vindaloo and kormas are also in the most-wanted list.

But how has the industry developed from stuffy curry houses to Michelin-starred restaurants in the past three decades? "The primary change is in people's perceptions. In the beginning, curry houses were nothing more than places to drink cheap beer in. Curries were considered to be pungent smelling; now the British call them fragrant," says Enam. Chef Cyrus Todiwala OBE of fine-dining restaurants Cafe Spice Namaste and Mr Todiwala's Kitchen says, "When I came here almost two decades ago, I was shocked to see that every Indian restaurant had identical menus, dishes and prices. There was no variety, no experimentation. Cafe Spice Namaste initiated that process and this paved the way for future restaurants to establish their own identity and bring a diverse Indian palette to the table."

Now, in spite of the current economic gloom, an average of 10 new restaurants open in the U.K. each year. Besides fine-dining venues, banquet halls and street-food-inspired restaurants are emerging as well. Covent Garden's Dishoom, based on Mumbai's Irani-style cafes, kick-started the trend of stylised Indian street food. Marylebone's Roti Chai soon followed suit. "Chefs and restaurants are now getting innovative and creative with flavours, decor and sub-cuisines," says Enam.

Source : « India beats China in U.K. » (adapté), par Nicole Dastur Arsiwala, The Times of India, 16 décembre 2012

114. The number of jobs that have been created in Britain for South Asians by the curry industry is approximately:

- A. ten thousand
- B. eighty thousand
- C. one hundred thousand
- D. two and a half million

115. According to the text, which Indian specialty has been proclaimed Britain's top dish?

- A. seekh kebabs
- B. chicken tikka masala
- C. the "curry Oscars"
- D. vindaloo and kormas

116. According to Mr Enam, who made curry dishes a worldwide phenomenon?

- A. Bangladeshis who made Indian food appealing to British tastes
- B. the new generation of creative curry-industry entrepreneurs
- C. proprietors of Indian restaurants earning Michelin-guide stars
- D. restaurant owners in the Indian cities of Mumbai and Delhi

117. According to Mr Todiwala, Britain's Indian restaurants of twenty years ago were:

- A. attracting only working-class customers
- B. too focused on Bangladeshi cuisine
- C. always grouped in the same locations
- D. not daring to be original in any way

118. Mr Enam identifies as the main evolution in the British curry industry the fact that:

- A. specifically British curry awards were created
- B. Indian restaurants began offering more variety
- C. British people's ideas about Indian food shifted
- D. restaurants started being decorated differently

119. Which of the following is not mentioned as a recent evolution in the British curry industry?

- A. more originality in the types of food being offered
- B. going to Indian restaurants to drink low-priced beer
- C. the rise in popularity of Indian take-away food
- D. creating venues similar to Mumbai's Irani-style cafes

120. Concerning the current economic crisis, the text implies that its effect on the curry industry has been to:

- A. not hamper its continuing success
- B. totally reverse previous trends
- C. cause a temporary industry boom
- D. set the industry back 10 years